



***THE GCSS PIANO COMPETITION XI, 2026***  
**Saturday, February 21, 2026**

**WINNERS ARE INVITED TO PERFORM AT WEILL HALL AT  
THE CARNEGIE HALL, NEW YORK, NY - JUNE 10, 2026**

**TOTAL COMPETITION PRIZES: \$12,000**

The Gulf Coast Steinway Society is a non-profit organization formed by Steinway Artist Dr. Kadisha Onalbayeva and other individuals united in their devotion to strive to promote fine music through education and performance along the Gulf Coast region. The Gulf Coast Steinway Society Music Competition XI will take place at The University of Mobile, 5735 College Parkway, Mobile, Alabama, on Saturday, February 21, 2026. Its purpose is to give talented young students an opportunity to perform and to work with master teachers.

***THE GCSS MUSIC COMPETITION XI, 2026***  
***Competition Guidelines***

**ELIGIBILITY**

Applicants must be residents of the state of Alabama, Florida, Georgia, Louisiana, and Mississippi, or be studying with a teacher who is a resident of these states. Competition participants will be students from Elementary, Middle School, High School and Undergraduate Colleges and Universities in the five-state region.

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- Category A: Elementary School (Grade 1-5) or yearly age
  - Category B: Middle School (Grade 6-8)
  - Category C: High School - TWO LEVELS: (Grade 9-10) and (Grade 11-12)
  - College Level Category (undergraduate students only) - TWO LEVELS:  
Freshman-Sophomore and Junior-Senior
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- **Previous Winners of First, Second, and Third Place from 2025 are not eligible to compete in the same category in 2026.**
  
  - **Carnegie Hall Participation: This competition is only for students who are willing and able to perform at Carnegie Hall. If a student is not planning to participate in the winners' recital, they should not apply, as they will be disqualified.**

### **AWARDS**

Three Gulf Coast Steinway Society Awards will be given for each category. Honorable Mentions will be given at the discretion of the judges.

### **Contemporary Music Prize**

***High School: “Seville Rag” by Michael Coleman  
College Division: “Interrupted Ostinato” by Jerry Sieg***

**SOLO REPERTOIRE THREE WORKS**

**Students will perform a minimum TWO contrasting styles.**

**Elementary, Middle, High Schools:**

- **Maximum duration for the THREE works combined: 12 minutes**
- **Maximum duration for each individual work: 5 minutes**

**College Level:**

- **Maximum duration for the THREE works combined: 15 minutes**
- **Maximum duration for each individual work: 6 minutes**

**PARTICIPANT WILL RECEIVE A SCHEDULE BY EMAIL**

**All works must be memorized.**

**You must provide ONE copy of your score.**

**SCORES MUST BE LEGALLY DOWNLOADED**

**APPLICATIONS DUE**

**Applications must be submitted by Friday , December 12, 2025. *NO LATE APPLICATIONS WILL BE ACCEPTED.***

**STUDENT APPLICATION FEE**

**There is a fee of \$75.00 per category. Application package must include:**

1. Application Form
2. Non-refundable Fee \$75.00 per category

Please Submit your Application Online:

[www.gulfcoaststeinwaysociety.org](http://www.gulfcoaststeinwaysociety.org)

**Gulf Coast Steinway Society Music Competition XI, 2026**

**We wish all our applicants great success in participating in The GCSS Music Competition XI! If you have any questions, please contact:**

[gulfcoaststeinwaysocietyinc@gmail.com](mailto:gulfcoaststeinwaysocietyinc@gmail.com)