



NEW ENGLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION

2.19.2022 UPDATE FROM STEFFEN PARKER, NEMFA CONCERT FESTIVAL DIRECTOR Lewis S. Mills High School, Burlington, CT - March 17, 18, & 19, 2022

Greetings,

I hope you are well and enjoying either the end or start of your break. And I apologize the delay in getting this information to you and for the length of this email. Please take the time to read all of it before reaching out to me with questions. I will do my best to get you answers promptly.

Let me take a moment to share with you all that I know to be true at this point in regards to the New England Concert Festival on March 17th, 18th & 19th at Lewis S. Mills High School in Burlington, CT. As with life in general and even more so in a pandemic, some things may change, but this is accurate today. I will let you know should something significant should change.

Vaccination or Testing Requirements for student and adult participants:

- ***Any person attending the festival (not including audience) is required to show proof of vaccination OR a negative COVID test within the 72-hours prior to the festival***
- ***If the attendee chooses a test, any test that can be "witnessed" within the 72-hour window (i.e., over-the-counter at-home test, a school-provided test, or if the participant chooses a PCR quality test) will be allowed for NEMFA participation.***
- ***Sponsors will be sent a checklist of their students and themselves to indicate compliance; that document will be submitted at registration***

Covid Mitigations During the Festival:

- Masks will be worn at all times (except when eating or drinking) while inside a school building, inside the buses provided for transportation, and inside any public area in the hotels
- Performance masks will be worn by wind players during rehearsals
- Wind instruments will have the appropriate bell covers on them at all times during the festival
- Masks are not required outdoors or within individual hotel rooms unless students from a different schools are present
- Everyone should do a daily symptom check and report any changes to their sponsor or the health care provider at the school
- The health care provider will have antigen test available to provide to participants who wish to or should be tested

- Anyone who tests positive during the festival will be isolated immediately and sent home - Close contacts will be monitored, but not isolated or sent home unless symptoms appear - Roommates will be tested and if they test positive as well, will be isolated and sent home
- All audience members will be masked while within a school building
- Social distancing will be encouraged at all times and will be used for rehearsal, performance and audience seating

NE Sponsor Lodging: [Farmington Inn](#), Farmington, CT

- Have a NEMFA rate, but that may have expired at this point

Student Lodging: Hampton Inn, Farmington, CT & Homewood Suites, Farmington, CT

- Students roomed by school & gender with room maximum of four; students from different schools will not be roomed together
- Whenever possible, room numbers were balanced (for example: Six females from one school would have two rooms, each with three, as opposed to two rooms, one with two and one with four)
- Frank Whitcomb is working on chaperone coverage for both hotels that may include volunteers, booster club parents, and local security
- Transportation to and from the host site provided by the festival
- Masking will be required on the bus and in public areas of the hotel, but not in the rooms themselves

Meals:

- Dinner Thursday through Lunch Saturday provided by the festival
- LUNCH THURSDAY is not provided, so plan ahead by picking up something enroute to enjoy if arriving early, or getting lunch enroute before you arrive for registration

Chorus: No choral re-hearings this year due to lack of personnel to operate them; New England sponsors who have chorus students; please do all you can to support their efforts and help them prepare for a high quality festival experience

Schedule (the basics):

- Thursday, March 17th
 - 12:00 PM: Registration
 - 1:30 PM: Opening Meeting
 - 2:00 PM: Rehearsals
 - Dinner for all
 - 9:00 PM: Rehearsals end
 - Buses transport housed students to hotels
 - Local schools pickup their students
- Friday, March 18th
 - 8:00 AM: Buses transport housed students back to festival
 - 9:00 AM: Rehearsals
 - Lunch for all
 - Dinner for all
 - 8:00 PM: Rehearsals end

- Social time for students; Local students may depart
 - 9:00 PM: Buses transport housed students to hotels
- Saturday, March 19th
 - 8:00 AM: Buses transport housed students back to festival
 - 9:00 AM: Dress rehearsals / Final rehearsals
 - Lunch for all
 - 2:00 PM: S&E Performance / Chorus Concert
 - 3:30 PM: Orchestra / Band Concert

Dress: School appropriate for rehearsal, black & white for the concert - Ensemble manager letters should contain more specifics on concert dress

Music:

- Chorus music was mailed in early February
- Band & Orchestra music available for download from the folders within each school's shared Google folder in early February
- Band & Orchestra members will be provided a folder at the festival, but will use the music they have been practicing for rehearsals and the concert
- Chorus music will be collected after the performance; Band & Orchestra music will not be collected after their performance

Solo & Ensemble Performances:

- The soloists & vocal ensemble that were selected to perform in the 2:00 PM concert this year are (congrats to them all):
 - Piano: Zachariah Burrows, Middlebury UHS
 - Vocal: Brooke Della Rocco, Alto, Valley Regional High School
 - Strings: Rosangel Baez-Batiste, Cello, Torrington High School
 - Winds: Anthony Rizvanov, Trumpet, Essex High School
 - Vocal Ensemble: Stephanie Charbonnier, Alexa Calegari, Cooper Johnson, SAB, Valley Regional High School
- They will have a dress rehearsal with the provided accompanist during dinner on Friday: Sponsors, please send me a PDF of the piano part ASAP
- They will perform, in the order above, at the beginning of the 2:00 PM Chorus Concert on Saturday, March 19th

Tickets: On sale online soon, likely some available at the door

What did I miss.... let me know and thanks for reading this far.

See you in four weeks! - STEF

Steffen Parker

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