

MEDINA COUNTY SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

RULES AND REGULATIONS

A Note to Parents, Participants, and Directors

There has been an attempt on the part of the music directors and the Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center Fine Arts Department to structure the Medina County Solo and Ensemble Festival so that it falls in line with the Ohio Music Education Association rules and guidelines for festival competitions. With that thought in mind, we have taken the liberty to include information on the running of this festival for your information.

Mark Twain had a great deal to say about the weather; most of it concerned our inability to do anything about it. However, the management of this festival has seen fit to advise all adjudicators to **write less and talk more** to each event that enters their room. In short, what this means is that the adjudicators will take a more active role in helping events grow as participants, whether they are going on to the OMEA Solo and Ensemble Festival this year or simply attending our festival. Further, the management of this festival has encouraged directors to allow students to go either for rating or for comments only in an attempt to allow the students to participate in the event.

Too often parents and students do not know what goes on behind the scenes in such a festival and, therefore, have difficulties in the festival. Please take a moment and read through the next few pages. If you have comments and/or suggestions on the running of this festival, please address your comments to Marcus L. Neiman, Director of Fine Arts Tours and Festivals, Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center, 124 West Washington Street, Medina, Ohio 44256 (330-723-6393, Ext. 118).

Introduction

The Medina County Solo and Ensemble Festival is offered for the express purpose of providing Medina County instrumental and vocal music students in Grades 5-12 with the opportunity to perform, display their talents, and receive constructive comments, as well as a rating, for their performances by a competent, qualified adjudicator.

The following information and regulations are vital to all those attending the festival.

Unloading and Parking

All activities will be held at Highland High School, 4150 Ridge Road, Medina. Students should enter the main entrance (upper parking lot). Cars and buses should unload at the main entrance (upper parking lot) and then park in any of the school lots. Any car or truck blocking other vehicles or entrances will be moved from the lot at the owner's expense.

Distribution of Programs

Programs will be available at the registration desk free of charge to those who participate in the festival.

Homeroms and Warm-Up Rooms

All contestants should report to their homerooms/warm-up rooms at least 20 minutes prior to their performance time. Contestants are expected to appear at their performance room at least one event prior to their scheduled time. Piano and vocal events have been provided with a warm-up room.

All cases, wraps, etc., should be taken to your assigned homeroom upon arrival at the festival site. Each school district shall be responsible for leaving its room(s) neat and clean. An adult representative or parent should be in your homeroom during the hours of your participation. The site school will take no responsibility for lost or stolen items.

Event Cancellations, Conflicts, and Schedule Changes

Report event cancellations to the festival office as soon as you arrive at the festival site. A runner will notify the appropriate room chair of the cancellation(s).

Conflicts in scheduling should be reported to the appropriate room chairs first. If no solution seems evident, contact the site host or festival chair.

Schedule changes will be at the option of the adjudicator.

Lunch

Lunch will be available in the cafeteria of the school for a modest cost. It should be remembered that food is not to be taken out of that area.

Performance Stages

The public is welcome to listen to any of the performances under the following conditions:

1. NO PERSON SHALL ENTER OR LEAVE ANY PERFORMANCE ROOM DURING THE PERFORMANCE OF A SELECTION.
2. THERE WILL BE NO TALKING, WHISPERING, OR OTHER DISTRACTIONS FROM THE TIME THE SOLOIST/ENSEMBLE TAKES POSITION TO PERFORM UNTIL THE END OF THE PERFORMANCE.
3. AT THE END OF A PERFORMANCE, THE AUDIENCE MAY APPLAUD IF THEY WISH.
4. **THE USE OF TAPE RECORDINGS AND/OR VIDEO OR PHOTOGRAPHIC EQUIPMENT WILL NOT BE PERMITTED DURING ANY PERFORMANCE IN ANY PERFORMANCE AREA. THIS RULE IS IN LINE WITH UNITED STATES COPYRIGHT LAW. THE ENTIRE SCHOOL DISTRICT CAN BE DISQUALIFIED FOR FAILURE TO COMPLY WITH THIS RULE.**

Ratings

Ratings will be posted for all schools in the cafeteria.

Comment Sheets

All comment sheets will be distributed in the main school office. Only the director or authorized personnel may pick up these sheets.

Conduct

Please remind your students not to deface any property or remove posters/signs from the building. Please use trash containers for all waste materials.

No food or beverage is allowed outside of the food serving area. Students smoking, drinking, or using any form of illegal drugs will be disqualified from the festival and turned over to the legal authorities.

Festival Management

- A. Entries will **not** be accepted following the pre-posted deadlines.
- B. All entries not completed correctly will be returned to the applicant's director.
- C. Directors are expected to be in attendance during the times that their students are participating. If this is impossible, someone from that school should be predetermined as "director of responsibility" for those students. Rating sheets will not be given to students or parents the day of the event.
- D. It is the responsibility of each director to notify the festival chair of any conflicts that might prevent the festival from running on time. Such conflicts will be honored **ONLY** if written notification on the application form is available.

Directions to Music Directors

- A. Schools may send as many soloists and ensembles in any event as they desire. However, it is recommended that a student **NOT** enter more than three solo and/or ensemble events. A student may not compete in the same type event more than once per year (e.g., flute solo).
- B. The number of performers in any wind or percussion ensemble shall not exceed 24 performing members. The number of performers in any vocal ensemble shall not exceed 24 members. **The total number of students enrolled in an elementary band or choir may participate as long as they rehearse as a choir and all come from the same school.** Doubling of parts in all groups is permissible.

- C. Members of duets **MUST** be performing **DIFFERENT** parts (no unison playing/singing). A duet, by definition, means two performers, and no more than two performers will be considered a duet.
- D. An ensemble will consist of three or more members singing or playing three or more parts.
- E. Recorder solos and ensembles are permitted and will follow the same rules as for instrumental and vocal solos.
- F. **The use of photographed or otherwise reproduced copies of published music, without permission of the publisher, is in violation of the Medina County Schools' Educational Service Center policy and United States copyright laws.** In cases where scores are "out of print," the director may secure permission from the publisher to reproduce the scores. The director should present the letter of permission from the publisher or music dealer to the adjudicator.
- G. In determining eligibility for junior high/middle school students, if your building houses sixth graders, your students are considered junior high/middle. If sixth graders are housed at the elementary level, sixth graders are considered as elementary students.
- H. Directors will be permitted to use cassette recorders to assist with accompaniment. The decision will be the director's, and the director is responsible for bringing his/her own equipment.

Time Schedule

- A. A maximum time limit of six minutes playing time will be permitted for any solo or ensemble. Adjudicators will have the authority to stop any performer who goes beyond that time limit.
- B. Adjudicating times will be as follows for all events.
 - 1. Eight minutes (total) for elementary level events
 - 2. Eight minutes (total) for junior high/middle events
 - 3. Ten minutes (total) for high school events
 - 4. Fifteen minutes (total) for elementary bands and choirs

Music Requirements

Note. There is no intent to dictate to the music director what is or is not suitable music for performance. However, many of the comments received in past years have stated that some guidelines are in order.

- A. It is **suggested** that high school events follow the OMEA Competition's Music Solo and Ensemble Listings in their selection of materials.
- B. It is **suggested** that junior high/middle school events follow the OMEA Competition's Music Solo and Ensemble Listings (Class "C") or other such suitable material.

- C. It is **suggested** that elementary events be especially careful not to choose music that is in the form of strictly band music or lesson book material. Attempt to choose music that is in the form of elementary solo and/or ensemble music written for the instrument or voice.

Oftentimes, too many students from the same school are playing or singing the same composition. We are all encouraged to explore a greater variety of literature for our students and avoid as much as possible having more than three students playing the same composition at the event.

We walk a thin line with the use of popular music. It is recommended that directors continue to search for literature appropriate to the venue and occasion.

- D. Please continue to watch the length of solos and ensembles, especially at the elementary and junior high/middle school level. **It is strongly recommended that directors take into consideration that the length of literature to be heard should be long enough to allow for a thoughtful and through evaluation. It is recommended that at least four to five minutes of actual playing time be considered for elementary, and five to six minutes for junior high/middle and high school.**
- E. It is recommended that all duets be true duets (having two parts). Please no “unisonettes.”
- F. It is recommended that solo and ensembles be chosen for students on the basis of playability and musical education of the individual performer, rather than on the basis of the difficulty of the composition.

Adjudicators are instructed to adjudicate ALL events on the basis of the musical performance of the composition performed without any outside factors. This means that each student will be adjudicated against his/her own ability to perform the composition in a musical manner. No “extra points” are given for the student who attempts a piece that is beyond his/her ability level.

- G. It is suggested that each contestant write his/her name and school on all music. Each student is responsible for obtaining his/her music from the room chair after performing. Music not picked up will be placed in the festival office in your school folder at the end of the day.

Music and Adjudicator's Score

Contestants must submit full scores in ensemble events and satisfactory non-duplicated copies of solos. (A piano score for either IS acceptable.) The adjudicator will indicate the rating the performer deserves but must report on the rating sheet, for the benefit of the festival, if the copy submitted is satisfactory.

All manuscript ensemble scores must be accurate, readable, and complete. Refer all doubtful cases to the festival chair.

All adjudicator's scores must be numbered from beginning to end. Failure to have fully numbered adjudicator's scores will result in lowering of the final rating by one level.

All participating parts must be numbered (when music is used) from beginning to end. Failure to have fully numbered parts will result in lowering of final rating by one level.

There will be one adjudicator per school when possible.

Scale Requirements

A. Contestants in all solo events, except timpani and snare drum, will be asked to play two scales (one octave only) selected by the adjudicator from the following list. **Scale requirements for piano are listed below in Item G.**

1. **Chromatic – REQUIRED FOR HIGH SCHOOL ONLY**
(Trombones at any level will not be asked to perform chromatic scales.)
2. Major Scales: (*Concert Pitch*)
 - a. *Grade 5: B-flat (with or without music)*
 - b. *Grade 6: B-flat, or A-flat (with or without music)*
 - c. *Grade 7: B-flat, A-flat, F, or C (with or without music)*
 - d. *Grade 8: B-flat, A-flat, F, C, or E-flat (with or without music)*
 - e. *Grades 9-12: B-flat, A-flat, F, C, E-flat, D-flat, G, or D (without music)*

Scales for Grades 5 & 6 will be optional. Grades 7-12 will be required to perform scales.

- B. The adjudicator will designate each scale in *concert pitch and assist if needed to transpose to the appropriate key of the instrument*. The adjudicator also has the option of either designating the scale(s) to be heard or allowing the contestant to make that choice.
- C. All scales are to be played ascending and descending one octave.
- D. Scales are to be played evenly and smoothly at a tempo between 80 and 120 MM for the quarter note.
- E. Scale performance will be included in the final rating.
- F. Percussion
 1. SIGHT-READING will be required in the snare drum and timpani events. The music to sight-read will be provided by the adjudicator.
 2. Snare drum contestants must be prepared to play any three of the following rudiments:
 - a. Elementary level—first 7
 - b. Junior high/middle school—first 8
 - c. High school level—first 13

G. Piano:

1. Elementary Piano Solo
 - a. Grades 4-5: One scale, one octave, each hand separately, ascending and descending in the key of C or G major (with or without music). The soloist gets to pick the key.

- b. Grade 6: Two scales in the key of C and G major, one octave, both hands together, ascending and descending, without music or any helps (verbal or written).
2. Junior High Piano Solo – Two scales, two octaves, hands together ascending and descending: Keys of C, G, D, F, and Bb without music and any helps (verbal or written). Adjudicator picks both scales.
3. High School Piano Solo – Two scales, two octaves, hands together ascending and descending: Keys C, G, D, A, E, F, Bb, Ab, and Eb without music and any helps (verbal or written). Adjudicator picks both scales.

H. Strings:

5th Grade — G Major

6th Grade — G, D Major

7th Grade — G, D, C Major

8th Grade — G, D, C, A Major

9th-12th Grades (High School) — G, D, A, E, C, F, Bb, Eb, Ab

The Ohio Plan of Adjudication (The Five Rating Plan)

Superior Rating of “I.” This is an outstanding performance with very few technical errors and exemplifying a truly musical expression. This rating should be reserved for the truly musically outstanding performance.

Excellent Rating of “II.” This is an unusual performance in many respects, but not worthy of the highest rating because of minor defects in performance, ineffective interpretation, or improper instrumentation.

Good Rating of “III.” This is an acceptable, but not outstanding, performance showing accomplishment and marked promise but lacking one or more essential qualities.

Fair Rating of “IV.” This is a poor performance showing many technical errors, poor musical conception, lack of interpretation, incomplete instrumentation, or lacking in any of the other essential qualities.

Poor Rating of “V.” This is a very poor performance indicating deficiencies in most of the essential factors and indicating that much careful attention should be given to the fundamentals of good performance. This rating should be used sparingly and only when it is possible to cite major faults.

