



**Solo & Ensemble Abbreviated
Policy and Procedures Manual**

Solo & Ensemble Festival

I. Description

- a. The Solo & Ensemble Festivals are events in which individual students and small ensembles, grades 6 – 12, have the opportunity to perform before an audience 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. Sponsors must be NMEA members in order for their students to participate.

II. Policies and Procedures

- a. Festival Structure
 - i. The NMEA Solo & Ensemble Festivals are a competition style festival. At the high school level thirteen (13) winners will be chosen to perform at the Command Performance each year, 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. Regional adjudicators will choose approximately 20% of the events from their rooms as eligible to participate in the NMEA All-State Solo & Ensemble held during the NMEA All-State Festival.
 1. The entries chosen MUST have earned a Superior (I) at Regionals.
 2. Advancing entries will be posted on the NMEA website following all S&E events.
 - iii. The NMEA Solo & Ensemble Festivals shall be comprised of the following levels:
 1. Regional Solo & Ensemble Festival
 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.
 - iv. Once the Solo & Ensemble Festival schedule is written, there will be no changes.
 1. Educators' will have the flexibility to adjust performance times among their school's assigned times.
 - a. These alterations will not be allowed if they affect another school's scheduled performances.
 - v. The NMEA website (nmeamusic.org) will indicate all dates, times, and locations for Solo & Ensemble Festivals.
 - vi. Solo & Ensemble issues must be presented to the board by the students' NMEA sponsor.

b. Registration

- i. Registration forms must be submitted with all fields completed or entries will not be scheduled. This includes names of ALL participants. No further notification will be sent.
- ii. If the event chair receives the registration form after the posted due date, a late charge of \$25 will be assessed. Checks are due with seven (7) business days from registration deadline. Unpaid entries will not be permitted to perform.
- iii. Late entries are scheduled on a space-available basis. If no space is available, all registration fees will be returned, including any late fees.

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. Student Conduct and Participation Policies

1. Students must arrive at the performance area one hour prior to their scheduled performance time.
2. Students are encouraged to be part of the audience for other performances.
3. Performance area rules:
 - a. No waiting or loitering the area reserved for adjudicators.
 - b. No entering or leaving adjudication rooms during performances.
 - c. No eating or drinking in the performance rooms.
 - d. No talking or moving during performances.
 - e. No playing or singing in the performance hallways at any time.
 - f. Failure to adhere to proper concert etiquette will result in dismissal from the festival.
 - i. This includes whistling, booing, screaming, cheering, etc. in the performance rooms.

iii. Educator Policies

1. Educators with students participating in the festival must be present for the festival or have a designated chaperone.
 - a. Educators must provide adult supervision for their students at all times.
 - b. Unsupervised students will be sent home.
 - c. All educators registering students are asked to assist with Solo & ensemble duties and will be contacted by the zone coordinator.
 - d. Educators who do not observe these policies will be subject to their educational institution or organization being ineligible for the following years Solo & Ensemble Event.

iv. 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 comprised 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.
- v. Performances
 1. Time Allotments
 - a. Vocal Solos may not exceed five (5) minutes of performance time.
 - b. Vocal Ensembles and Instrumental Solos and 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 stopped by the adjudicator or proctor when the time limit is reached.
 - i. Any performance that is stopped at Regional Solo & Ensemble for exceeding the time limit will be disqualified from participation at the Command level.
 2. Memorization
 - a. To be considered for command performance:
 - i. Vocal Solos and Ensembles must be memorized at regional and command levels.
 - ii. String Solos must be memorized at regional and command levels.
 - iii. Piano solos must be memorized at regional and command levels.
 - iv. Wind and Percussion Solos **need not be memorized** at regional and command levels.
 - v. Instrumental Ensembles **need not be memorized** at regional and command levels.
 3. Music
 - a. Each soloist and ensemble must present a numbered, original score to the adjudicator.
 - i. Photocopied scores are not permitted under any circumstance.
 - ii. The burden of proof of public domain is on the performers/educators and must accompany the original score.
 1. Its appearance on IMSLP or other public domain websites does NOT ensure that the edition or arrangement of the score is in the public domain.
 - iii. For Washoe: Performers are instructed to wait outside the performance room for the room proctor to return their original scores.
 - b. Music must be performed with the instrumentation indicated by the composer/arranger.
 - i. For example, a trio composed for violin, viola, and cello cannot be performed by a flute, viola, and cello.
 - ii. Performers who do not follow this rule will receive Comments Only and will not be eligible for the next level.
 - iii. Deviations from written instrumentation must be approved by the Festival Chairperson prior to the festival.
 - c. Vocal Solo repertoire will be selected from standard classical literature.
 - d. Directors are encouraged to select music which will be challenging and commensurate to the student's ability.
 - e. Performers are not permitted to repeat literature they have performed in previous years' NMEA Solo & Ensemble Festivals.
 4. Accompaniment
 - a. Performers must provide their own accompanist.

- i. Some performance rooms may be equipped with electric pianos. Please advise your accompanist of this.
 - b. If the selection is written with accompaniment, an accompanist, or a recorded version of the accompaniment must be used, otherwise no rating will be given. i.e. "Comments Only"
 - i. Middle School soloists are allowed to perform unaccompanied with no penalty to the student's rating.
 - c. Electronic accompaniments are acceptable for Regional Solo & Ensemble Festivals, but these entries must use live accompaniment for Command Solo & Ensemble Festivals.
 - i. Performers utilizing electronic accompaniment, including SmartMusic are responsible for providing their own technology including all necessary cables, cords, etc.
 - ii. Set-up and tear-down must be completed within allotted performance time.
5. Ratings
- a. Ratings will be posted and will be updated as frequently as possible.
 - i. Southern Zone – Only registering teachers (or another teacher from the same school) may pick-up rating sheets for their students at the NMEA table at the conclusion of their students' performances.
 - ii. Northern/Washoe Zone – Ratings will be available electronically to performers or their NMEA sponsor at the medal/NMEA table.
 - b. Students may elect to receive a rating or "Comments Only," written comments with no rating.
 - c. Teachers, instructors, parents, performers and other students are prohibited from interaction with adjudicators regarding student performances and/or scores before, during, and after the festival.
 - i. The adjudicator's rating will be final.
 - ii. Appeals are not permitted.
 - d. 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.
6. Fees and Medals
- a. Regional Festival entry fees are \$10.00 per entry plus \$5.00 for each additional person.
 - i. For example, a solo will cost \$10 and a quartet \$25, \$10 for the entry and \$15 for three additional participants.
 - b. Medals will be distributed as follows:
 - i. Regional Medals: Superior (I) –Blue Drape, Excellent (II) – Red Drape.
 - ii. Southern Zone – Medals will be placed in packets with score sheets for educator pick-up.
 - iii. Northern/Washoe Zones – Performers who do not pick up their medals before leaving the Solo & Ensemble Festival forfeit the right to receive their medals.
7. Command Performance Solo & Ensemble
- a. Command Performance Auditions must be submitted by video recording through the student's NMEA sponsor of record according to NMEA guidelines.
 - b. Instrumentalists will perform the same 7 minutes of music they played at all S&E levels.

- c. Vocalists will perform the same 5 minutes of music they played at all S&E levels.
- d. 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.
- e. 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.
- f. 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.
- g. Medals will be provided to each winner.

Solo & Ensemble Festival - Virtual

I. 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.

II. 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.
- 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. Solos may not exceed five (5) minutes of performance time.
- b. Vocal Ensembles and Instrumental Solos and 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.

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.