

The NHMEA LARGE GROUP FESTIVAL GUIDELINES

The 2011 - 2012 Large Group Festival dates are Saturday, March 17 and Saturday, March 23 (Friday March 24 if necessary). The Festival on March 17 will be held at Goffstown High School and will be for **BANDS AND ORCHESTRAS ONLY**. The festival on March 23 / 24 will be at Bow High School in Bow and is for **BANDS AND CHORUSES ONLY**. Please make sure that you sign up for the correct site as not all types of ensembles will be performing at each site. **The application deadline for this year's festival is Friday, January 13, 2012. Applications postmarked after this date will not be accepted.** Space is limited and date requests will be scheduled in the order in which their applications are received. **Payment is due at time of application. Invoices for districts paying by purchase order will be sent out the week of January 20, 2012. Final payment must be received by March 9, 2012.** Please read through the guidelines below, if you have any questions, please feel free to contact me at Mountain View Middle School (kenmartin@goffstown.k12.nh.us) Ken Martin - Large Group Festival Chair

PHILOSOPHY

The New Hampshire Music Educators Association, through the Large Group Festival, wishes to provide a means of competent, objective evaluation of musical performance without the obvious problems inherent in school music "contest" formats. Participants in the Large Group Festival may perform on an adjudicated basis for a rating, or for comments only. Those who elect to perform for a rating must select music in accordance with the requirements set forth in the following regulations and sightread. Music selections for sightreading will be one grade level lower than the ensemble's performance level. This plan allows the director to choose music of a degree of difficulty suited to his or her own group, regardless of school enrollment or other arbitrary factors. Quality of performance involving tone, intonation, balance, phrasing, rhythmic accuracy, etc., is emphasized. Students are motivated by the desire to earn a high rating, rather than by competition with other students or a need to "win".

PARTICIPATION REQUIREMENTS

- NHMEA membership. Each school must be a current sponsoring district member. This may be verified through the NHMEA treasurer.
- All ensemble members must be bona fide members of the school.
- Unsportsmanlike conduct, destruction of property, improper behavior, or smoking in authorized areas by participants will result in disqualification of that organization from the festival.
- Schools from neighboring states are allowed to participate in the festival. Directors of such groups should contact the Large Group Chairperson for information and application forms.
- The entry fee of \$150.00 per ensemble should be made payable to NHMEA and sent to the Large Group Chairperson. NOTE: The \$150.00 entry fee includes a stereo recording of the ensemble's performance.
- Each participating group MUST have sent a completed registration form to the Large

Group Chairperson by the STATED DEADLINE along with a check or school purchase order to be scheduled for the festival.

NO APPLICATION WILL BE ACCEPTED AFTER THE STATED DEADLINE.

DIRECTOR INFORMATION

SIZE OF THE ENSEMBLES: Ensembles may be of any size. Directors with exceptionally large ensembles should check with the festival chairperson regarding stage size, availability of stands and adequate space for warm-up.

ADJUDICATOR SCORES: Directors shall provide THREE SCORES (condensed or full) for each selection to be performed. A single instrument part will not be accepted. Copies of scores will be accepted only if accompanied by a letter from a music retailer or publisher to the effect that the music has been ordered. Failure to provide musical scores for the adjudicators shall result in disqualification from the rating process. Such groups will be allowed to perform, but will be provided with general adjudicator comments only. All scores must have measures numbered! There will be a penalty of one rating for failure to number measures in all adjudicator scores.

RECORDINGS: Recordings with or without judges commentary will be available on the day of the festival. The recording cost is included in each ensemble's registration fee

PICTURES: Still, motion picture and video recording cameras that might disrupt the performance, may not be used in the performance area.

MUSIC REQUIREMENTS

Music selected for a rating at the festival must be selected from the following sources: The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Manual (if not the current manual, you must specify which year and submit a photocopy of the page your selection is on); The National Band Association (NBA) Manual and the Super List for Strings (available through MENC). Where the listed levels are contradictory, the NYSSMA manual shall have priority. No exceptions to these rules will be allowed.

Directors are free to select the levels (graded I to VI) at which they wish their group(s) perform. Directors may also elect to have their group(s) perform at a specific grade level for comments only, with no grades given, or plaques awarded. Elementary groups have the option to perform unlevleed selections, the literature performed to be selected by the director, without restrictions. Grades will be given, but there will be no sight reading and no plaque awarded.

Instrumental ensembles shall perform three (3) selections. One (1) of the selections must be listed in the aforementioned sources and **MUST BE AT OR ABOVE** the performance level selected by the ensembles and its director. The two other selections are “free” selections and need not be listed in one of the sources.

Choral ensembles must select at least one third (1/3) of their selections from the NYSSMA Manual. The remaining two thirds (2/3) to be “free” selections and need not be listed in the manual.

All groups who wish to try for a plaque must sight-read! Sight-reading will take place in an area closed to everyone except members of the group, their director and people working with the festival. The sight-reading music that has been selected is one grade level below your scheduled performance level. Groups going for “comments only” and those who have chosen not to sight-read may have their sight-reading time for a workshop on their performance.

Sight-reading procedures are as follows: After the music has been distributed, the director and the students will be allowed three minutes to study the piece. The students will be allowed to discuss the piece with each other while the director studies the score. They may not play or sing during this time. The director will then have an additional two minutes to explain the selection to the group. Group members may not play or sing the music prior to sight-reading. Directors may clap or sing rhythms and answer questions as needed. Choral groups will be allowed to have their director or accompanist play the piano part during the sight-reading. They will be given key chords and starting notes of each voice part. All groups will then be provided with a short workshop by one of their adjudicators.

You are encouraged to listen to other groups perform while at the festival. Please instruct your students in proper concert etiquette, so that all groups might have a good audience for which to perform.

GRADED MUSIC LISTS

Music is classified into six levels of difficulty, as describe below. Directors are free to choose music from any grade they feel is most suitable for their ensemble(s).

Grade I: Easy keys, meters, ranges and rhythms. Recommended for newly formed groups or young, inexperienced players.

Grade II: May include changes of tempo, key, meter, or mood. Recommended for junior high school ensembles and high schools with small enrollment.

Grade III: Increasing demands of technique, range and interpretation. String parts may include a third position. Recommended for junior high ensembles and young high school ensembles.

Grade IV: Moderately difficult. String parts may include the first five positions. Recommended for average high school ensembles and advanced junior high ensembles.

Grade V: Difficult music of considerable technical and musical demands. String parts may include the first seven positions. Recommended for more advanced high school groups.

Grade VI: For musically mature groups of exceptional competence.

EQUIPMENT FURNISHED BY THE HOST SCHOOL

Instrumental performance areas will include: a bass drum, 4 timpani, chairs, chimes, a xylophone and a minimum of 50 stands per area. A podium will be provided whenever possible. If a performing group needs more than fifty stands, they must provide the extras themselves. **This will be enforced this year.**

Choral performance areas will have risers, whenever possible, and a tuned piano. (Schools should plan on bringing their own keyboards for warm up).

The sight reading area will be furnished in the same manner as the instrumental performance area. Any extra percussion instruments necessary to cover the selected sight-reading pieces, will not be provided.

SCHEDULING

The deadline for receiving entries will be January 13th, 2012. The Saturday, March 17 and Saturday March 24 dates will be schedules first. Ensembles may be scheduled on Friday March 23if both Saturday schedules are full. Care will be taken to separate ensembles which are directed by the same person and/or include the same participants. Whenever possible, groups performing at similar levels will be scheduled together. Each ensemble will have 30 minutes for setup and performance, with an additional 30 minutes for sight reading/ clinic.

FESTIVAL AWARDS

The rating/comment sheets for ensembles participating in the festival will be released by the judges at the conclusion of a classification or at the completion of

four (4) performing ensembles, this being determined by the large group chairperson. Ensembles receiving an “A: or a “B” rating will be given a certificate by the large group chairperson. The chairman will also present a plaque to Ensembles that have sight-read and received a final “A” rating may purchase a NHMEA Large Group Plaque.

AWARD MEDALS

Directors of performing ensembles may purchase award medals for overall ratings of “A” and “B” from Bale Pin Company, if they so choose. The Bale Pin Company will be notified of the final rating of each ensemble and will send the appropriate ribboned award medal.

SPECIAL NOTE

Publicity by radio, television or newspaper claiming “state championship” by any participating group is considered unethical under the group rating system. Such practice may be the basis for elimination from further NHMEA events!

Attention all Music Educators, veteran and new! The New Hampshire Music Educator’s Directory is being updated. This is an invaluable resource that helps to keep you in touch with other music educators from around the state. As new teachers join our ranks and old(er) teachers take new jobs, it is vital that we have your most accurate contact information. Please take the time to fill out the form below.