

Solo and Ensemble Festival

Policies, Rules and Regulations

Revision: August 31, 2014

PURPOSES AND FUNCTIONS

The Solo and Ensemble Festival is an annual event that provides instrumental and vocal music performance adjudications for high school musicians in New England. These performance adjudications serve two purposes: (1) To offer a true performance situation with a professional, subjective adjudication, and (2) To be evaluated using a set of criteria so that the adjudication ratings can be used, if desired, as criteria for invitation and acceptance into the 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 sponsors are members in good standing of the Association. This includes schools without music departments, students from state registered home schools where their parents serve as their sponsors and high school students who are sponsored by their private teachers or regional ensemble leadership. Membership in a school-based performance ensemble is not required, but highly encouraged.

APPLICATION:

Application can be made by a current NEMFA member sponsor to the Solo and Ensemble Festival Coordinator, accompanied by the required fees, and by the announced deadline in the fall. Currently applications are only accepted online through the provided registration website.

SELECTION OF MUSIC:

Performances may be of any music selected by the student for any musical instrument, voice or ensemble as long as the performance is less than 10 minutes in length.

Only performances of music selected from the current adjudication listings published by NEMFA will be considered for invitation and acceptance to the Concert Festival.

Students performing music other than from current NEMFA listing shall not be eligible for invitation nor acceptance to the Concert Festival regardless of how high their adjudication rating was nor how limited the number of eligible students there are for that instrument or voice part.

In addition to a full range of instrumental and vocal solos, the NEMFA listings also include the following vocal ensembles: SSA, SSAA, SAB, SATB, SSATB, and TTBB. No other ensembles, whether vocal or instrumental will be considered for invitation and acceptance to the Concert Festival.

In 2014, the Violin solo listing was reworked to create a separate listing for pieces that are more challenging and thus deserve additional consideration by the adjudicator. Performances of these Virtuoso pieces may receive additional points from the adjudicator.

PERFORMANCE ADJUDICATIONS:

Music must be performed as it appears in the published parts with the noted instruments/voices. No teacher or student transcriptions may be used even to allow a substitute instrument or voice.

Each performance shall be of less than ten minutes duration, and consist of a complete, uninterrupted performance of selected music.

Piano accompaniment for music so published is optional, but highly recommended. Pianos will be provided in all adjudication rooms where accompanied performances are scheduled. NEMFA reserves the right to use adequate electronic keyboards when deemed advisable. Music designated as unaccompanied must be performed thus. Pre-recorded accompaniments may be utilized whenever live accompaniment is impossible or impractical, with the responsibility for supplying the recording and any needed playback equipment resting with the applicant.

Conducting an ensemble is not allowed.

NEMFA adheres to all current copyright laws, especially where it concerns the use of illegal copies of music. During the performance, all performers, including the accompanist, using music must perform from legally published, originals of their music. In the instance of a bad page turn, it is permissible to use a facsimile of that page. Performances from memory are allowed (and encouraged), but at least one original copy of the music must be available in the adjudication room and provided to the adjudicator. When an additional original is not available, a facsimile may be provided, but it will be collected at the end of the performance and destroyed by the adjudicator.

All students are expected to observe the current Solo & Ensemble Dress Code. A deduction in their adjudication rating will result should the adjudicator determine that they are not meeting that code.

Because it is a performance festival, it is acceptable for any interested person, including sponsors and other students, to attend adjudication performances as long as it is acceptable to the performer(s). 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

Experienced and well-regarded adjudicators will be contracted to hear the adjudication performances and in the interest of fairness and consistency, every effort will be made to utilize the same adjudicators at the two adjudication sites

The adjudicator's scores and comments for their registered students will be made available to each sponsor as soon as possible after the second Solo and Ensemble Festival.

Invitation and acceptance into one of the Concert Festival organizations will be determined by the appropriate ensemble manager and members of the NEMFA Executive Board based upon adjudication ratings from the Solo and Ensemble Festival for performances of music from the current NEMFA listings. The higher ratings will be seated before lower ratings and any ties that might affect seating will be broken by the other criteria currently in effect such as grade in school and NEMFA experience.

Adjudication performances at the Solo and Ensemble Festival receive ratings using the current adjudication form for their voice, instrument or ensemble.