

# Solo and Ensemble Festival

## Policies, Rules and Regulations, rev. 12/09/2005

### **PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS:**

The Solo and Ensemble Festival is an annual event which provides instrumental and vocal music performance adjudications for high school musicians in New England. These performance adjudications serve two purposes: (1) To offer a legitimate performance situation with a professional, subjective adjudication, and (2) Adjudication scores to be used, if desired, as criteria for acceptance into the Association Concert Festival orchestra, band, or chorus.

The Solo and Ensemble Festival consists of two similar events scheduled on two Saturdays in December, one at a northern site and the other at a southern site, the location being selected on a basis of availability and suitability of facilities and equipment.

### **QUALIFICATIONS:**

The Solo and Ensemble Festival is available for all high school musicians properly registered in New England schools in grades 9 - 12, and whose supervisors are members in good standing of the Association. This includes schools without music departments, and does not require membership in a school performance organization.

### **APPLICATION:**

Application may be made by a supervisor to the Solo and Ensemble Festival Coordinator, accompanied by the required fees, and by the announced deadline in the fall.

### **SELECTION OF MUSIC:**

As of January 1, 2006, all music for adjudication must be selected from the current adjudication lists published by the Association in order for students to be eligible for acceptance to the Concert Festival. Selections from the NYSSMA Manual are no longer allowed for consideration for Concert Festival acceptance eligibility. Students performing music other than from the Association's list shall not be eligible for acceptance to the Concert Festival but will receive non-rated adjudications from the adjudicators. Students shall not perform any musical selection which was the basis for having been selected for the Concert Festival in any preceding year. In addition to Solos the Association allows the following ensembles: (1) Instrumental = Trios, Quartets and

Quintets of mixed instrumentation, (2) Vocal = SSA, SSAA, SAB, SATB, SSATB, TTBB, (3) Special note: Vocal and Instrumental Duets are not currently allowed by the Association. Conducting an ensemble is not allowed. Music must be performed as it appears in the published parts with the noted instruments/voices. No teacher or student transcriptions may be used to allow a substitute instrument/voice in the ensemble. Performances which fall outside these guidelines are permissible. Said performances will receive adjudicator comments only and are not eligible for Concert Festival selection.

### **PERFORMANCE ADJUDICATIONS:**

Each adjudication shall be of ten minutes duration, and consist of a complete, uninterrupted performance of music of the student's choice.

Piano accompaniment for music so published is optional, but preferred. Music designated as unaccompanied must be performed thus. Pre-recorded accompaniments may be utilized whenever live accompaniment is impossible or impractical, the responsibility for supplying playback equipment resting with the applicant. The Association reserves the right to use adequate electronic keyboards when deemed advisable.

The Association adheres to all current copyright laws, especially where it concerns the use of illegal copies of music. During the adjudication, performers using music must perform from legally published, uncopied music. In the instance of a bad page turn, it is permissible to use a facsimile of that page. Each performing student or ensemble at the Solo and Ensemble Festival shall provide an original copy of the music to the adjudicator. When this is not possible, a facsimile may be provided, but it will be collected at the end of a school's adjudication(s) and destroyed by the adjudicator.

All students are expected to observe the following dress code. Girls: Dresses, blouses (no bare midriffs) and skirts, dress slacks, or school uniforms. No jeans. Boys: Dress slacks with shirt and tie, suits, jacket/sport coat with shirt and tie or turtleneck, or school uniform. No jeans. Athletic shoes are not acceptable.

Adjudication performances may be attended by any interested persons. Because it is a performance festival, it is acceptable for any interested person, including supervisors and students to audience performances at the Solo and Ensemble Festival. Audience members must conduct themselves appropriately at all times. They shall not distract the performer(s) and/or the adjudicator and, under no circumstances, are they permitted to interrupt a performance by leaving early or arriving late.

Current rules regarding registration for, number and types of performances shall be enforced.

Adjudicators of the best quality available will be employed, and in the interest of fairness and consistency, every effort will be made to utilize the same adjudicators at the two adjudication sites.

Copies of adjudicators' scores and critical comments will be mailed to supervisors as soon as possible after the Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Acceptance into the Concert Festival organizations will be determined by the Managers, their committees and may include members of the Executive Board. Acceptance is based upon adjudication scores from the Solo and Ensemble Festival and any other criteria currently in effect.

Registrants at the Solo and Ensemble Festival receive ratings in the following areas. There are also additional opportunities for optional adjudicator's comments. It is the supervisor's responsibility to inform students of the elements used to formulate ratings.

## 1. **INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE** (Rating is based on the following criteria)

TONE (Beauty, Blend, Control)

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

INTONATION

20 = Excellent; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

ACCURACY (Notes, Rhythms, Articulation, Precision)

10 = Outstanding; 9 = Excellent; 8 = Good; 7 = Fair; 6 = Poor

TECHNIQUE (Breathing & Posture, Precision, Rhythm)

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

BALANCE OF ENSEMBLE

10 = Outstanding; 9 = Excellent; 8 = Fair; 7 = Good; 6 = Poor

INTERPRETATION (Expression, Phrasing, Style, Tempo)

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

MUSICAL EFFECT (Artistry, Feeling of Ensemble, Fluency, Vitality)

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

DRESS CODE COMPLIANCE? "NO" = Minus 5 points from total score

## 2. **STRING SOLO** (Rating is based on the following criteria)

TONE (Beauty, Characteristic Timbre, Control)

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

INTONATION

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

TECHNIQUE (Bowling, Facility, Rhythm)

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

INTERPRETATION (Expression, Phrasing, Style, Tempo)

20 = Outstanding; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

MUSICAL EFFECT (Artistry, Fluency)

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

ACCURACY (Notes, Rhythms)

20 = Outstanding; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

DRESS CODE COMPLIANCE? "NO" = Minus 5 points from total score

### 3. **PERCUSSION SOLO** (Rating is based on the following criteria)

#### TONE

10 = Outstanding; 9 = Excellent; 8 = Good; 7 = Fair; 6 = Poor

#### RUDIMENTS - TECHNIQUE

20 = Outstanding; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

#### POSITION (Body, Hand, Instrument)

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

#### INTERPRETATION (Balance, Dynamics, Expression, Phrasing, Style, Tempo)

25 = Outstanding; 23 = Excellent; 20 = Good; 18 = Fair; 15 = Poor

#### ACCURACY (Rhythm, Sticking)

20 = Outstanding; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

#### MUSICAL EFFECT (Artistry, Fluency)

10 = Outstanding; 9 = Excellent; 9 = Good; 7 = Fair; 6 = Poor

DRESS CODE COMPLIANCE? "NO" = Minus 5 points from total score

### 4. **PIANO / HARP** (Rating is based on the following criteria)

#### TONE (Beauty, Control)

10 = Outstanding; 9 = Excellent; 8 = Good; 7 = Fair; 6 = Poor

#### TECHNIQUE (Finger Dexterity, Precision, Use of Pedal, Harp Tuning)

25 = Outstanding; 23 = Excellent; 20 = Good; 18 = Fair; 15 = Poor

#### INTERPRETATION (Contrast, Mood, Phrasing, Rhythm, Style, Tempo)

25 = Outstanding; 23 = Excellent; 20 = Good; 18 = Fair; 15 = Poor

#### MUSICAL EFFECT (Artistry, Fluency)

20 = Outstanding; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

#### ACCURACY (Notes, Rhythm)

20 = Outstanding; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

DRESS CODE COMPLIANCE? "NO" = Minus 5 points from total score

### 5. **VOCAL ENSEMBLE** (Rating is based on the following criteria)

#### TONE (Beauty, Blend, Control)

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

#### INTONATION

20 = Outstanding; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

#### DICTION (Clarity of Consonants, Naturalness, Purity of Vowels)

10 = Outstanding; 9 = Excellent; 8 = Good; 7 = Fair; 6 = Poor

#### TECHNIQUE (Breathing, Posture, Precision, Rhythm)

15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

#### BALANCE OF ENSEMBLE

10 = Outstanding; 9 = Excellent; 8 = Good; 7 = Fair; 6 = Poor

INTERPRETATION (Expression, Phrasing, Style, Tempo)  
15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

MUSICAL EFFECT (Artistry, Feeling of Ensemble, Fluency, Vitality)  
15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

DRESS CODE COMPLIANCE? "NO" = Minus 5 points from total score

## 6. **VOCAL SOLO** (Rating is based on the following criteria)

TONE (Beauty, Control)  
15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

INTONATION  
15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

DICTION (Clarity of Consonants, Naturalness, Purity of Vowels)  
10 = Outstanding; 9 = Excellent; 8 = Good; 7 = Fair; 6 = Poor

TECHNIQUE (Breathing, Posture)  
20 = Outstanding; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

INTERPRETATION (Expression, Phrasing, Style, Tempo)  
15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

MUSICAL EFFECT (Artistry, Fluency, Presentation)  
15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

RHYTHM (Rhythmic Accuracy)  
10 = Outstanding; 9 = Excellent; 8 = Good; 7 = Fair; 6 = Poor

DRESS CODE COMPLIANCE? "NO" = Minus 5 points from total score

## 7. **WIND SOLO** (Rating is based on the following criteria)

TONE (Beauty, Characteristic Timbre, Control)  
15 = Outstanding, 14 = Excellent, 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

INTONATION  
15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

TECHNIQUE (Articulation, Auxiliary Fingerings, Breathing, Posture, Embouchure, Facility, Rhythm)  
15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

INTERPRETATION (Expression, Phrasing, Style)  
20 = Outstanding; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

MUSICAL EFFECT (Artistry, Fluency)  
15 = Outstanding; 14 = Excellent; 12 = Good; 10 = Fair; 9 = Poor

ACCURACY (Notes, Rhythms, Articulation, Precision)  
20 = Outstanding; 18 = Excellent; 16 = Good; 14 = Fair; 12 = Poor

DRESS CODE COMPLIANCE? "NO" = Minus 5 points from total score