



# OBU Keyboard Festival

## 2024 Festival Handbook



[okbu.edu/keyboardfestival](https://okbu.edu/keyboardfestival)

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## OBU Keyboard Faculty



Pianist Mark Franklin is an Assistant Professor of Music at Oklahoma Baptist University, where he teaches applied piano lessons, group piano, and piano pedagogy. Previously, he served as adjunct instructor of piano at Wallace Community College in Dothan, Alabama. An active performer, Franklin frequently appears in solo and collaborative engagements both within his local community and beyond. In 2013, Franklin appeared as a soloist with the Wheaton College Symphony Orchestra as the winner of the keyboard division of the Wheaton College Concerto Competition. He is also an enthusiastic chamber musician, regularly collaborating with numerous vocalists and instrumentalists, such as with clarinetist Katsuya Yuasa for his winning performance at the Mu Phi Epsilon International Competition, held in Denver, Colorado. Franklin was also the winner of Florida State University's Annual Competitive Festival as a graduate student in 2020. Most recently, he was awarded Third Place for the American Prize's Ernst Bacon Award for the Performance of American Music in 2021. A committed teacher, Dr. Franklin works with students at a range of levels in a variety of settings. During the summers, he frequently served as a faculty member at the FSU Summer Piano Institute and Piano Camp.

Franklin received a D.M. and M.M. in Piano Performance at Florida State University, where he studied with Dr. Heidi Louise Williams and Dr. Joel Hastings, and also completed Specialized Studies in Music Theory Pedagogy. While at Florida State University, he held assistantships in secondary applied piano teaching as well as accompanying. Franklin also holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Piano Performance from Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, where he graduated summa cum laude, studying with Dr. Daniel Paul Horn. During his time at Wheaton College, he was also the recipient of numerous merits, including the Phemister Prize and Alton Cronk Award in Music. Additionally, he has participated in master classes with artists such as Paul Lewis, Angela Cheng, William Wolfram, Alexander Toradze, Joshua Roman, Pierre Vallet, Jon Kimura Parker, and Douglas Humpherys.



Dr. Patty K. Nelson is a lifelong music educator in the public schools, churches, and in her private studio.

She taught piano and organ lessons for 27 years before joining higher education. She served the Mid-Cities Music Teachers Association as Festival Chair for 5 years. She was a church pianist or organist in churches in Spain, Pennsylvania, and Texas. She also served as Fine Arts Director for the Academy at FBC, Keller, TX.

Patty received a B.A. in Piano from Trinity University, San Antonio, TX, an M.M. in Church Music from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary, Ft. Worth, TX, and an Ed.D. in Curriculum and Instruction from Baylor University, Waco, TX.

She studied piano from Dr. Michael Ard and organ from Dr. Joyce Jones and Dr. Al Travis. Patty is a frequent writer for Chorister's Guild's journal the Chorister and has presented at Baptist General Convention of Texas Conferences, Winter Organ Conference at Baylor University, Texas Music Teacher Educators, Georgia Music Educators Association, Alabama Music Teacher Association, International Symposium on Assessment in Music Education, and Symposium for Music Teacher Educators.

Patty has done several clinics for churches working with children's choir workers in Louisiana and Texas and has performed a number of children's organ recitals in Texas and Oklahoma.

## General Procedures and Updates

### Registration

To register for the Regional and State Keyboard Festivals, submit the registration form located on our website, [okbu.edu/keyboardfestival](http://okbu.edu/keyboardfestival), by the deadline listed at the end of this handbook. Registration fees may be paid by credit card immediately after submitting the form or by check postmarked by the deadline. Please check the registration deadline carefully; late registrations will not be accepted.

### Fee

The fee for participation at the Regional Keyboard Festivals and the State Keyboard Festival is \$20. The entry fee for the Piano Duet Category is \$20 total (\$10 per performer). Entry fees are non-refundable.

### State Eligibility

ALL students competing in the Regional Keyboard Festivals are eligible for the State Keyboard Festival, provided they earn an overall superior rating and meet other requirements listed under each category at the regional level.

### Duet Division

Entrants in the duet division are eligible to advance to the state festival, provided that both players are students. Teachers may perform with their students in the duet division in the Regional Keyboard Festivals for comments only.

### Repertoire Selection

If you need help finding the appropriate level of repertoire for hymn arrangements or classical/standard repertoire, please see the “Keyboard Festival Repertoire Guide” for suggestions. Although there is no specific approval process for repertoire, we are happy to assist you if you have additional questions. Please call the OBU Music Office at 405-585-4300 or email us at [keyfest@okbu.edu](mailto:keyfest@okbu.edu) for assistance.

### State Festival

The State Keyboard Festival is similar to the Regional Keyboard Festivals, in that each entrant plays all of their repertoire in a single room. The judges will select an overall first-, second-, and third-place winners in each category, **plus special recognition for hymn, hymn expansion, and/or hymn arrangement as appropriate to each category.** First-place winners **and those receiving special recognition for their hymns** will be invited to perform in the performance and awards ceremony.

### Time Limit

Although it is the judges’ intention to hear all prepared repertoire, for the sake of time, some pieces may not be heard in their entirety. Please note the 7 or 15-minute time limit for the various categories as you make repertoire selections.

### Forms

Sample critique sheets, downloadable handbooks, staff and volunteer forms, online registration, and other resources are located on our website: [okbu.edu/keyboardfestival](http://okbu.edu/keyboardfestival).

## Festival Dates and Locations

### 2024 Regional Keyboard Festivals

February 3, 2024

South Tulsa Baptist Church  
10310 South Sheridan Rd.  
Tulsa, OK 74133  
918-299-0904  
southtulsabaptist.org  
Contact: Kade Goforth

First Baptist Church Enid  
401 W. Maine St  
Enid, Oklahoma, 73701  
580.234.1133  
fbcenid.com  
Contact: Janice Semrad

Chisholm Heights Baptist Church  
2243 W. State Hwy 152  
Mustang, OK 73064  
405-376-4531  
chbcmustang.org  
Contact: Rusty Stowe

Sunset Lane Baptist Church, Guymon  
15<sup>th</sup> and Sunset Lane  
Guymon, OK 73942  
580-338-5336  
Contact: Kristina Roberts

Village Baptist Church  
10600 North May Avenue  
Oklahoma City, OK 73120  
405-751-1951  
vbcokc.org  
Contact: Allen Kimberlin

### 2024 State Keyboard Festival

February 24, 2024

Oklahoma Baptist University OBU Box 61276  
500 W. University St. Shawnee, OK 74804  
405-585-4301  
okbu.edu/keyboardfestival  
keyfest@okbu.edu  
Contact: Dr. Mark Franklin

## Category Information

### Solo Piano Categories

If you need help finding repertoire, please see page 16 for a list of repertoire resources. Please use only published arrangements for your students. For all categories, competitors must earn an overall superior rating to advance to the state festival. Simplified arrangements are permitted in categories I and II only.

#### Category I

1. Play a hymn written in simplified style. Memory not required.
2. Play a selection from the standard teaching repertoire/method books by memory. Minimum length 16 measures.
3. Provide music for the judges, with measures numbered.

#### Category II

1. Play a hymn from a standard hymnal, with introduction, in the key of C, G, D, F, B-flat major, or related minor keys. Memory not required.
2. Play a selection from standard teaching repertoire/method books by memory. Minimum length 16 measures.
3. Provide music for the judges, with measures numbered.

#### Category III

1. Play a hymn from a standard hymnal in the key of D, A, B-flat, E-flat major, or related minor keys, as written, using pedal, with an introduction and following a director. Memory not required. The director will be singing while the student plays.
2. Play an easy to early intermediate hymn arrangement. Memory not required.
3. Play an easy to early intermediate classical piece, by memory. Minimum length 16 measures.
4. Provide music for the judges, with measures numbered, as well as a second copy of the hymnal for the director to use.

#### Category IV

1. Play two stanzas of a hymn from a standard hymnal in the key of A, E, A-flat, D-flat, B major, or related minor keys, following a director. The director will be singing while the student plays. Memory not required.  
Stanza 1: Play an introduction. Play the hymn as written.  
Stanza 2: Expand to support congregational singing while maintaining the original harmony.
2. Play an intermediate to early advanced hymn arrangement. Memory not required.
3. Play an intermediate to early advanced classical piece, by memory.
4. Provide music for judges, with measures numbered, as well as a second copy of the hymnal for the director to use.
5. Sight-read a hymn of the judges' choosing. Students will have one minute to look over the hymn silently before playing. The student will play without a director.

#### Category V

1. Play three stanzas of a hymn from a standard hymnal in the key of A, E, A-flat, D-flat, B major, or related minor keys, following a director. Memory not required. The director will be singing while the student plays.  
Stanza 1: Play an introduction. Play the hymn as written.  
Stanza 2: Expand to support congregational singing while maintaining the original harmony. Repeat the last phrase of the hymn altering the hymn to include an upward modulation of one half-step.  
Stanza 3: Play the hymn in the new key. The student can expand the hymn or play it as written. The modulation and transposition should not be notated.

2. Play an advanced hymn arrangement. Memory not required.
3. Play an advanced classical piece, by memory.
4. Provide music for judges, with measures numbered, as well as a second copy of the hymnal for the director to use.
5. Sight-read a hymn of the judges' choosing. Students will have one minute to look over the hymn silently before playing. The student will play without a director.

### **Solo Organ Categories**

For all categories, competitors must earn an overall superior rating to advance to the state festival.

#### Category I

1. Play a hymn as written one time through with introduction and pedal.
2. Play an additional piece at a level appropriate to the student's training suitable for use in church.
3. Provide music for the judges, with measures numbered.

#### Category II

1. Play a hymn as written one time through with introduction and pedal. The student will follow the director. The director will sing while the student plays.
2. Play an additional piece at a level appropriate to the student's training suitable for use in church as a prelude.
3. Provide music for judges, with measures numbered, as well as a second copy of the hymnal for the director to use.
4. Sight-read a hymn of the judges' choosing. Students will have one minute to look over the hymn silently before playing. The director will not sing or direct.

### **Piano Duet Categories**

For all categories, competitors must earn an overall superior rating to advance to the state festival. In addition, in the Piano Duet category, both participants must be students in order to be eligible for the State Festival. Teachers may play with their students in the regional festivals for comments. Simplified arrangements are permitted in categories I and II only.

#### Category I

1. Play an easy hymn arrangement or duet from the standard classical repertoire. Minimum length 16 measures. Memory not required.
2. Provide music for the judges, with measures numbered.

#### Category II

1. Play an easy to early intermediate hymn arrangement or duet from the standard classical repertoire. Minimum length 16 measures. Memory not required.
2. Provide music for the judges, with measures numbered.

#### Category III

1. Play an intermediate to early advanced hymn arrangement or duet from the standard classical repertoire. Memory not required.
2. Provide music for the judges, with measures numbered.

#### Category IV

1. Play an advanced hymn arrangement or duet from the standard classical repertoire. Memory not required.
2. Provide music for the judges, with measures numbered.

## Repertoire Guide

If you need help finding the appropriate level of repertoire, please use the following list as a guide. This list is not comprehensive but provides a few suggestions for each level. If you have questions, please feel free to contact OBU Music Office at 405-585-4301. Please use only published arrangements for your students.

### Hymn Arrangements

#### SIMPLIFIED

Repertoire from Supplemental Hymn Books published for Alfred's Basic Piano Library  
Faber Piano Adventures  
Bastien Piano Basics

#### EASY TO EARLY INTERMEDIATE

The Easy Piano Hymn Collection (Hal Leonard)  
Easy Hymn Solos – Level 2: 10 Stylish Arrangements by Wendy Stevens  
Simply Hymns: 10 Hymn Arrangements for the Early Intermediate Pianist by Jerry Ray  
Simply Sacred Duets: 9 Elementary Piano Duet Arrangements of Hymns and Spirituals by Margaret Goldston

#### INTERMEDIATE TO EARLY ADVANCED

Hymns for Meditation: 6 Hymn Arrangements for the Late Intermediate Pianist by Martha Mier  
Comfort in the Time of Need by Mary K. Sallee  
What Can I Play on Sunday? collection by Cindy Berry  
Two by Two: Sacred Duets for One Piano, Four Hands by Dallas Weekly

#### ADVANCED

Come Unto Me: 10 Comforting Solo Piano Arrangements for Worship by Marilyn Ham  
Give Him Praise: Arrangements for the Advanced Pianist by Myra Schubert  
Hymns of Refuge and Strength: Artistic Settings for the Advanced Pianist by Marilyn Thompson  
Piano Praise for 2, Gerald Anderson

### Classical/Standard Repertoire\*

#### EASY TO EARLY INTERMEDIATE

J. S. Bach, Anna Magdalena Bach Notebook  
Cornelius Gurlitt, Album for the Young, Op. 140  
Béla Bartók, Mikrokosmos Vol. 1  
Repertoire from Supplemental Duet Books published for Alfred's Basic Piano Library

#### INTERMEDIATE TO EARLY ADVANCED

J. S. Bach, Inventions and easier Preludes from the Well Tempered Clavier  
Muzio Clementi, Sonatas  
Robert Schumann, Scenes from Childhood, Op. 15  
Essential Keyboard Duets, Vol. 3, Gayle Kowalchyk and E. L. Lancaster

#### ADVANCED

Domenico Scarlatti, Sonatas  
Ludwig van Beethoven, Sonatas, Op. 49 or Op. 79  
Robert Muczynski, Preludes Op. 6  
Essential Keyboard Duets, Vol. 6, Gayle Kowalchyk and E. L. Lancaster

\*Simplified arrangements are permitted in categories I and II of the solo piano and piano duet categories only.



# Q & A Regional Keyboard Festival

## Q & A | PARTICIPATION

### **Who is eligible to participate in the Regional Keyboard Festival?**

Any piano or organ student who wishes to further his or her ability to lead music in a church setting.

### **Is there an age limit for registrants?**

Yes. Only students who are in high school and younger grades may participate. Composition entrants must be ages 10-18 at time of entry.

### **Do you have to belong to a Southern Baptist Church in order to participate?**

No. Anyone is welcome to participate.

## Q & A | DUETS

### **Which pieces can be used for the Duet Division?**

The duet division is for hymn arrangements or standard classical repertoire. Please reference the repertoire guide for suggestions.

### **Is it permissible for a student to play in both the Solo and Duet Divisions?**

Yes. Please fill out a separate form for each division with the pertinent information regarding titles, arrangers, duet partner, etc. There is a separate entry fee for each division.

### **Does the duet partner have to be another student or can it be the teacher?**

To be eligible to advance to state, both players in the duet division must be students. Teachers may continue to perform with their students in the duet division in the regional festivals for comments only.

## Q & A | ADJUDICATION

### **Will there be adjudication for organ students at each regional location?**

This will be determined by the number of registrations turned in for the Organ Category. It is possible that it will not be available at all locations.

### **What is the length of time for each student to play for adjudication?**

Students in the Regional Festival are allotted seven minutes in Category I and II. For Category III, IV, and V, the allotted playing time for each student is fifteen minutes. Please choose repertoire accordingly. If selections exceed the time limit, some pieces may not be heard in their entirety.

### **How will we get our critique sheets and music after finishing?**

A monitor will take the completed adjudication sheets and judges' music to the registration desk after every two or three students have finished playing. You may pick up your sheets and music at the registration desk. We are not responsible for lost music if there is no identifying name on the music.

### **Does the selection I am playing need to be marked in any certain way for the judges?**

Yes. The student needs to paper-clip or bookmark the book so it will open to the correct page. Measures should be numbered at the top left of each system.

### **Is it possible for specific students to be assigned adjudication times close together?**

Every effort will be made to accommodate schedules, however, this is not always possible due to judging schedules. If you have scheduling requests, this must be indicated on each pertinent registration form.

**Are parents, siblings, friends, etc. allowed to listen while the student plays for adjudication?**

This may be allowed, however, the decision is ultimately left to the preference of the judge and the performer. We ask that the room be kept as quiet and distraction-free as possible in order for the student to give their best performance. No one else will be asked to sing with the director in Categories III, IV, or V. If another student is scheduled and would prefer to have the room clear, you may be asked by the monitor to exit the room until your student is ready to play. Please be considerate of the other students and their wishes.

**Do we have to memorize music?**

Some categories require memorization. Carefully read the category information beginning on page 7 of this handbook. Memorization is an important part of the adjudication process. If students use their music for a piece which requires memorization, they will not be able to advance to state even if otherwise eligible.

**Q & A | LITERATURE****Are we allowed to use copied music?**

No. If the music is not in the public domain, copying music without permission from the publisher is a violation of the federal copyright laws of the United States. If you have sought and received permission from the publisher, you may use a copy of the published music for the adjudicator only. This copy must have the copyright acknowledgement as it appears on the music and the added phrase "Used by Permission". The judges will destroy the copies following the festival. It is the responsibility of each teacher to ensure that they do not allow or encourage, by example, their students to use or keep copied music. There are no exceptions for this guideline. Students who bring copied music without appropriate permission will not be allowed to advance to state if otherwise eligible.

**Are students allowed to share books between adjudications?**

Yes. If students need to use the same books for the judges, please indicate on the registration form that you would like to schedule them as close together as possible. If they are in the same category, we may be able to schedule them in the same room. We will make every effort to arrange the schedules to allow books and music to be shared between students and adjudicators, however, please keep in mind that this is not always possible.

**Do we observe repeat signs within the repertoire selections?**

Repeat signs are at the discretion of the teacher and performer as long as the performance remains within the time allotted.

**Q & A | HYMN-PLAYING****For Categories III, IV, and V, will there be a choir singing with me when I play and follow the conductor?**

No. The conductor will be singing while he or she conducts the hymn.

**Will I have the opportunity to talk to the conductor?**

Yes. It is necessary for the conductor to confirm with the student regarding which stanzas will be sung before the hymn is begun, as well as the length of the introduction.

**In Categories III, IV, and V, what should I play for an introduction to the hymns?**

Introductions are marked in most hymnals. Everything contained within the brackets [ ] is the suggested introduction. If introductions are not marked in the hymnal you are using, the introduction may include the beginning and/or the last phrase of the hymn. An introduction is not necessary for the sight-read hymn.

**Q&A | Dress Code****Will I be judged on the way I am dressed?**

No. However, we ask that you dress modestly and appropriately.

## State Keyboard Festival

**Saturday, February 24, 2024**  
**Oklahoma Baptist University**  
**Raley Chapel**  
**Shawnee, OK**

All students competing in regional festivals are eligible for the State Keyboard Festival, provided they earn an overall superior rating at the regional festival and have met other requirements listed for each category. At the conclusion of the regional festival, eligible students will register for the state festival online at [okbu.edu/keyboardfestival](http://okbu.edu/keyboardfestival). Students will perform the same repertoire selections from the regional festivals at the state festival.

**Schedule/Format:** Unless otherwise communicated, The State Keyboard Festival will begin at 8:30 a.m. and end around 4:30 p.m. The State Keyboard Festival is similar to the Regional Festival; each entrant will play all of their repertoire in a single room. The judges will select an overall first-, second-, and third-place winners in each category, **plus special recognition for hymn, hymn expansion, and/or hymn arrangement as appropriate to each category.** First-place winners **and those receiving special recognition for their hymns** will be invited to perform in the performance and awards ceremony at the end of the day.

**Intro to Organ:** This 30-minute session will be offered at the State Festival during the lunch hour. All competitors and their families are welcome, free of charge. During these sessions, students will have the opportunity to hear and play the magnificent organ in OBU's Potter Auditorium.

### Q & A | State Keyboard Festival

#### **Who can go to the State Keyboard Festival?**

Any student who earns an overall superior rating at the Regional Keyboard Festival and meets any other requirements listed in each category is eligible for the State Keyboard Festival. Eligible entrants must register online following their performance at the regional festival by the deadline listed under "Important Dates" in this handbook. The registration fee for the State Keyboard Festival is \$20 and may be paid online via credit card or mailed via check.

#### **If we qualify for the State Keyboard Festival, when and where will it be held?**

The State Keyboard Festival will be held at Oklahoma Baptist University in Shawnee, Oklahoma. The date will be February 24, 2023. The State Keyboard Festival usually runs 8:30 a.m.-4:30 p.m.

#### **What is required at the State Keyboard Festival?**

The categories remain the same at the State Festival. You must play the same pieces performed at the Regional Festival. Entrants in solo piano categories IV and V and organ category II will be required to sight-read at the State Keyboard Festival; however, the piece will be different.

#### **How will we receive our State critique sheets/comments?**

At State the judges need to keep critique sheets until they have selected a first-, second-, and third-place winner. Therefore the comment sheets will not be available until after the performance and awards ceremony. You are welcome to stay for the performance then pick up your sheets. If you are unable to stay, any uncollected critique sheets will be mailed to your teacher.

## Resources

Please visit the **OBU Keyboard Festival website, [okbu.edu/keyboardfestival](http://okbu.edu/keyboardfestival)**, for the following resources:

- Registration for the Regional Keyboard Festival and State Keyboard Festival
- Sample Critique Sheet
- Downloadable Festival Handbook
- Downloadable Host Church Handbook
- Festival Staff Forms

## Important Dates

### **December 15, 2023**

Regional Keyboard Festival Registration Deadline

### **January 20, 2023**

Regional Keyboard Festival Registration Correction Deadline (Change of date, time, and location not permitted)

### **February 3, 2023**

Regional Keyboard Festivals

### **February 10, 2023**

State Keyboard Festival Registration Deadline

### **February 24, 2023**

State Keyboard Festival, Oklahoma Baptist University, Shawnee

## Contact Information

### **Address:**

Oklahoma Baptist University  
Division of Music  
Attn: OBU Keyboard Festival  
OBU Box 61276  
500 W. University St.  
Shawnee, OK 74804

**Phone:** 405-585-4300 | **Email:** [keyfest@okbu.edu](mailto:keyfest@okbu.edu) | **Web:** [okbu.edu/keyboardfestival](http://okbu.edu/keyboardfestival)

### **Festival Administration:**

Dr. Mark Franklin, director  
Dr. Patty Nelson, coordinator  
Ms. Claire Marquardt, coordinator