

MSBOA Virtual Solo & Ensemble Festival Information Bulletin

Dates:

January 25 -31, 2021: Upload window for **High School** Solo & Ensemble participants

February 1 -7, 2021: Upload window for **Junior High School** Solo & Ensemble participants

Registration:

Now through Friday, December 18th. Visit www.stevensonbands.org/solo-ensemble-signup to submit your signup information to Mr. Sekich

Fees:

ALL events are \$10, no matter the number of participants in an ensemble. **Must be paid online through Opus Events (a link will be e-mailed to you) no later than Friday, January 8th, 2021.** *There are no refunds*

Festival Format:

- All students will upload their recorded events to Opus Events (instructions will be provided prior to January 25)
- No ensemble recordings will be uploaded through other platforms
- Students have one time to record with a pause to their recording only after that section of the event is completed (For example, Proficiency students must perform the solo all the way through, then may pause before recording the scales, etc.)
- **Tutorials will be provided by MSBOA with a step-by-step guide of how to navigate the recording and uploading process for Virtual Solo and Ensemble**

Ensemble Sizes:

Solos and Duets strongly encouraged!

Due to ongoing restrictions and recommendations from the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services concerning indoor gatherings, we are **strongly** recommending that all ensemble sizes reflect that no more than the members of two households are meeting in person to practice and perform together. Further, we are strongly recommending that members of separate households meet virtually as much as possible no matter the size of the ensemble, using tools such as Teams, Zoom (zoom.us), or UpbeatMusicApp (upbeatmusicapp.com), for example.

The expectation is that all ensembles will need to meet in person to record their submission for adjudication in late January.

Medals:

Unlike past Solo & Ensemble Festivals, medals are not included in the registration fee. After the event is over, orders will be taken for medals which will then be purchased and finally distributed once they are received at school. Details on the process will be provided in February.

Ratings:

- Students will receive ratings and comments from adjudicators
- Adjudicators will record feedback and comments after listening one time to the recording

Accompaniment:

- An accompaniment is encouraged, but not required
- Students' ratings will not be affected by an accompaniment

Music:

- All music performed at Virtual Solo & Ensemble Festival must be an original (no photocopies) that is published by one of the approved publishers from the list found on the MSBOA (msboa.org) website: www.msboa.org/AboutMSBOA/News/TabId/95/ArtMid/677/ArticleID/1786/Approved-Music-Publishers-Roster-Virtual-SE-Festival-2021.aspx
- If the music you wish to use is from a publisher is not on the approved MSBOA list, contact Mr. Sekich so that he can attempt to contact that publisher for approval
- Students must present the **original score** to the judge at the beginning of their recording

Rules (Highlights):

1. The number of members of an ensemble participating in the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festivals shall not exceed 8 members with 1 player to a part and all parts being played or no rating will be given.
2. 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.
3. Events employing more than one piano are not permitted.
4. Each event must upload their score into OpusEvent with each measure numbered. They must also show the original sheet music at the beginning of their video.
5. Acceptable instruments for solo and ensemble performance are standard band and orchestra instruments, harp, piano and harpsichord. Other instruments, as indicated by the score, may only be used as members of ensembles that contain standard band and orchestra instruments. Non-amplified acoustical guitars may be used as accompaniment instruments only, or as members of ensembles which contain standard band and/or orchestra instruments. Guitar solos are not allowed.
6. Each student is limited to three (3) events. If a student enters more than one solo, the solos must be played on different instruments.
7. Solos need not be memorized.
8. Accompaniment Rules
 - a. If an accompaniment is written, it is recommended but not required.
 - b. The presence or absence of accompaniment will have no bearing on the final rating.
 - c. **Accompaniment can be provided in live, recorded, or digital form (like Smartmusic).**
 - d. **Any accompaniment (live, recorded, or digital) must only include the accompaniment part or no rating will be given.**
9. High School Event Time Requirements
 - a. **Non-proficiency solo and ensemble events will be allowed six minutes for their performance.**
 - b. **All proficiency events will be allowed six minutes for solos and three minutes for scales/etudes/stick control.**
10. Middle School/Junior High Time Requirements
 - a. **District solo and ensemble events will be allowed six minutes for their performance.**
11. Directors, parents, and students are not to take adjudicators to task for any reason.

Rating Details:

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:

- First Division (I) - Superior - Highly refined and developed, considering the classification. Consistency is demonstrated throughout the solo or within the ensemble. A few minor isolated flaws might exist, but they do not detract from the performance.
- Second Division (II) - Excellent - Somewhat refined and developed and consistency is often demonstrated in the solo or within the ensemble. Noticeable flaws sometimes detract from the performance.

- Third Division (III) - Good - Developing, consistency is sometimes demonstrated by the soloist or within the ensemble, but not yet refined. Noticeable flaws often detract from the performance.
- Fourth Division (IV) - Fair - Not yet developing or refined, consistency is seldom demonstrated by the soloist or within the ensemble. Obvious flaws consistently detract from the performance.
- Fifth Division (V) - Poor - Consistency is infrequently demonstrated by the soloist or ensemble.

Only ONE Solo & Ensemble Festival in 2021:

For the 2020-21 school year there will not be separate District and State Solo & Ensemble Festivals. Instead, this Virtual Solo & Ensemble Festival will feature aspects of both Festivals for soloists:

- All soloists may select a Non-Proficiency Solo at registration (*the usual District Festival procedure*)
- Students in 10th – 12th grades that anticipated participating at State Solo & Ensemble have the **OPTION** to register for and submit a proficiency portion of their Virtual Solo & Ensemble recording (*the usual State Festival procedure*)

OPTIONAL Proficiency Solo Information:

In addition to the submission of the performance of the prepared solo, a proficiency solo also includes the submission of the performance of scales (instrumentalists) or rudiments (percussionists). There is no sightreading portion in 2021.

Which proficiency level should I register for?

If an 11th or 12th grader passed Proficiency 1 at State Solo & Ensemble in 2020, they should enter Proficiency 2 in 2021. Similarly, 12th graders that passed Proficiency 2 last year should enter Proficiency 3 this year. Students that did not pass a proficiency level last year may repeat that same level this year.

The following categories are open at each grade:

9th graders – Non-Proficiency only

10th graders – Non-Proficiency OR Proficiency 1 (may not enter 2 or 3)

11th graders – Non-Proficiency OR Proficiency 1 or 2 (may not enter 3)

12th graders – Non-Proficiency OR Proficiency 1, 2, or 3

Proficiency Scales and Rudiments are available on our web site (under Bands / Solo & Ensemble):

stevensonbands.org/data/uploads/site-docs/state-solo-ensemble-proficiency.pdf

Proficiency Ratings:

Division I - Superior - Proficiency Score of 63-75

Division II - Excellent - Proficiency Score of 52-62

2021 Gonda Scholarships:

Soloists in 10th and 11th grade, along with 9th grade MADE students, that receive a First Division in their performance (both non-proficiency and proficiency solos are eligible) at Virtual Solo & Ensemble Festival will be eligible to submit a recording of their solo for consideration for a Gonda Scholarship. Full details, including timing, will be available soon.