



# NEMFA WEB NEWS-BULLETIN

*New England Music Festival Association, Inc. October 2010 Vol. LXXV, No. 1*

*News and Weblog of the New England Music Festival Association, Inc.*

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## President's Report

September 29, 2010 in President's Report

Dear Colleagues,

Once again we find ourselves in school and gearing up for any numbers of performances, opportunities for our students, conferences and conventions and music festivals. It is always exciting to start the school year, and especially for me this year as we look forward to hosting the 2011 New England Music Festival. I am sure you are all aware that the Northern Solo & Ensemble Festival is on December 4<sup>th</sup>, and that the Southern date is December 11<sup>th</sup>; and of course the Concert Festival is on March 17-19, 2011. But it is always worth saying again as a reminder! Our conductors for our three ensembles are particularly outstanding this year, and the programs are equally attractive. But most important, speaking as President and host, Burlington, Vermont is anticipating your arrival; we look forward to taking care of you and presenting your students with the best possible festival experience that we can!



Frank Whitcomb, NEMFA President

In particular, our headquarter hotel, the Burlington Hilton, is situated right in downtown Burlington, just a very, very short walk to any number of outstanding restaurants and only a 5 minute, 1.5 mile drive to the school! No doubt this is a plus in many ways; we are hoping that the close proximity of school and concert/rehearsal sites will enable more directors to attend and observe rehearsals and also spend less time searching out places to eat, etc.

On the musical side, our managers as always have been and continue to do outstanding work securing conductors and guiding their selection of programs. Rob and Steffen are hard at work securing space and adjudicators for the Solo & Ensemble Festivals, and all members of the Executive Board are hard at work doing their jobs and preparing for March. John Kuhner, Past President, is in charge of assembling a slate of officers to present to the membership at the annual festival membership meeting. And of course the hosts are working and have been for some time planning for your arrival!

This will be NEMFA's 84<sup>th</sup> year of existence! Imagine that....84 years of supplying young aspiring musicians with the opportunity to play under some of the most outstanding band, orchestra and choral conductors in the country! Many of our students speak of NEMFA as one of the catalysts that lit the fire under them to continue in music as a profession! Others did not pursue music as a career but did continue in education as teachers and administrators, all in positions that enable them to motivate students to become involved in music at any number of different levels. I think that 84 years of supplying inspiration to young musicians is something to be very proud of, and I for one am proud of my own 36 years of belonging to this organization, working for young musicians and working WITH some of the finest individuals that I know. I look forward to celebrating the 100<sup>th</sup> birthday of New England Music Festival in 2027, at the ripe age of 74!

Sincerely, **Frank Whitcomb** NEMFA President and Librarian

## Secretary's Report

September 29, 2010 in [Secretary's Report](#) | 2 comments

### **MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, BURLINGTON, VT SEPTEMBER 10, 2010**



Donald L. Hermance, NEMFA Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Whitcomb at 10:10 am by President Frank Whitcomb. Also present were: Bill Sittard, Tom Reynolds, Gail Reynolds, John Kuhner, Sal Cicciarella, Erica Howard, Ed Owens, and Steffen Parker.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Bill Sittard, Treasurer, disseminated the Treasurer's report which was approved.

Erica Howard, Band Manager, reported that preparations were in order, and that she had contacted Caroline Barber about the conductorship for the year 2012.

Gail Reynolds, Orchestra Manager, reported that Andrew King of Purdue University had been contracted to conduct the 2012 orchestra, and that other options for conductors in the following years are being explored.

Tom Reynolds, Editor of the Bulletin and Website Manager, requested of Bill Sittard an updated list of the Association membership. He recommended that the June, 2011 meeting of the Executive Board be held in Brattleboro, Vermont, and this was agreed upon. He mentioned that the next Bulletin would include a copy of the dress code, bios of the conductors, listing of Concert Festival music, a list of the membership and officers, and Concert Festival hotel information. Tom also reported that the Constant Contact system was only being used slightly, and President Whitcomb said

he would like to issue a once-a-month message using this system.

Steffen Parker reminded the Board that the Southern site of the Solo and Ensemble Festival would be in Cheshire, Connecticut. He reported that the Solo and Ensemble Festival operations were going very well. A few minor problems were discussed.

Sal Cicciarella, President-Elect, requested that suggestions for future Concert Festival sites be made to him directly.

John Kuhner, Past President, reported that an eMail request for volunteers to be on the Nominating Committee was utilized. As the Host of the Southern site of the Solo and Ensemble Festival, he described in detail the facilities available.

Under Old Business, President Whitcomb distributed copies of future March calendars, with tentative recommendations for Concert Festival dates. These were discussed, and it was agreed to accept his recommendations, which were:

March 15-17, 2012

March 21-23, 2013

March 20-22, 2014

March 19-21, 2015

He also brought up the question of the value of the Directors' Forum which has been set aside for the past two years, and it was agreed to reinstitute it at the next annual meeting and evaluate its worth then.

Tom Reynolds raised the subject of attracting new members and this was discussed at length.

Motion by Steffen Parker: That the Association establish the position of Membership Drive Chairperson. Motion passed unanimously.

At Bill Sittard's suggestion, the concept of extending the choral segment of the Concert Festival by creating a Treble Choir and adding it to the program was discussed at length. The subject was deferred until the next meeting.

The Board members were taken on a tour of the Burlington (Vermont) High School with emphasis on the facilities available for the Concert Festival in March.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:42 pm.

## **Donald L. Hermance**

Recording Secretary

### **President - Elect's Message**

September 29, 2010 in President-Elect's Message  
October, 2010

Greetings to all our NEMFA Membership! I'm writing this message in the hopes of securing future sites for our New England Music Festival in the upcoming years. Dates for the 2012-14 will be posted shortly and it is our hope, with your help and willingness to host, can secure festival sites representing our great and diverse locations from the Northern and Southern Districts.



Sal Cicciarella, President-Elect

We asked Paul Head, 2010 Choral Director, Lisa Larsen and John Deeb, past festival hosts, to write a few comments for this issue relating their experiences from their immediate point of view. Their narratives are insightful, funny and very honest. We hope you will agree with these kind folks and consider continuing participating in all music events sponsored by NEMFA and invite those who have yet to discover the magic of music we all create together. In particular, we also hope you will consider hosting this great music festival while insuring the future for NEMFA students' and its membership.

Please feel free to contact me if you have any questions and comments and appreciate your participation within our organization.

Have a great year!

**Sal Cicciarella**

President-Elect, NEMFA

## **Perceptions of Conducting/Hosting the NEMFA Concert Festival**

September 29, 2010 in President - Elect's Message (Edit)  
**From A Past NEMFA Chorus Conductor...**

..."It was truly a pleasure to make music with the talented and dedicated singers of NEMFA. Particularly impressive was their diligence and tenacity in staying the course in the pursuit of musical nirvana. Honor choirs can be a gamble sometimes if the students are not capable and/or adequately motivated to go the distance. Not so with the NEMFA chorus – these kids worked their tails off, which results an intensely gratifying experience for the conductor. I feel deeply privileged to have spent such quality time with so many talented young singers, and share with them an indebtedness to all the outstanding teachers who make this happen, year after year. Congratulations to you all!"

**Paul D. Head**

Chair - Department of Music Director of Choral Studies

209 Amy E. du Pont Music Bldg University of Delaware Newark, DE 19716

### **From the 2010 NEMFA Concert Festival Host...**

"Dear Sal,

The decision to host the NEMFA Festival in the spring of 2010 was made after a number of discussions with building and district-level administration, all of whom were quite anxious for us to proceed.

Looking back on the process and the success of the festival, I can honestly say that it was one of the best things I have done in my thirty-one year career here at Lewis S. Mills High School. To this day (nearly six months after the festival), I am still stopped regularly by people I don't even know. In the supermarket, at my kids' sporting activities, getting gas for my car, or at local restaurants, the theme is always the same: "What a fabulous event," "The students we hosted were terrific," "Please do it again soon." It goes on and on.

Over all my years here, I can't think of anything event we have done here that has generated the kind of positive feeling within the community, with the administration and staff, as well as with the students, as hosting this event. In addition, it was a nice way to earn a few extra dollars for our school music program.

The support from the NEMFA Executive Board was fabulous, and the individual ensemble chairs were outstanding.

I would recommend it highly to anyone who is considering taking it on."

Sincerely,

**John**

John A. Deeb

Coordinator of Fine Arts Director of High School Bands Regional School District #10

#### **From the 2009 NEMFA Concert Festival Host...**

"We have hosted NEMFA twice at Coginchaug Regional High School and found that the largest benefit was the feeling of community spirit it brought to our towns. Over 100 families volunteered to house NEMFA students which created an atmosphere of family, excitement and fun. We've heard time and again how much families enjoyed meeting the young musicians and what a wonderful experience it was. Now it's your turn! Get and good housing chairman and sign up to host!"

**Lisa Larsen**

Regional School District #13  
Durham/Middlefield, CT

Remember, NEMFA is now at 73  
Beauchamp Terrace, Chicopee,  
MA 01020!

September 29, 2010 in [Concert Festival](#), [Officers, Solo/Ensemble](#), [What's New](#) | [Leave a comment](#) ([Edit](#))

NEMFA Executive-Secretary-Treasurer Bill Sittard wants to remind everyone to check with school business offices to be certain that they have changed the NEMFA mailing address to: "**New England Music Festival Association, Inc., c/o William E. Sittard, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, 73 Beauchamp Terrace, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020**". Mail sent to his old Keith Street address has passed the expiration date with the Post Office and **WILL BE RETURNED** to the sender. Please check out the correct address in your schools to make certain that everything is sent where it belongs.

NEMFA String Seating Policy  
(voted 9/12/2009)

September 29, 2010 in [Concert Festival](#) | [Leave a comment](#) ([Edit](#))

**NEMFA STRING SEATING POLICY (approved 9/12/2009)  
EFFECTIVE for the 2010 CONCERT FESTIVAL POLICY**

**String students' Solo & Ensemble Festival scores will be used for initial seating placement, but seating may be reassigned at the Festival.**

*Students, sponsors and/or directors are responsible for acquainting themselves with this policy and preparing accordingly. \**

#### **FIRST CHAIR SELECTION POLICY & PROCEDURE:**

Section leaders will be decided at the festival through an audition process. At the first rehearsal, all strings will be seated in score order within their assigned sections. The first chairs will be vacant. During the first rehearsal, players who wish to audition for first chair will submit their names to the Orchestra Manager. Auditions will be held as soon as possible, probably commencing during the first hour of rehearsal. Excerpts from the concert music will be used for the audition. First chairs will be announced after all auditions are complete. After the first chair is assigned, the section will fill in the remaining seats in score order.

In the event that no student(s) auditions for first chair, the seating based upon score will be used.

#### **NON-FIRST CHAIR SEATING POLICY**

**Students may be moved within their section for any of the following reasons:**

- Reseating resulting from the adjustment made to accommodate the student who wins first chair. Students may be reseated by chair or by stand (depending on divisi requirements).
- If a student is found to be noticeably less prepared than surrounding students, and demonstrates little progress within the first rehearsal, the student may be reseated further back in the section at the discretion of the Conductor and/or the NEMFA Orchestra Manager. This will be done without an audition.
- Absenteeism may result in students being reassigned further up either by chair or by stand (depending on divisi requirements).

*\* Students, directors, sponsors or parents may not dispute seating changes or request seating re-auditions. No student may request to audition for a higher seat within their section, other than first chair. There are no challenges.*

# 2010-2011 NEMFA Calendar

September 29, 2010 in [Calendar](#) | [1 comment](#) ([Edit](#))

## \*Note minor changes in calendar below:

**June 5, 2010 — Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. Managers Must Present: Holiday Inn Express, Brattleboro, VT 1. Conductors to be hired 2. Programs finalized for ordering music

**September 11, 2010 — Meeting**, 10:00 A.M. at **Burlington High School 52 Institute Road, Burlington, VT 05408-2721**, Solo & Ensemble Festival Planning, Concert Festival Planning

**October 29, 2010 — ELECTRONIC DEADLINE** Solo & Ensemble Apps. Due to Steffen Parker. \$100.00 Late Fee per school/sponsor. After 11/5/10, no apps. accepted.

**November 5, 2010 — POSTMARK DEADLINE** Mail (Certified) Completed Hard Copy Invoice, Student List & Payment\* to Bill Sittard. \*Pymt. Includes: Dues & S&E Fees or School P.O. guaranteeing pymt.

**December 4, 2010 — Solo & Ensemble Festival — Eastern Site** University of Southern Maine, Gorham, ME

**December 4, 2010 — Solo & Ensemble Festival — Northern Site**, Hartford High School, White River Junction, VT, Robert E. Gattie, Site Host

**December 10, 2010 — Meeting, 7:30 P.M.** Homewood Suites (203.284.2600), 90 Miles Drive, Wallingford, CT 06492. Review Solo & Ensemble Festival and Concert Festival Procedures, Rules and Regulations

**December 11, 2010 — Solo & Ensemble Festival — Southern Site**, Cheshire High School (203.250.2534), 525 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410. John L. Kuhner, Site Host

**January 14, 2011 — Electronic Confirm. Deadline.** Log in. Confirm participation of each student. Print out the Acceptance/Invoice Form. Amt. due auto adjusts.

**January 21, 2011 — POSTMARK DEADLINE.** Mail (Certified) Completed\* Conc. Fest. Material to Bill Sittard & Include: 1. Pymt. of Fees or School P.O. guaranteeing payment. 2. Acceptance-Invoice Form. 3. Student Agreement/Health Forms. 4. Permission Forms. 5. Return unused music. \$100.00 Late Fee per school/sponsor. After 2/1/10 no forms accepted and student participation denied. \*Incomplete forms incur \$10.00 Reprocessing Fee.

**March 17-19, 2011 — Concert Festival**, Burlington High School, 52 Institute Road, Burlington, VT 05408-2721 — Frank Whitcomb, Host

**June 4, 2011 — Meeting, 10:00 A.M.** Holiday Inn Express, Brattleboro, VT. Managers Must Present: 1.

Conductors to be hired 2. Programs finalized for ordering music

## Upcoming NEMFA Concert

### Festival Dates

September 29, 2010 in [Calendar](#) | [1 comment](#) ([Edit](#))

March 17-19, 2011  
March 15-17, 2012  
March 21-23, 2013  
March 20-22, 2014  
March 19-21, 2015

## NEMFA Revised Dress Code (note difference between Chorus & Band/Orchestra)

September 29, 2010 in [Concert Festival, Solo/Ensemble](#) | [Leave a comment](#) ([Edit](#))

### DRESS CODE for CHORUS – (June 6, 2009)

The dress code for the Concert Festival Chorus shall be:

#### Men

Dark suits (black preferred), dark dress shoes (black preferred), dark socks (black preferred), long solid tie (black preferred) and collared white shirt. No sport shoes. All concert dress should be in conservative good taste.

#### Women

White elbow length sleeved blouses (no bare midriffs), long (full length) solid black skirts or solid black dress pants\*, black hose and black shoes. No sport shoes. All concert dress should be in conservative good taste. \* No capri's or leggings. All pants and skirts should be tailored to the top of the shoe.

### DRESS CODE for ORCHESTRA and BAND – (Revised, June, 2010)

**The dress code for the Concert Festival Orchestra & Band shall be:**

#### Men

Dark suit (black preferred), dark shoes, dark socks, four-in-hand tie, and collared white shirt. No sport shoes or sandals. Black tuxedos (with the above accessories) are also acceptable.

#### Women

**Black** sleeved top (no bare midriff, shoulders, or low neckline) and a solid bottom (below-the-knees black skirt or black dress pants), black hose and dark shoes. No sport shoes or sandals. Long (below-the-knees) black gowns/dresses (with the above accessories) are also acceptable. All concert dress shall be in conservative good taste.

<http://nemfabulletin.wordpress.com/2009/09/10/notice-to-all-nemfa-members/>