



## Performing Arts –Piano Project

Georgia 4-H Project Achievement empowers young people with skills for a lifetime. Through a competitive process, students explore their interests, unleash their creativity, share their work, and celebrate their achievements! This guide provides 9th—12th graders with examples for getting started with their project exploration.

### Description of Project:

4-H'ers may explore areas of expression by showcasing the skills they have learned on the piano. Through this project 4-H'ers may:

- develop an appreciation for appropriate use of leisure time
- express originality and creativity through your performance
- identify different methods of expression through vocal, dance, or instrumental performances with an emphasis on piano
- acquire an understanding of the roles and responsibilities of those supporting performers during performances
- explore career opportunities in the area of performing arts

*Each Performing Arts Piano Participant will prepare and present a 4 minute performance that includes a short introduction. Talent acts should primarily include playing the piano, and contestants must use the piano provided at the contest. No accompaniment is permitted*

### Overview:

- ⇒ Choose project
- ⇒ Develop skills in:
  - Project
  - Leadership
  - Service
- ⇒ Prepare portfolio for work completed from January 1—December 31
- ⇒ Prepare presentation
- ⇒ Practice
- ⇒ Compete
- ⇒ Reflect

### Examples of Project Development Experiences:

- Take lessons, instrumental workshops, or camps
- Choose appropriate music based on your preferred genre
- Learn to play by chord charts and write your own music/compositions
- Attend professional performances, attend concerts, or watch performers online
- Interview music teachers, trainers, or professional pianists
- Have yourself critiqued by a professional pianist - Remember practice makes perfect!
- Participate in your school, community, or church performance groups
- Audition for performing groups, such as Georgia 4-H Clovers & Company, symphony orchestra, jazz band, etc.
- Enter talent shows or competitions
- Organize a song book of selections for community performances
- Research musical careers and music programs at schools, colleges, or universities

## Project Sharing and Helping Examples:

- Form a performing arts group to perform for other 4-H'ers, your community, or at district or statewide events
- Start a project club for younger 4-H'ers and teach performance techniques— perform at elder homes, theaters, festivals, etc.
- Plan your own 4-H Variety Show, such as Valentine Variety Show, Christmas Clover Concert, etc.
- Create your own song review with younger students
- Make musical instruments and teach younger kids to play
- Volunteer to assist the band, chorus, or drama coordinator as a leader for new students
- Mentor a younger 4-H'er in a Performing Arts project
- Teach the basics of piano to younger kids
- Research benefits of music education and share with others
- Promote National Music in our Schools Month

## Recommended Resources:

- [Georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement](http://Georgia4h.org/ProjectAchievement)
- [atlanta.broadway.com](http://atlanta.broadway.com)
- [foxtheatre.org](http://foxtheatre.org)
- [music.uga.edu](http://music.uga.edu)
- [youtube.com](http://youtube.com)
- Atlanta Symphony and other symphonies
- [nafme.org](http://nafme.org)
- [aep-arts.org](http://aep-arts.org)

## Special Considerations:

- Consider your ability and level of skill when choosing your performance piece.
- Technique and musicianship count as 40 points of your total score! This includes meter, melody, fingering, accents, legato/ staccato, precision, hand position/coordination, and pedal usage.
- Consider filming yourself to critique your performance.
- Be sure to consider the 4-H Code of Conduct to be certain your selection is appropriate, including any song, dress, etc.
- Make sure you time yourself. Including your introduction, you have a total of 4 minutes.
- Practice a brief introduction that includes your name, county, length of study, name of selection, and composer. You may also choose to include the song's origin/history.
- Think of a way to enhance your stage presence when performing your piano piece.

## At Competition:

*Performers must play the provided piano. No accompaniment is allowed. Participants will be judged on their introduction, techniques and musicianship, interpretation, presentation, selection, and time.*

*Acts are limited to 4 minutes total. Youth are required to use the microphones provided at the contest.*

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Sources:

Edwards, Bill and Varnadoe, Cheryl. 1998. *Junior/Senior Project Notebook*. "Leisure Education Projects: Performing Arts."

The University of Georgia CAES. 2015. Project Achievement. <http://www.georgia4h.org/projectachievement/>

