

## **Solo/Ensemble Festival Procedures**

### **Selection of piece**

Students are not allowed to perform the same piece they performed in a previous Solo & Ensemble Festival, regardless of whether or not they were accepted to the Concert Festival, if they wish to be considered for the Concert Festival.

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: TONE, INTONATION, TECHNIQUE, INTERPRETATION, MUSICAL EFFECT, ACCURACY, and BALANCE (if applicable). 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.

### **Instrumental Ensembles**

Students may also perform in instrumental ensembles for an adjudicator and to be considered for the Concert Festival. To be considered for the Concert Festival, the ensemble must be a Trio, Quartet or Quintet and must perform music listed on the NEMFA list for that ensemble. The music must be performed as it appears in the published parts with the noted instrumentation. No teacher or student transcriptions may be used to allow a substitute instrument in the ensemble.

Instrumental Ensembles of other configurations (duets, etc.) or performing music not listed in the NEMFA list or performing with a different instrumentation than noted, may perform in the Solo & Ensemble Festival to receive adjudicator comments and feedback. Their performance will not be considered for acceptance into the Concert Festival.

### **Cadenzas**

Students should not perform the cadenzas that are included in their performance pieces.

## Accompaniment

Students are encouraged to perform their performance piece accompanied if it is written that way. A piano accompaniment makes a wonderful musical presentation for the adjudicator. Please indicate your accompanist on the application so that conflicting schedules can be avoided.

If a pianist is not available, then the use of taped or CD accompaniments is acceptable at the Solo and Ensemble Festival. However, the performer is responsible for providing his/her own tape or CD player. The Association does not provide either the recordings nor the equipment.

## Audiences

It is acceptable for any interested person, including sponsors and students, to listen to any of the performances at the **Solo and Ensemble Festival** because it is a PERFORMANCE FESTIVAL. Audience members must conduct themselves appropriately at all times. Please do not disturb the performer(s) and/or the adjudicator and definitely DO NOT interrupt any performance by leaving early or arriving late. sponsors: BE SURE THAT YOUR STUDENTS ARE AWARE OF THIS!

## Original Music

As per copyright law, sponsors and students are reminded that **NO FACSIMILE COPIES OF MUSIC** are permitted at the Solo and Ensemble Festival. The copy of a single page to facilitate an accompanist's or performer's difficult page turn is acceptable.

## Group Preferences

**Please be consistent with your student's Group Preferences.** Regardless of how many times or in how many ways, a student performs in the Solo & Ensemble Festival, their Group Preference should be the same in each application. No student who received a rating high enough to be accepted to the Concert Festival is ever refused that acceptance because of their Group Preference choice.

Student preferences are used to help place as many students in the group of their choice as possible. However, the overall educational and musical success of the Performance Festival is the primary function of the selection process and therefore takes precedence over student choices. NEMFA is not obligated to honor any preferences.

## Errors in applications

**PRIOR TO NOVEMBER 1st:** Should you find that you made an error in your application data, return to the website, enter your NEMFA ID and edit your entries as needed. That data remains active until November 1st.

**AFTER NOVEMBER 1st:** The website will be closed on November 1st. Should you find that you made an error in your application data after that date, please contact [Steffen Parker](#) immediately to see what rectification can be made.

## **Schedule Changes**

Requests for scheduling time considerations are included in the application process (as part of the School Information pages). Should you find that a student needs a different time than they were assigned after you have received the schedule, the sponsor has 10 days from the time the schedule is mailed to request those changes by contacting [Steffen Parker](#). After that, no schedule changes will be made.

## **Errors in adjudication forms**

The adjudication forms with the scores and adjudicator's comments are mailed to the sponsors immediately following the Southern Solo & Ensemble Festival's conclusion. Due to that major effort on your behalf, it is possible that an error slips through. Sponsors are requested to double-check all of their documentation for errors. If you find an error or have any concerns, call [Steffen Parker](#) (802.660.4762) IMMEDIATELY!

## **Weather**

Due the large number of people involved, the complexity of the preparation and operation, the tightness of the schedule and the time of year they occur, the **Solo and Ensemble Festivals** are not cancelled due to weather. If it's bad out, take your time, drive carefully and your students will be heard when they arrive, even if you have missed your scheduled timeslots.

## **Questions**

If you have any questions regarding the **Solo and Ensemble Festival**, do not hesitate to ask! Contact Steffen Parker via email at home([sparker@vpaonline.org](mailto:sparker@vpaonline.org)) or via phone at 802.660.4762 (home phone, so call before 9:00 PM).