



COMPETITION POLICIES AND PROCEDURES

ELEGIBILITY

No minimum age up to a maximum 21 years of age for the Advanced Division and 29 years of age for the Young Professional Division. There is no maximum age for the Senior Division. Performers should be prepared to produce proof of age to the directors should a question arise as to their eligibility.

CATEGORIES

Piano
Guitar
Strings
Brass
Woodwinds
Vocals

INSTRUMENTS

Piano

Strings

Guitar
Violin
Viola
Cello
Violoncello
Harp
Banjo
Double Bass

Brass

Trumpet
Trombone
French Horn
Tuba

Woodwinds

Clarinet
Flute
Saxophone
Oboe
Bassoon

Vocals

(No Instruments)

GROUPS

Solos
Duets
Trios
Quartets
Ensembles

STYLES

Piano, Strings, Brass, Woodwinds

Baroque
Classical
Romantic
21st Century

(These Styles do not apply to the Beginners Division)

Vocals

Classical

(Art Songs and Arias from Early Music to 21st Century)

Pop

Musical Theatre

Children Songs

DIVISIONS

Piano, Strings, Brass, Woodwinds

Beginners
Intermediate
Advanced
Young Professional
Senior

Vocals

Division 1 (Ages 5 - 7)

Division 2 (Ages 8 - 10)

Division 3 (Ages 11 - 15)

Division 4 (Ages 16 - 20)

Division 5 (Ages 21 +)

LEVELS

Piano, Strings, Brass, Woodwinds

Beginners Division

Primer Level

Level 1

Level 2

Intermediate Division

Level 3

Level 4

Level 5

Advanced Division

Level 6

Level 7

Level 8 (Up to 21 years of age)

Adult Division

(No Levels) (Ages 21 +)

Vocals

NO LEVELS - BY DIVISION ONLY (See Above)

PRICES AND TIME LIMITS PER ENTRY

PIANO, GUITAR, STRINGS, BRASS, WOODWINDS

SOLOS - DUETS* - TRIOS - QUARTETS - ENSEMBLES

(*NOTE: PIANO DUETS ARE 4 HANDS / 1 PIANO)

Below are Fees and Time Limits per entry for ALL Instruments and Vocals

BEGINNERS DIVISION

NOTE: THIS IS THE ONLY DIVISION WHERE THE PERFORMERS MAY PERFORM WITH THEIR PROFESSORS.

PRIMER LEVEL

- **SINGLE ENTRY – SOLOS - \$89 - (DUETS - \$119) (TRIOS - \$149)**
 - May perform ONE (1) PIECE for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **ONE (1) minute**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform ONE (1) piece. (May be a Duet with their Professor)
- **FULL ENTRY – SOLOS - \$159 - (DUETS - \$189) (TRIOS - \$219)**
 - May perform for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **TWO (2) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform any number of pieces they wish (Any of which may be a Duet with their Professor) without exceeding the time limit stated above

LEVEL 1

- **SINGLE ENTRY - SOLOS - \$89 - (DUETS - \$119) (TRIOS - \$149)**
 - May perform ONE (1) PIECE for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **ONE AND ONE-HALF (1½) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform ONE (1) piece. (May be a Duet with their Professor)
- **FULL ENTRY - SOLOS - \$159 - (DUETS - \$189) (TRIOS - \$219)**
 - May perform for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **THREE (3) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform any number of pieces they wish (Any of which may be a Duet with their Professor) without exceeding the time limit stated above

LEVEL 2

- **SINGLE ENTRY - SOLOS - \$89 - (DUETS - \$119) (TRIOS - \$149)**
 - May perform ONE (1) PIECE for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **TWO AND ONE-HALF (2½) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform ONE (1) piece. (May be a Duet with their Professor)
- **FULL ENTRY - SOLOS - \$159 - (DUETS - \$189) (TRIOS - \$219)**
 - May perform for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **FIVE (5) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform any number of pieces they wish (Any of which may be a Duet with their Professor) without exceeding the time limit stated above

INTERMEDIATE DIVISION

LEVEL 3

- **SINGLE ENTRY - SOLOS - \$89 - (DUETS - \$119) (TRIOS - \$149)**

- May perform ONE (1) PIECE for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **THREE (3) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
- May perform ONE (1) piece. (May be a Duet with their Professor)
- **FULL ENTRY - SOLOS - \$159 - (DUETS - \$189) (TRIOS - \$219)**
 - May perform for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **SIX (6) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform any number of pieces they wish (Any of which may be a Duet with their Professor) without exceeding the time limit stated above

LEVELS 4 & 5

- **SINGLE ENTRY - SOLOS - \$89 - (DUETS - \$119) (TRIOS - \$149)**
 - May perform ONE (1) PIECE for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **FOUR (4) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform ONE (1) piece. (May be a Duet with their Professor)
- **FULL ENTRY - SOLOS - \$159 - (DUETS - \$189) (TRIOS - \$219)**
 - May perform for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **EIGHT (8) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform any number of pieces they wish (Any of which may be a Duet with their Professor) without exceeding the time limit stated above

ADVANCED DIVISION

LEVELS 6; 7 & 8

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ADULT DIVISION (NO LEVELS)

- **SINGLE ENTRY - SOLOS - \$89 - (DUETS - \$119) (TRIOS - \$149)**
 - May perform ONE (1) PIECE for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **FOUR (4) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform ONE (1) piece. (May be a Duet with their Professor)
- **FULL ENTRY - SOLOS - \$159 - (DUETS - \$189) (TRIOS - \$219)**
 - May perform for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **EIGHT (8) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
 - May perform any number of pieces they wish (Any of which may be a Duet with their Professor) without exceeding the time limit stated above

VOCALS

SOLOS - DUETS - TRIOS - QUARTETS – ENSEMBLES

ALL DIVISIONS

- **SINGLE ENTRY - SOLOS - \$89 - (DUETS - \$119) (TRIOS - \$149)**
 - May perform ONE (1) SONG for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **THREE AND ONE-HALF (3½) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
- **FULL ENTRY - SOLOS - \$159 - (DUETS - \$189) (TRIOS - \$219)**
 - May perform for UP TO A MAXIMUM TOTAL TIME of **SEVEN (7) minutes**. There is no minimum time. A Performer will NOT be penalized for playing less than their allotted time. They will only be penalized if they exceed their time limit.
- **BOTH SINGLE AND FULL ENTRIES:**
 - MAY CHOOSE ANY SONG(S) IN ANY OF THE FOUR (4) STYLES (CLASSICAL; POP; MUSICAL THEATRE or CHILDRENS).

- MAY PERFORM SONGS IN THE SAME STYLE OR IN DIFFERENT STYLES AT THEIR DISCRETION.
- **ENTRIES PERFORMING WITH A MUSIC TRACK:**
 - MUST MAIL ONE (1) CD TO STAGE MASTERS MUSIC TO THE ADDRESS LISTED AT THE END OF THIS DOCUMENT OR POSTED ON OUR WEBSITE AT LEAST ONE (1) WEEK PRIOR TO COMPETITION DAY.
 - MUST BRING A SECOND COPY WITH THEM TO THE COMPETITION AS A BACKUP JUST IN CASE.
 - **THE TRACKS MUST BE IN THE ORDER THEY WILL BE PERFORMED**
 - THE CD TRACK SHOULD BE CLEARLY MARKED WITH THE FOLLOWING:
 - FIRST AND LAST NAME OF PERFORMER
 - NAME OF SONG(S)
 - LENGTH OF SONG(S) IN MINUTES AND SECONDS
 - STAGE MASTERS IS NOT RESPONSIBLE FOR THE QUALITY OR PLAYABILITY OF THE TRACKS.
 - ALL TRACKS WILL BE RETURNED TO THE ENTRY AT THE END OF THE COMPETITION.
- **ENTRIES PERFORMING ACCOMPANIED BY PIANO:**
 - May use the piano and microphone provided on stage.
 - Must bring his or her own accompanist.
- **ENTRIES PERFORMING ACCOMPANIED BY OTHER INSTRUMENT OTHER THAN PIANO:**
 - Must bring their own instrument
 - May use the microphone provided on stage
 - To qualify for the Titanium Award in **VOCALS** an Entry **MUST** perform at least two (2) songs but the songs may be in any style(s) they choose. Although the songs **DO NOT** have to be in different styles, any other requirements set forth below in Group Awards **MUST** be met.

DISCOUNTS FOR MULTIPLE ENTRIES

Stage Masters offers discounted rates for 1) Performers who wish to perform in more than one (1) Instrument (For example: an instrument and vocals or two or more different instruments; and 2) Brothers and Sisters, The following are the entry fees for these Multiple Entries for ALL instruments and Vocals:

- **FIRST SINGLE ENTRY - \$89**
- **SECOND SINGLE ENTRY (for same performer in different Instrument or for first Brother or Sister) - \$69**
- **THIRD or MORE SINGLE ENTRY (for same performer in different Instrument or for second or more Brother or Sister) - \$49**
- **FIRST FULL ENTRY - \$159**
- **SECOND SINGLE ENTRY (for same performer in different Instrument or for first Brother or Sister) - \$129**
- **THIRD or MORE SINGLE ENTRY (for same performer in different Instrument or for second or more Brother or Sister) - \$109**

For prices on **Groups larger than Trios (3 Performers)** or for **SCHOOL PACKAGES** please email us music@stagemastersmusic.com or call us at 786-546-4477.

SCORING

Performers compete for scores and awards and not against each other. The purpose of Stage Masters Music Competitions is to give all aspiring musicians of all ages a forum where they can showcase their talents in front of an audience and a panel of distinguished judges, eliminating stage fright, gaining self-confidence, satisfying their competitive spirit and fueling their enthusiasm. And knowing that they will be rewarded for their efforts with trophies, medals, plaques and the opportunity to headline future gala recitals gives them something to look forward to which encourages them to practice and work harder. Therefore, all Performers compete for a panel of distinguished judges and will receive an individual award based upon where their own individual scores fall as determined by that panel of judges using the scoring system below. THE PANEL OF JUDGES SHALL BE CHOSEN BY STAGE MASTERS MUSIC AT THEIR SOLE DISCRETION AND ALL PERFORMERS AGREE THAT THE TIME, MANNER AND METHOD OF JUDGING SHALL BE SOLELY WITHIN THE DISCRETION OF THE DIRECTORS AND PRODUCERS OF IN KEY PRODUCTIONS, LLC AND STAGE MASTERS MUSIC AND THAT ALL DECISIONS OF THE JUDGES ARE FINAL. PLEASE SEE "RULES INFRACTIONS" BELOW ON COMMUNICATION WITH JUDGES.

Scoring is as follows: Silver (70-84); Gold (85-89); Platinum (90-94); Double Platinum (95-100). The High Score in each Level of each Division with at least a Double Platinum Score of Ninety-Eight (**98**) will be awarded the Prestigious Titanium Award. (Please see below for requirements for receiving the Titanium Award).

Scores for all Performer will be based on criteria set forth solely at the discretion of In Key Productions, LLC and Stage Masters Music and their judges. All decisions are final and not subject to appeal or review.

JUDGES

Panel of Judges and Judging Criteria: Stage Masters Music takes great pride in the caliber of its judges and their integrity and professionalism. As such, 1) All judges are carefully chosen at the sole discretion of Stage Masters Music and are highly qualified (please refer to their respective biographies and qualifications available online or upon request; 2) the panel consists of three sitting judges and as many alternate judges as Stage Masters deems proper, at their sole discretion; 3) so as to avoid even the slightest semblance of partiality, the score sheets that the judges are handed moments before a particular performance have no mention of who that particular performer's professor is; 4) the judges are screened beforehand to make sure that they do not know any of the performers personally. If they do, they are disqualified from judging that performer and the alternative judge replaces them for that particular performance; 5) the judges are not allowed to speak to each other prior to, at or during any performance and especially during the grading of a performance. This is done so that one judge will not influence another. 6) Each judge's scores are private to that judge and subject to their own individual criteria. As such, some judges will be more lenient than others and vice-versa. The result being that the child will receive a wide variety of scores and comments because the ultimate goal is not so much the individual award (although that is important in the short run) but to enhance their public performance skills and make them better musicians in the long run. That is why the final score is taken from the average of all three scores; 7) so as to avoid any appearance of impropriety, judges are not allowed to have contact with, approach or speak to, or communicate with, in any manner whatsoever, any professor, performer, family member or acquaintance of any performer at any time prior to, during or after a performance. Any such communication may result, at the sole discretion of Stage Masters, in the immediate disqualification of that judge for the event in question and for any future events; 8) judges are required to read, sign and adhere to a **Code of Ethics** (a copy of which is available online or upon request); and 9) any judge who violates any of the above policies will be immediately removed from their respective judging duties, at the sole discretion of Stage Masters. Any policy or procedure not covered here but covered in our Policies & Procedures is included herein by reference and vice-versa;

Differences in Judging Criteria: One of Stage Masters Music's goals is to prepare all musicians, regardless of age or experience, to perform publicly. To do so, Stage Masters Music feels that musicians must learn early on that no matter where they compete or play and that no matter how well or poorly they perform on any given day, they will receive all kinds of criteria ranging from great to good to okay to not so good. A judge's score is reflective of that particular judge's subjective criteria and can vary widely between judges. This is part of life and we believe it is healthy. Of course, since one of our many goals is to increase self-esteem and with our philosophy being that every child is a winner, our judges have strict instructions to make sure that their comments and suggestions are positive in nature, the result being to allow the musician to not only enjoy the 'good' evaluations so as to inspire them but to use the 'not so good' as motivation to improve. However, in some instances, because of time restraints, judges may not have the time to issue comments on a particular performance.

As stated above in "Scoring", the **DECISION OF THE JUDGES IS FINAL AND NOT SUBJECT TO DISCUSSION OR CHANGE**. With that in mind and to protect the integrity of the program, any comments, public or otherwise that comes to the attention of Stage Masters, as to the unfairness of a judge's scores; bias, favoritism or injustice by any judge; or that in any way question the honesty or integrity of a judge or the program shall result in the immediate disqualification of not only the individual making such comments, but the performer about whom the comments were about, not only for the event during which the comment was made but for any and all future events. In addition, the same principle that applies above in Judges 7) shall apply to third party individuals approaching a judge. There shall be no contact whatsoever by third parties and judges. If any such contact with the judges is initiated by a third person, the judges are instructed to immediately report such contact to any director or staff member and that third party and the performer who is associated or related to that third party shall immediately be disqualified not only for the event in question, but, at the sole discretion of Stage Masters, any and all future events.

Groups: In an effort to resolve subjective differences by certain judges in judging groups, all judges are instructed not to deduct points for reading music during group performances.

PERFORMANCE SESSIONS

Performance Sessions are scheduled according to the number of entries and their respective Divisions and Levels. Although every effort will be made to accommodate emergencies, failure to perform during a scheduled Session may result in a deduction of points as set forth below in Rules Infractions.

RULES INFRACTIONS

Points may be deducted for the following infractions: Time Limit infraction (2 points); Dress Code infraction (2 points); Performing out of scheduled session (3 points); No sheet music provided to judges (Musical Pieces Form is part of music) (3 points); Not completing a performance (3 points). **NO PARENT, FRIEND, FAMILY MEMBER, PERFORMER OR PROFESSOR MAY APPROACH OR ENGAGE IN ANY CONVERSATION WITH A JUDGE BEFORE, DURING OR AFTER A COMPETITION. THIS RULE WILL BE STRICTLY ENFORCED. ANY VIOLATION WILL RESULT IN THE IMMEDIATE DISQUALIFICATION OF THE PERFORMER IN QUESTION AND A FORFEIT OF ALL AWARDS.**

SOLO AWARDS

All Solo Performers receive an award based on their individual scores as stated above in Scoring.

PIANO; GUITAR; STRINGS; BRASS; WOODWINDS; AND VOCALS

ALL DIVISIONS AND LEVELS

SINGLE SOLO ENTRIES: - All Single Solo Entry Performers:

- 1) will receive a Participation Award;
- 2) will receive a Performance Award based on where their score for their musical piece performed falls on our Scoring System (See "Scoring" above);
- 3) will be eligible to receive a Judges Award or Special Award at the sole discretion of Stage Masters Music; their directors or assigns; and a panel of judges.

FULL SOLO ENTRIES: - All Full Solo Entry Performers:

- 1) will receive a Participation Award;
- 2) will receive a Performance Award based on where their score for their musical piece performed falls on our Scoring System (See "Scoring" above);
- 3) will be eligible to receive a Judges Award or Special Award at the sole discretion of Stage Masters Music; their directors or assigns; and a panel of judges.

GROUP AWARDS (DUETS, TRIOS AND ABOVE)

All Group Performers (Duets; Trios and above receive an award based on their score stated above in Scoring.

PIANO; GUITAR; STRINGS; BRASS; WOODWINDS; AND VOCALS

ALL DIVISIONS AND LEVELS

SINGLE GROUP ENTRIES: - All Single Group Entry Performers:

- 1) will receive One (1) Participation Award;
- 2) will receive One (1) Performance Award based on where their score for their musical piece performed falls on our Scoring System (See "Scoring" above);
- 3) will receive sub-Awards for each Performer
- 4) will be eligible to receive a Judges Award or Special Award at the sole discretion of Stage Masters Music; their directors or assigns; and a panel of judges.

FULL GROUP ENTRIES: - All Full Group Entry Performers:

- 1) will receive One (1) Participation Award;
- 2) will receive One (1) Performance Award based on where their score for their musical piece performed falls on our Scoring System (See "Scoring" above);
- 3) will receive sub-Awards for each Performer
- 4) will be eligible to receive a Judges Award or Special Award at the sole discretion of Stage Masters Music; their directors or assigns; and a panel of judges.

STUDIO AWARDS

STUDIO AWARDS - There are four (4) categories for Studio Awards: 1) **Single Studios:** This includes those Professors with one (1) Performer; **Small Studios:** This includes those Professors with at least two (2) entries but no more than four (4) entries. All Studios in these two categories will receive a Studio Award determined by where the average score of all of their entries (duets included) falls on the scoring system (Silver, Gold, Platinum and Double Platinum) and; 3) **Medium Studios:** This includes those Professors with at least five (5) but no more than nine (9) entries. All Studios in this category will receive a Studio Award determined by where the average score of all of their entries (duets included) falls on the scoring system (Silver, Gold, Platinum and Double Platinum); and 4) **Large Studios:** This includes those Professors with ten (10) or more entries. All Studios in this category will receive a Studio Award determined by where the average score of all of their entries (duets included) falls on the scoring system (Silver, Gold, Platinum and Double Platinum). Medium and Large Studios are eligible for the Steinway Top Studio Award which is awarded to the Medium and Large Studios with the highest overall average of all of their entries with at least a total average score of 98.

SPECIAL & JUDGES AWARDS

SPECIAL AND JUDGE'S AWARDS may be given from time to time at the sole discretion of Stage Masters Music. These

awards may include but not be limited to, awards such as Personality; Technique; Stage Presence; Elegance, Photogenic; Voice; Tonality; Intonation, etc; and other Special Awards that may be added from time to time at the sole discretion of Stage Masters Music.

DRESS CODE

Ladies: Any combination of Black & White Gala Dress or Blouse & Skirt (No dresses above the knees) and Dress Shoes;
EXCEPTION: Musical Theatre performers may wear a costume for their performances. No Sneakers; No Sandals; No Jeans for everyone and for those competing in Piano or Guitar, no Watches, Bracelets or Rings. Those competing in all other instruments, including Vocals, may wear watches, bracelets and rings.

Gentlemen: Black Pants and White Shirt or - Black Suite w/ White Shirt; Tie or Bow Tie and Black Dress Shoes.
EXCEPTION: Musical Theatre performers may wear a costume for their performances. No Sneakers; No Sandals; No Jeans for everyone and for those competing in Piano and Guitar, no Watches, Bracelets or Rings. Those competing in all other instruments, including Vocals, may wear watches, bracelets and rings.

Teachers Participating in Duets or Groups: **Ladies:** Any combination of Black & White Dress or Pant Suit; **Gentlemen:** White Shirt and Black Pants; Tie or Bow Tie. Points will be deducted for dress code infractions.

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULES

PERFORMANCE SCHEDULE: THE SPECIFIC DATES AND TIMES THAT EACH COMPETITOR WILL PERFORM WILL BE ASSIGNED AT THE SOLE DISCRETION OF STAGE MASTERS MUSIC AND IN KEY PRODUCTIONS.

MISCELLANEOUS RULES & REGULATIONS

The following regulations will be strictly adhered to:

- **NO CHILDREN UNDER 12 ARE PERMITTED IN THE THEATRE /AUDITORIUM.**
- **DOORS ARE CLOSED AND NO ONE WILL BE ALLOWED TO ENTER THE AUDITORIUM DURING A PERFORMANCE.**
- **NO ONE WITHOUT A SERVICE PASS AUTHORIZED BY STAGE MASTERS IS ALLOWED ON STAGE OR BACKSTAGE WITHOUT THE EXPRESS AUTHORIZATION OF A STAGE MASTERS DIRECTOR.**
- **VIDEO/AUDIO TAPING, MOVIE CAMERAS AND PHOTO CAMERAS ARE STRICTLY PROHIBITED INSIDE OF THE THEATRE/AUDITORIUM.**

CONSENT & RELEASE: All Performers and their respective parents / guardians and Professors, by virtue of entering a Stage Masters Music event; 1) give their permission and consent to the directors of Stage Masters Music/In Key Productions, LLC to use their images or photographs or appear on videos, television, our websites or any other electronic media for advertising, news coverage or any other commercial use of our events; Stage Masters Music/In Key Productions agrees to use such photographs in judicious manner and only in connection with music related events; 2) All Performers take inherent risks by virtue of competing on a stage and location. Participation in an event indicates acceptance of such risks. Therefore, by virtue of entering this event, Performers agree not to hold In key Productions, LLC; Stage Masters Music or its officers, managers, managing partners, directors, officials, judges, agents, staff or employees responsible for injuries, illnesses or damages sustained participating in any activity or event related to a Stage Masters Music Competition or Recitals. In Key Productions, LLC and Stage Masters Music and the hosting facility are not responsible for personal injury or property loss to either Performers or spectators; 3) Agree to abide by all of the Policies & Procedures as set forth above and as may be added or modified from time to time (including our Code of Ethics).

CHANGES & MODIFICATIONS: Any and all of the above may be changed from time to time, without notice, at the sole discretion of In Key Productions and/or Stage Masters Music.