

Dear NEMFA Members/Sponsors,

HAPPY SUMMER!!! This spring, I volunteered to update the NEMFA wind rep lists for the solo and ensemble festival. The executive board agreed that it was time to do some “tweaking” of the lists to fit the needs of our current sponsors and students while keeping the rich history and standards of our festival in check.

For those who want all the details of steps taken to update these lists, keep reading. For those who “JUST WANT THE STUFF THEY NEED” Please see attached flier.

STEPS TAKE TO UPDATE LISTS:

- **Researched each piece**
Easy to find/purchase/still in print?
- **Added more information to titles, movements, etc.**
Ex. K191/Many pieces had alternate names- added both/corrected a couple of typos.
- **Added info documenting when the piece was last performed.**
I was provided with lists of pieces performed at the S/E fest in 2021 & 2022. I also had a list from approximately 5 yrs. ago when I worked on this project.
- **Made performance instruction formats consistent** between lists.
- **Added a NYSSMA rating** levels for each piece as available.
*This was the most universally accepted rating I was able to find. If a piece was not on the NYSSMA lists, I tried to add a JWPEPPER rating of M, A, MA, etc.
Including ratings for each piece gives a starting point for sponsors/directors when choosing music for students.*
- **Researched many college/university/conservatory music programs with “suggested repertoire”** for auditions and documented these on our lists.
A big help when helping students choose college audition rep and adds legitimacy to pieces we classify as standards.
- Looked up the **All-State Lists of our members and documented** on the NEMFA lists
If students are auditioning for their state festival, they may be able to use the same piece for NEMFA!
- **Sent lists to ASBDA members, NEMFA EXEC BOARD, and other colleagues** who specialize in specific instruments for feedback
what is good, what is unnecessary, what should we add?
- **Added rep by LIVING composers and FEMALE composers!**
It was not the MAIN goal of this major project, but it is one small step for band kind, one GIANT LEAP for NEMFA!
- **Adjusted some of the length requirements**
These were done at the suggestions of specialists on specific instruments.

FINDINGS:

- **Many lists contained mostly or ONLY grade 6 pieces (the same as the virtuoso levels)**
Most of the wind sections that were VERY underpopulated at both festivals (French horn, oboe, trombone, tuba, etc.) Were in these categories.
- **Many directors stated that they had strong players that" would have been excellent in the concert festival** but were unable to play grade 6 pieces yet and therefore did not audition".
- Lists contained **LOTS of out-of-print pieces or pieces I simply could not find.**
No one in education these days has time for this. Streamlining these lists will help bring new directors to the festival by making it EASIER to find rep for students.

My general rule of thumb was: If I spent more than 20 minutes trying to hunt down a single piece, no one had performed it in the past 5 years and the piece was not recommended on ANY list, higher institutions, or by any pro's, it was removed.

I also removed unused pieces if they were said to be redundant by the pro's I contacted,(ex. We did not need 10 Clarke solos for trumpet all NYSSMA level 6).

***I was given access lists of rep performed in 21 & 22 and still had a list from when I worked on the lists 5yrs ago. I did not remove any pieces that current directors/sponsors own and use.*

THEN I ADDED:

- A couple pieces to each list that were **accessible** to our current/post covid students
- *keeping in mind the **high quality of our NEMFA CONCERT ensembles.***
- **"A Comments only Resource"** section to each list
We will continue to fill these in) to make it easier for teachers to find books and music for students who are not concert festival level YET but would benefit from participating at the S/E fest.
- **A LINK for EACH AND EVERY PIECE** that can be clicked to purchase the piece!

BIG PICTURE: FOCUSED LISTS, EASY TO USE, ACCESSIBLE FOR ALL, GREAT RESOURCE for directors and students of all levels.

In JUNE The NEMFA EXEC BOARD **voted to approve these updated rep lists** on a trial basis for this year. **For 23-24, Students may choose rep from either last year's list (22-23 still on the website) OR NEMFA REP NEW LIST 23-24**
(linked below and will be posted on the website when Tom Reynolds returns from Europe)

LINK FOR NEMFA REP NEW LISTS 23-24:

https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1dlO-kw_KvdrM4o1ND7QNj3G6DEjurJ9-JE-fBGph8D4/edit?usp=sharing

In March during the concert festival there will be a session for directors/sponsors of WIND PLAYERS to meet, discuss, adjust, etc.

Please let me know if you have any questions or issues accessing the new lists!

Sincerely,
Lauren Churchill
Band Director
The Woodstock Academy