

Dear 2012 Hefner Competition Participants, Teachers, and Guests:

This year's competition will feature 14 talented performers from 7 excellent HBCU music programs. The repertoire list displays a wide variety of challenging music for solo piano. We were delighted to recognize among the applicants some familiar names who have participated in past years, as well as some student who will be making their first trip perform here. We have two outstanding judges (concert pianists Jeni Slotchiver and Graciella Kowalczyk) who are eager to enjoy the fruits of your hard work. Attached to this email you will find biographical sketches of your judges.

We will be following the same basic format we have used in past years. The competition times are listed alphabetically by school groupings; in other words, Claflin University students are alphabetically placed first on the list, and Xavier of Louisiana College is last. Directions to the university as well as information about some nearby hotels are on the competition website.

I hope things are going well for you as you prepare to come to the competition this week. We are looking forward to having you all on our campus in a few days. **Please send me a quick email if you are unable to attend and play as planned.** All of the documents concerning the competition are posted at the TSU Music Department website (www.tnstate.edu/music).

When you arrive at the campus, you will want to approach the TSU Performing Arts Building from the parking lot on Albion and 35th. If you want to get Mapquest directions, use the address 3500 Albion Street, Nashville, TN, 37209. Our building is red brick with a tall cream colored structure rising from it. You will be facing the back of the building. Use the sidewalk to your right and walk around to the front of the building. Enter any of the doors there and you will be in the lobby of the Theatre where the competition will be held. There will be TSU music student hosts to assist you through the day, and light snacks will be available for you in the hospitality room just off the lobby.

We are so aware of the dedication, effort, expense, and commitment required to enter this event. We greatly value your support and attendance, and we will do our best to make it a positive, educational, and nurturing experience.

Please contact me if you have additional questions and/or concerns. We look forward to seeing you and enjoying your music next week. Have a good, safe trip.

Sincerely,

Christine M. Perkey, coordinator, James A. Hefner HBCU Piano Competition