

# West Michigan Homeschool Fine Arts Solo and Ensemble Festival

## Rules:

### 1. Student Eligibility

- a. The Festival, as sponsored by WMHFA, is expressly for the participation of students of WMHFA.
- b. Students that are not enrolled in WMHFA may register for events with a \$15.00 surcharge per event.
- c. Only students in 6<sup>th</sup> -12<sup>th</sup> grade can enter the solo and ensemble festival. Instrumental students in 4<sup>th</sup> and 5<sup>th</sup> grades with at least one year playing experience may also enter the festival.
- d. The following instruments/vocal parts may be entered as solos or part of an ensemble:
  - i. Woodwinds: flute, piccolo, oboe, bassoon, clarinet, bass clarinet, soprano sax, alto sax, tenor sax, baritone sax
  - ii. Brass: trumpet, trombone, horn, tuba, euphonium,
  - iii. Strings: violin, viola, cello, bass
  - iv. Percussion: snare drum, timpani, mallet/keyboard percussion instruments
  - v. Piano
  - vi. Harp
- e. Post-graduate high school students may not participate in festival.
- f. Solos:
  - i. High School Students performing a solo must choose between the Honors Track and the Clinic Track.
    1. The Instrumental Honors Solo Track includes the prepared solo (minimum 2 minutes in length), required scales and sight-reading. Piano Honors Track solos will also include a Bach invention/fugue.
    2. The Instrumental Clinic Track will include the prepared solo (minimum 2 minutes in length) and the remaining time, minus 2 minutes for written adjudication summary, for a clinic for the prepared solo.
  - ii. All middle school solos will follow the clinic track requirements. All middle solo events will have a minimum length of 1½ minutes.

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- h. Ensembles:
  - 1. The Instrumental Ensemble Performance will include the prepared selection (minimum 2 minutes in length), and the remaining time, minus 2 minutes for written adjudication summary, will be a clinic of the prepared music. (Clinic Track)
  - 2. The number of members of an instrumental small ensemble participating in the Solo and Ensemble Festival shall not exceed 8 members with 1 player to a part and all parts being played or no rating will be given.
- i. Students may not participate in more than one solo event unless they are performing on a different instrument.
- j. **Students may not perform in more than three (3) solos or ensemble events, not including chamber ensembles.**
- k. Chamber ensembles participating in Solo & Ensemble Festival shall have 9 – 20 members. The director may determine the number of players on each part, but all parts in the score must be played. A student may play in no more than two (2) chamber groups.
- l. Each festival participant is expected to conform to rules of good conduct, i.e., observance and care of property, proper behavior patterns and adherence to all rules. If in the opinion of the Section Chairperson a serious infraction of above behavior has occurred, appropriate action will be taken up to and including disqualification from participation in festivals.
- m. Events employing more than one piano are not permitted.
- n. Keyboard synthesizers maybe used in Chamber Ensembles provided they are specified in the score by the composer; or used in lieu of these instruments specified by the composer: organ, celeste, harp or harpsichord. No other electronic substitutes may be used.

### 2. MUSIC

- a. Music Selection
  - i. Instrumental Music Selection:
    - 1. Solo and ensemble literature need not be from any list, but needs to be classical in nature.
    - 2. Popular Songs, Broadway/Musical Theater Songs, Jazz Songs or Church Hymns/ Worship Choruses will not be permitted.
  - b. Each soloist, ensemble and chamber ensemble event will provide the adjudicator an original score with each measure numbered or no rating will be given.
  - c. The Original Score must show all parts being played and be aligned so the adjudicator can see all parts in each measure at the same time.
  - d. DEFINITION OF ORIGINAL SCORE
    - i. Scores for all Solo and Ensemble events must contain aligned parts representing the voices of the ensemble in either concert or written pitch.
    - ii. If the selection is copyrighted, the only acceptable score is a purchased edition. The actual paper and ink sold by the publisher or music dealer. Photocopies of copyrighted music are illegal and unacceptable as adjudicator's music unless accompanied by written permission from the PUBLISHER.
    - iii. For music purchased on the Internet, proof of purchase must be presented to the site chair before the performance at the S/E Festival.
    - iv. For music that is free on the Internet, documentation of the source must be presented to the site chair before the performance at the S&E Festival.
    - v. If the selection is not copyrighted, a photocopy is acceptable provided it copies the entire page and is deemed legible by the performance room chairman.
    - vi. If the selection is out of print, photocopies are still illegal unless accompanied by written permission from the PUBLISHER.

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- vii. If the selection is not published or copyrighted (example, an original composition or arrangement), an acceptable score is one produced by computer or legible manuscript.
  - viii. If a full score is not published, a condensed score will be accepted.
  - ix. If no score is published, it is the responsibility of that event to make one. Handmade or computer generated scores must also have the original score (or parts) available.
  - x. "Instrument substitution is permitted without altering the score."
  - xi. Compliance with the provisions of the current copyright laws is the responsibility of each participating organization and participant." Four hand piano events may use secondo and primo scores.
- e. All events with an accompaniment must use a person playing the accompaniment part. No pre-recorded accompaniment will be allowed.

### 3. PERFORMANCE RULES

- a. Acceptable instruments for solo and ensemble performance are standard band and orchestra instruments, harp and piano. Recorders may only be used as members of ensembles that contain standard band and orchestra instruments. More than one piano per event will not be allowed at any Solo and Ensemble Festival.
- b. Each student is limited to three (3) events. If a student enters more than one solo, the solos must be played on different instruments. Students may perform in two (2) Chamber Ensembles in addition to the above.
- c. Instrumental solos and all ensembles need not be memorized.
- d. Accompaniment Rules
  - i. All events must be accompanied if an accompaniment is written, or no rating will be given. This rule does not apply to piano accompaniment parts that are clearly marked 'rehearsal' or 'optional.' (Piano solos with orchestral accompaniment must be performed without accompaniment.)
  - ii. Anyone may act as an accompanist.
  - iii. The director, following traditional practice, has the option to determine if a piano part is an accompaniment or is a member of the ensemble, if the title includes the piano as part of the ensemble, i.e. Mozart's Trio for Clarinet, Viola, & Piano.
- e. Percussion soloists on the Honors Track will be required to sight read as part of proficiency I, II, III or IV. All percussion instruments are to be supplied by the students.
- f. Sight-reading will be waived for all blind or visually impaired entrants as determined by their director. Full credit will be granted.
- g. Ten minutes will be allowed for solo and ensemble events.
- h. High school instrumental solos shall be a minimum of two minutes (2) in length, or no rating will be given. Repeats, D.C.'s or D.S.'s may not be added to the music to meet minimum time requirements. The adjudicator is allowed the remaining time minus two minutes to write his/her critique, to give verbal comments.

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- j. Middle school instrumental solos shall be a minimum of one and a half minutes (1½) in length, or no rating will be given. Repeats, D.C.'s or D.S.'s may not be added to the music to meet minimum time requirements. The adjudicator is allowed the remaining time minus two minutes to write his/her critique, to give verbal comments.
- k. All instrumental ensembles shall be a minimum of two minutes in length, or no rating will be given. Repeats, D.C.'s or D.S.'s may not be added to the music to meet minimum time requirements. The adjudicator is allowed the remaining time minus two minutes to write his/her critique, to give verbal comments.
- l. Chamber Ensembles shall perform a minimum of three minutes (3) and not more than seven (7) minutes or no rating will be given. The Chamber Ensemble Adjudicator will be allowed the remaining time minus two minutes to write his/her critique, to give verbal comments.
- m. Directors, Parents and Students are not to take adjudicators to task for any reason.

#### 4. RATING

- a. One of the five divisional ratings for prepared solos and ensembles will be used. These ratings are defined as follows for all solo and ensemble festivals:
  - i. Division I will represent a Superior level of performance and musicianship for the event.
  - ii. Division II will represent an Excellent performance, but not worthy of the highest rating because of minor defects in the performance or ineffective interpretation. Shows much accomplishment and promise.
  - iii. Division III will represent a Good performance, but not outstanding. Shows accomplishment and promise but is lacking in some essential qualities.
  - iv. Division IV will represent a Developing performance, which is lacking in many essential qualities.
  - v. Division V will represent an Unsatisfactory (inadequate) performance.
- b. PROFICIENCY RATINGS, these ratings are defined as follows for all solo and ensemble festivals:
  - i. Division I Proficiency Score of 100-85
  - ii. Division II Proficiency Score of 70-84
- c. There will be a Headquarters for directors and adjudicators only at each site.
- d. The rating sheets will be available on the next day of WMHFA classes

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## Site Mechanics:

### 1. HOST RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Electronic keyboards may be provided as accompanying instruments in lieu of acoustic pianos.
- b. Ratings will be posted in various areas near the respective performance rooms. Please do not ask for ratings at Headquarters.
- c. No instruments will be furnished except pianos.
- d. All events are open to the public. The performance room will not be cleared for any event.
- e. WMHFA cannot assume any responsibility for lost or stolen property and equipment. Students should be reminded of their responsibility for their own property.

### 2. SITE CHAIR RESPONSIBILITIES

- a. Ratings will be posted in various areas near the respective performance rooms. Please do not ask for ratings at Headquarters.
- b. All events will be called from the warm-up room.
- c. The warm-up room is to be used for the express purpose of tuning and briefly warming up the instruments.
- d. The events will move to their warm up room for 15 minutes then to the performance room for their event.
- e. The Solo and Ensemble Section Chairperson or an appointed representative will check each adjudication sheet for correct correlation between final rating and letter grades or numbers before the rating is released. Any sheet marked incorrectly will be returned to the adjudicator and corrected immediately. Once a rating is posted and the sheet released, the rating is final and cannot be changed.

### 3. RECORDING

- a. All performance may be recorded if the recording device is turned off at the conclusion of the prepared performance. Adjudicator's post performance comments, clinic and proficiency scales/sight-reading may NOT be recorded.

### 4. MEDALS

- a. Solo and Ensemble Festival students will receive medals cards for events receiving a first or second division rating. Present these cards to the medals table to receive medals.
- b. Medals are also available for the Proficiency Examination section. Students who receive a score of 70 to 84 are entitled to a red proficiency medal, and those whose score is 85 or better are entitled to a blue proficiency medal.