

Nevada Music Educators Association Washoe Zone Solo & Ensemble Festival

PROCEDURES AND RULES

DESCRIPTION

The Solo and Ensemble Festival is an event 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. The experience is designed to encourage individualized as well as ensemble instruction and participation. The event is open to all students who are members of their home school's vocal or instrumental music program. Students who attend schools which do not offer a comprehensive music program may also participate (e.g. Community College High School). Teachers/sponsors **must** be a member of NMEA in order for their students to participate.

FESTIVAL CHAIRPERSON

The Festival Chairperson will be appointed by the NMEA Board. The Festival Chairperson will commit to training his/her replacement once they step down from the job.

DUTIES OF THE FESTIVAL CHAIRPERSON

1. Send out the following information to all members and place it on the NMEA website:
 - Date, time and location of festival
 - Entry forms (at least 7 weeks in advance) with the deadline date for application
 - Final schedule for performances and room assignments at least ten (10) days in advance – Events will not be scheduled until all membership fees are paid. All fees payments are non-refundable.
2. Make arrangements for proper facilities as indicated below:
 - Performance rooms for each category with pianos and/or keyboards
 - Warm-up rooms adequate for the largest ensembles.
 - The finest facility should be reserved for the largest ensemble performance area. That facility should have adequate equipment for the scheduled performances.
3. Make arrangements for all needed equipment as indicated below:
 - Tables and chairs for adjudicators
 - Music stands for performance areas
 - Chairs for performance areas
 - Chairs for audience
 - Pianos or keyboards for each performance area
 - Keyboards as available for practice rooms
 - Four risers for choral ensembles
4. Make arrangements for students/assistants as indicated below:
 - a. Performance room hosts/hostesses
 1. Communicate with the adjudicators and fulfill their needs
 2. Relay any messages from a director or the adjudicators to the festival chairperson and/or the NMEA President
 3. Allow no one to enter or leave during a performance
 - b. Adjudicator runners
 1. Take all adjudication forms from the adjudicator to the office to be posted on a regular basis
 2. Assist with the master copies of all results
 - c. Office workers
 1. Post ratings as soon as they are available
 2. Prepare a list of two (2) master copies of all results
 3. Supervise student helpers in festival office
 4. Provide completed adjudication packets to directors
5. Make arrangements for on-site meals as needed for adjudicators, staff, and students.

DUTIES OF THE NMEA BOARD

1. Appoint a Festival Chairperson and provide all required entry information, adjudication forms, and blank certificates.
2. Secure adjudicators by using a recommended list as provided by the chairperson, directors, and/or representatives of the appropriate professional organizations.
3. Meet with all adjudicators prior to the festival to explain the educational purposes and procedures of this event.
4. Coordinate all activities during the festival
5. Assist the festival chairperson as needed

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ADJUDICATION

Achieving the ultimate in performance excellence shall be the goal. The Solo and Ensemble Festival is designed to encourage music excellence and performance artistry throughout the year rather than to prepare for a contest. This philosophy has meant the abandonment of the competition contest. The ultimate motive of the directors should be to give their soloists or ensembles as honest an appraisal of their efforts as the adjudicators. The ratings should be considered as a constructive assessment rather than a placement higher or lower as compared to other participants. Achieving a high rating at the cost of ethical teaching practices is never justified.

Students may elect to receive a rating or written comments with no rating.

STANDARDS FOR ADJUDICATION

Standards for rating in the five-division system are listed below with explanatory remarks:

- The final rating awarded must be a reflective compilation of all ratings given in each category on the adjudication sheet.
- The adjudicator's rating will be final. Appeals are not permitted.

I. SUPERIOR rating reflects the finest conceivable performance for the event and the category of participants being judged, worthy of the distinction of being recognized as among the very best. It shows *outstanding* preparation, execution or interpretation for a formal festival performance; musically *very* challenging yet *nearly absent* of technical errors with *very minor flaws in advanced* musical concepts and *interpretation*. This rating should be reserved for only the truly outstanding performance.

A superior rating = any combination of 5 ratings totaling 5, 6, or 7. For example:

1 1 1 1 1 = 5 = I 1 1 1 1 3 = 7 = I
1 1 1 1 2 = 6 = I 1 1 1 2 2 = 7 = I

II. EXCELLENT rating reflects an exceptional performance in many respects with minor deficiencies in performance, or improper voicing or instrumentation. It shows *above average* preparation, execution or interpretation for a formal festival performance; musically challenging with *few* technical errors and *demonstrated awareness of advanced* musical concepts and *interpretation*. This rating is a performance of distinctive quality.

An excellent rating = any combination of 5 ratings totaling, 8, 9, 10, or 11.

III. GOOD rating reflects a performance that has accomplishment and marked promise. It shows *average* preparation, execution or interpretation for a formal festival performance; presents *few* musical or technical challenges and demonstrates awareness of *only basic* musical concepts.

A good rating = any combination of 5 ratings totaling, 12, 13, 14, 15, or 16

IV. FAIR rating reflects a performance that has room for improvement. It shows *below average* preparation, execution or interpretation for a formal festival performance; presents *no* musical or technical challenges and *lacks* demonstrated awareness of basic musical concepts.

A fair rating = any combination of 5 ratings totaling, 17, 18, 19, 20, or 21.

V. POOR rating indicates a performance that has much need for improvement. Shows *unacceptable* preparation, execution or interpretation for a formal festival performance; presents *no* musical or technical challenges and has *many* errors in technique and basic musical concepts. This rating is rarely used even by the most critical adjudicator.

A poor rating = any combinations of 5 ratings totaling, 21, 22, 23, 24 or 25.

CO COMMENTS ONLY indicates the performer chose to receive written comments without a Roman Numeral rating, the performers did not follow NMEA performance guidelines.

NS NO SHOW rating indicates the registered performer(s) did not arrive and participate in the event.

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PROCEDURES AND RULES

SPECIAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR DIRECTORS

1. Plan to arrive at the performance area at least one hour before your scheduled performance. Students are urged to be part of the audience for as long as possible during the festival. Directors are responsible for making arrangements for their students' transportation.
2. Teachers with students participating must be present for the festival or have a designated chaperone. Teachers must provide adult supervision for their students at all times. Students who are unsupervised will be sent home and will not receive their adjudication. If you as the teacher have many entries, please provide an administrator or instructional assistant to help supervise your students. If this rule is not observed your school's organization will be subject to forfeiting your performances at the NMEA Southern Zone Solo and Ensemble the following year.
3. Please advise students—the following performance area rules are in effect and must be observed.
 - No walking or loitering in the area reserved for adjudicators
 - No entering or leaving adjudication rooms during performances
 - No eating or drinking in the performance rooms
 - No talking or moving during performances
 - No playing or singing in the performance hallways at any time.
 - Any student who does not adhere to proper concert etiquette will be dismissed from the festival. Proper concert etiquette does not include whistling, booing, screaming, cheering, etc.
4. High school and middle school instrumental ensembles cannot exceed sixteen (16) in number.
5. High school choral ensembles cannot exceed sixteen (16) in number.
6. Junior high /middle school choral ensembles will not exceed twenty-four (24) in number
7. Ensembles may perform with or without a conductor.
8. All vocal, string, wind, and percussion students must be members of their school's music program in the ensemble that relates to their performance. For example, a vocal soloist must be a member of the school's choral music program. *Schools that do not have a music program must have an NMEA sponsor in order for students to participate.
9. Time Allotments :Five (5) minutes will be reserved for vocal soloists and seven (7) minutes for vocal ensembles. Ensembles may only perform one selection. Seven (7) minutes will be reserved for instrumental soloists and ensembles.
10. Participants in ensembles must all attend the same school.
11. Once the Solo and Ensemble schedule is written, there will be no schedule changes. However in the Southern Zone, teachers will have the flexibility to adjust performance times among their school's assigned times. These alterations will not be allowed if they affect another schools scheduled performances.
12. In the Southern Zone, medals can be purchased at the cost of \$2 per medal.
13. In the Southern Zone, entry fees are \$5.00 per participant/per entry. For example, if you have an ensemble of 16, then the cost of that group would be \$80.00. Ratings will be posted at a central location to the performance rooms and will be updated as frequently as possible. Only directors may pick up rating sheets for their students at the festival office at the conclusion of all of their student's performances.
14. Vocal solos and ensembles must be memorized. Instrumental solos and ensembles need not be memorized at this level. NMEA Policy and Procedure Manual states that "all music must be memorized to be considered for the Command Competition".
15. Only one entry per student per category is permitted.
16. Teachers, instructors, parents, and students are prohibited from interaction with adjudicators regarding student performances and/or scores. The adjudicator's rating will be final. Appeals are not permitted.
17. All comments, questions, and concerns should be directed to an NMEA board member.
18. Some performance rooms may be equipped with electric pianos. Please advise your accompanists of this.
19. Schools that do not observe NMEA procedures and rules for this event will be subject to forfeiting the following year's performances at the NMEA Southern Zone Solo and Ensemble.

MUSIC REQUIREMENTS

1. Pop music (i.e. – Mariah Carey's latest hit) is not to be used for this festival at either the high school or middle school level.
2. Directors are encouraged to select music which will be challenging and commensurate to the students' ability.
3. Middle school/junior high school vocal soloists may perform art songs, folk songs, standard recital literature, and appropriate Broadway selections
4. High School vocal soloists must perform repertoire from the standard literature.
5. Choral selections must be representative of the standard festival literature genre
6. Each soloist and ensemble must present a numbered, original score to the adjudicator.
7. Photocopied scores are not permitted under any circumstance.
8. Students are not permitted to repeat literature which they have previously performed at this event..
9. High School students who receive a superior (I) rating for their performance at the NMEA Southern Zone Solo and Ensemble Festival are eligible to perform the same selection at the NMEA Regional Solo and Ensemble Festival. Students who score in the top 10% of their regional event are eligible to participate in the NMEA Command Performance Competition held during the NMEA State Conference.
10. Students must provide their own accompanist. If the selection is written with accompaniment, the accompaniment must be used; otherwise, only comments will be provided (i.e. no rating).

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PROCEDURES AND RULES

11. Smart Music and other electronic accompaniments are not acceptable for the Southern Zone Solo and Ensemble.