

## Solo & Ensemble Festival - Virtual

### 1. Description

- a. The Solo & Ensemble Festivals are events in which individual students and small ensembles, grades 6 – 12, have the opportunity to submit a YouTube link and receive comments and/or a rating from a qualified adjudicator.
- b. The experience is designed to encourage individualized as well as ensemble instruction and participation.
- c. The event is open to all students who are members of their schools' vocal or instrumental music program.
- d. Students who attend schools which do not offer a comprehensive music program may also participate (e.g. Community College High School).
- e. Teachers must be NMEA members in order for their students to participate at a lower price.

### 2. Policies and Procedures

- a. Festival Structure
  - i. The NMEA Solo & Ensemble Festivals are a competition style festival in which thirteen (13) winners will be chosen, one from each of the following categories:
    1. Eclectic Style
    2. Brass Solo or Ensemble
    3. Guitar
    4. Percussion
    5. Piano
    6. String Ensemble
    7. String Solo – High String (Violin)
    8. String Solo – Low String (Viola, Cello, or Bass)
    9. Vocal Ensemble
    10. Vocal Solo – High (Soprano/Alto)
    11. Vocal Solo – Low (Tenor/Bass)
    12. Woodwind Ensemble
    13. Woodwind Solo
  - ii. Adjudicators will choose approximately 20% of the events from their rooms as eligible to compete in Command performance.
    1. The entries chosen MUST have earned a Superior (I).
    2. Advancing entries will be posted on the NMEA website.
  - iii. The NMEA Solo & Ensemble Festivals shall be comprised of the following levels:
    1. Regional Zone Solo
    2. Command Performance Solo & Ensemble Festival
      - a. The thirteen (13) winners will be chosen from the Command Performance Solo & Ensemble Festival and will perform at a free concert open to the public at the All-State Festival. (or virtually)
  - iv. The NMEA website (nmeamusic.org) will indicate all dates and digital forms for Solo & Ensemble Festivals.
  - v. Solo & Ensemble issues must be presented to the board by the students' NMEA member educator.

- b. Registration
  - i. Registration will be through Google Forms.
  - ii. Students will have one week (Fall 11/16-11/20 & Spring 3/1-3/5) to submit their video with payment and application. Late submissions will not be allowed. This includes names of ALL participants. No further notification will be sent.
  
- c. Participation
  - i. Student Eligibility
    - 1. Students must be members of their school's music program.
    - 2. Schools that do not have a music program must have a NMEA member sponsor in order for students to participate.
  - ii. Ensembles (2 or more participants)
    - 1. Maximum Number of Participants
      - a. Instrumental ensembles cannot exceed sixteen (16) in number.
      - b. High School Choral ensembles cannot exceed sixteen (16) in number.
      - c. Middle/Junior High Choral ensembles cannot exceed twenty-four (24) in number.
    - 2. Interschool/Organization Ensembles
      - a. When an ensemble is composed of students from multiple schools/organizations it is the responsibility of the educator who registers the ensemble to inform the educators of the participating students.
        - i. When multiple registrations for the same ensemble are received NMEA will not refund additional monies paid.
    - 3. Ensembles may perform with or without a conductor.
  - iii. Performances
    - 1. Time Allotments
      - a. Vocal Solos may not exceed five (5) minutes of performance time.
      - b. Vocal Ensembles and Instrumental Solo & Ensembles may not exceed seven (7) minutes of performance time.
        - i. Ensembles may only perform one selection.
      - c. Any performances exceeding these time limitations will be disqualified from participation at the Command level.
    - 2. Video Recording and Uploading Video
      - a. Recordings must be made within the current school year.
      - b. Videos must be unedited except for adding the separate recordings into one video
      - c. The contestant's face, hands and feet must be clearly visible in the recordings when possible.
    - 3. Memorization
      - a. To be considered for command performance:
        - i. Vocal Solos and Ensembles must be memorized at regional zone and command levels.
        - ii. String Solos must be memorized at regional zone and command levels.
        - iii. Wind and Percussion Solos **need not be memorized** at regional zone and command levels.
        - iv. Instrumental Ensembles **need not be memorized** at regional zone and command levels.

4. Music
  - a. Each entry will verify that they have original music
  - b. Vocal Solo repertoire will be selected from standard classical literature.
  - c. Directors are encouraged to select music which will be challenging and commensurate to the student's ability.
  - d. Performers are not permitted to repeat literature they have performed in previous years' NMEA Solo & Ensemble Festivals.
  
5. Accompaniment
  - a. Performers must provide their own accompanist.
    - i. Social distancing should be apparent.
    - ii. Electronic accompaniment is allowed, such as Smartmusic, etc.
  
6. Ratings
  - a. Ratings will be emailed to the student and teacher upon payment confirmation
  - b. Students may elect to receive a rating or "Comments Only," no rating.
  - c. All comments, questions, and concerns should be directed to an NMEA board member.
    - i. Only NMEA members can bring complaints and requests to the board.
  
7. Fees and Certificates
  - a. Zone and Regional Festival entry fees are \$10.00 or \$25.00 (double for non-NMEA members)
    - i. Solo, Duet, and Trio - \$10.00
    - ii. Quartet to 16 participants is \$25.00
  - b. Participants will receive digital certificates.
    - i. Medals have been discontinued
  
8. Command Performance Solo & Ensemble
  - a. Command Performance Auditions must be submitted by video recording through the student's NMEA teacher of record according to NMEA guidelines.
  - b. Students will perform the same 7 minutes of music they played at the zone and regional levels.
  - c. No ratings are given at the Command Performance Level, as the main goal of the adjudicators will be to select winners for the Command Performance Concert. All entries will receive written comments about their performance.
  - d. A mandatory meeting for all Command Performance winners will take place 30 minutes prior to the concert.
    - i. Winners who are tardy to this meeting may be removed from the performance at the Board's discretion.
  - e. Students must perform the winning pieces exactly the way they were performed for the Command Performance adjudicators.
    - i. No additional pieces, movements, or sections may be added.
  - f. Medals will be provided to each winner.