

MSBOA State Solo & Ensemble Festival

Information and Rules

I. INFORMATION

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO PARTICIPATE IN SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL?

A student must be enrolled in an instrumental music class (Band and/or Orchestra) for academic credit at a member school at the time of festival.

DATE: March 16, 2019

FEES:

Solo (9 th grade only) (8 minutes)	\$15.00
Proficiency (grades 10, 11 & 12) (12 minutes)	\$21.00
Piano Proficiency (16 minutes)	\$25.00
Percussion Proficiency (16 minutes)	\$25.00
Duet(8 minutes)	\$16.00
Trio(8 minutes)	\$18.00
Quartet....(8 minutes)	\$20.00
Quintet....(8 minutes)	\$22.00
Sextet.....(8 minutes)	\$24.00
Septet.....(8 minutes)	\$26.00
Octet.....(8 minutes)	\$28.00
Chamber Ensemble..(16 minutes)	\$50.00

NOTE: Once an event has been accepted for a MSBOA Festival, there will be no refund of fees should the event cancel

II. RULES

These rules apply to all District and State Festivals with the exception of references to proficiency examinations which apply to State Festivals ONLY.

A. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

1. The Festivals, as sponsored by the Association, are expressly for the participation of students of current MSBOA Member Schools, and therefore, cannot embrace the activities of private teachers, private music schools, conservatories, and others except as they become qualified through participation in the school instrumental program or accompany on piano at least one event at the district festival. The local instructor or instrumental music and school administrator shall be the sole certifying agents for any pupil's activities in the festivals. Both the director of instrumental music and the administrator of the school must sign the entry blanks.
2. Only students in grades 7-12 can enter district solo and ensemble festival. Only those soloists, ensembles and chamber ensembles in grades 9, 10, 11, 12 that have received a First (I) Division Rating in an official Senior High School District Festival are eligible to enter the State Festival. NOTE: The qualifying ensemble remains intact, i.e., flute trio remains flute trio, etc. No middle school/junior high student may participate in the State Festival unless the student is in the ninth grade and qualified in the Senior High School division of a District Festival.
3. Events may be entered only if the students are regularly enrolled in their school's instrumental music program or accompany on piano at least one event at the district festival. Where there is no regularly scheduled orchestral string program in a member school, orchestral string students from that school may participate in the solo and ensemble festival with the director's recommendation.
4. The State Festival ensemble category is open to grades 9-12. Post graduate high school students may not participate in festivals.
5. 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. A student may play in no more than two (2) chamber groups. With the approval of the State Solo & Ensemble Chairperson, any qualifying ensemble may substitute less than a majority of its qualifying players prior to the day of the State Solo & Ensemble Festival.
6. Ensembles comprised of students from more than one MSBOA member school may participate in solo and ensemble festivals by enrolling through a single school, provided a letter(s) of approval signed by the director and administrator of the non-enrolling school(s) is attached to the entry form. All participating schools must be MSBOA members. Multiple school events are to be included in student participation maximums. These groups are not eligible for Youth Arts consideration. All aspects of participation by members of multiple school ensembles become the full responsibility of the enrolling school. Multiple school events that have participants from different MSBOA districts will enter the enrolling school's district festival. Participants will enter all other events in their regular MSBOA district.
7. 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.

8. Events employing more than one piano are not permitted.

B. REGISTRATION

1. In the State Festival NINTH grade soloists may enter the SOLO CATEGORY ONLY; TENTH grade soloists may enter the PROFICIENCY I ONLY; ELEVENTH grade soloists may enter PROFICIENCY I OR II; and TWELFTH grade soloists may enter ANY OF THE THREE PROFICIENCY CATEGORIES. Soloists do not need to “pass” a proficiency to proceed to the next level.
2. For all State S&E events where an accompanist is used for an event, the accompanist’s name must be entered when registering the event.
3. Event Types:
 - **WOODWIND CHAMBER ENSEMBLE:** “An ensemble of 9-20 musicians, one on a part, with all parts being played, or as indicated in the score.”
 - **BRASS CHAMBER ENSEMBLE:** “An ensemble of 9-20 musicians, one on a part, with all parts being played, or as indicated in the score.”
 - **MIXED CHAMBER ENSEMBLE:** (an ensemble with a mixture of instruments from different families.) “An ensemble of 9-20 musicians, one on a part, with all parts being played, or as indicated in the score.”
 - **STRING CHAMBER ENSEMBLE:** “An ensemble of 9-20 musicians with all parts being played.” String Chamber Ensembles allow the director complete freedom concerning the number of players per part for the event/performance.
 - **PERCUSSION CHAMBER ENSEMBLE:** “An ensemble of 9-20 musicians with all parts being played.” Percussion Chamber Ensembles allow the director complete freedom concerning the number of players per part for the event/performance.
 - **WOODWIND CHOIR:** “An ensemble of 9-20 woodwind musicians, with no more than two players on a part, with all parts being played or as indicated in the score.”
 - **BRASS CHOIR:** “An ensemble of 9-20 brass musicians, with no more than two players on a part, with all parts being played or as indicated in the score.”

Chamber Ensembles must qualify at a district Solo & Ensemble Festival to perform at State Festival. Keyboard synthesizers may be 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. Students may play in no more than two (2) chamber ensembles.

C. MUSIC

1. Solo and ensemble literature need not be from any list. MSBOA has an informational list of solos and a “suggested” list of Chamber Ensemble selections available on the web site under “Resources.” This is only an informational list.
2. Each soloist, ensemble and chamber ensemble event will provide the adjudicator an original score with each measure numbered or no rating will be given.
3. **The number of members of an ensemble participating in the MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festivals shall not exceed eight (8) members with one (1) player to a part and all parts being played or no rating will be given.**

NEW
2018

DEFINITION OF ORIGINAL SCORE

- a. Scores for all Solo & Ensemble events must contain aligned parts representing the voices of the ensemble in either concert or written pitch.
- b. 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 the adjudicator’s music unless accompanied by written permission from the PUBLISHER.
- c. For music purchased on the Internet, proof of purchase must be presented to the site chair before the performance at the S&E Festival.
- d. 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.
- e. If the selection is not published or copyrighted (example: an original composition or arrangement) an acceptable score is one produced by a computer, hand-made or legible manuscript. If a full score is not published, a condensed score will be accepted. If no score is published, it is the responsibility of that event to make one. Computer, hand-made, or legible manuscript scores must also have the original parts available on site.
- f. If the selection is not copyrighted, a photocopy is acceptable provided it copies the entire page and is deemed legible by the performance room chairperson.
- g. If the selection is out of print, photocopies are still illegal unless accompanied by written permission from the PUBLISHER.
- h. Instrument substitution is permitted without altering the score. Compliance with the provisions of the current copyright laws is the responsibility of each participating school and its directors.

- i. Four hand piano events may use secondo and primo scores.

D. PERFORMANCE RULES

1. Acceptable instruments for solo and ensemble performance are standard band and orchestra instruments, harp, piano and harpsichord. 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 MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festival. 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.
2. Each student is limited to three (3) events. Any school falsifying forms or using student aliases to enter students in more than three non-chamber events will be prohibited from entering Solo and Ensemble Festival for one year. 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.
3. **The number of members of an ensemble participating in the MSBOA Solo & Ensemble Festivals shall not exceed eight (8) members with one (1) player to a part and all parts being played or no rating will be given.**
4. Solos need not be memorized.
5. Accompaniment Rules
 - a. 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.)
 - b. Anyone may act as an accompanist. All accompaniments must be live with the exception of digital intelligent accompaniment software (example: SmartMusic). Piano events are eligible only if students are members of their school's instrumental music program or accompany on piano at least one event at the district festival.
 - c. "Digital intelligent Accompaniment software must have an intelligent or adaptable accompaniment feature and that setting must be engaged. For example, in SmartMusic, this is called the 'follow me' feature. The student must provide all their own equipment. The equipment must be set up and the performance completed within the allotted time for the event.
 - d. 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*.
6. Solos & Ensembles may opt to have recorded adjudication at District and State Festival if the adjudicator has agreed and the student furnishes a recording device.
7. Percussion soloists will be required to sight read as part of proficiency I, II, or III. All percussion instruments are to be supplied by the students.
8. Sight reading will be waived for all blind or visually impaired entrants as determined by their director. Full credit will be granted.
9. High School Event Time Requirements
High school events (solos or 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.
 - a. District solo and ensemble events will be allowed six minutes for their performance.
 - b. Winds, strings, and harp proficiency examinations will be allowed ten minutes for the performance.
 - c. Piano and percussion proficiency examinations will be allowed fourteen minutes for the performance.
 - d. Chamber ensembles (9-20 musicians), at both District and State Festivals, shall perform a minimum of three minutes, and not more than twelve minutes, or no rating will be given.
 - e. Any chamber ensemble music (9-20 musicians) included on the "Suggested Chamber Music List" found on the MSBOA website meets all qualifications for performance, regardless of performance time.
 - f. The adjudicator is allowed an additional two minutes for all high school District and State solo and ensemble events, or four minutes for chamber ensembles (9-20 musicians), to complete his/her written and/or oral comments.
 - g. The student(s) may prepare a solo or ensemble of any length, but not less than two minutes or no rating will be given, and the judge shall have the right to start and stop the students(s) in the event as he/she desires.
10. Middle School/Junior High Time Requirements
Middle School/Junior High District festival events (solos and ensembles) shall perform a minimum of one and one-half (1 ½) minutes, 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.
 - a. District solo and ensemble events will be allowed six minutes for their performance.
 - b. Chamber ensembles (9-20 musicians) shall perform a minimum of three minutes, and not more than twelve minutes, or no rating will be given.
 - c. Any chamber ensemble music (9-20 musicians) included on the "Suggested Chamber Music List" found on the MSBOA website meets all the qualifications for performance, regardless of performance time.
 - d. The adjudicator is allowed an additional two minutes for all district events (solos or ensembles) to complete his/her written or oral comments.
 - e. The student may prepare a solo or ensemble of any length, but not less than one and one-half (1 ½) minutes, or no rating will be given, and the judge shall have the right to start and stop the students in the event as he/she desires.
11. Directors, parents, and students are not to take adjudicators to task for any reason.

NEW
2018

E. RATING

1. 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.

PROFICIENCY RATINGS:

Division I - Superior - Proficiency Score of 100-85

Division II - Excellent - Proficiency Score of 84-70

III. Site Mechanics

A. MEDALS

1. At State Solo & Ensemble Festival, the room chairperson will give medals cards to events receiving a first or second division rating. Present these cards to the medals room to receive medals. Procedures for District Festivals will be determined by the Districts.
2. 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.
3. A student accompanist who plays for three solo events and/or three ensembles is entitled to one free First Division medal if so requested by the director. This request should be made at the Festival Headquarters.

MSBOA State Solo and Ensemble Festival Proficiency Information and Rules

A. Entrance Requirements

1. All senior high school soloists (10th, 11th, 12th grade) must perform in the Proficiency Examination Section. Having passed Proficiency I in the previous year, the entrant must enter Proficiency II, etc. If an entrant fails to pass Proficiency I the previous year, he/she may repeat Proficiency I.
2. The following categories are open at each grade:
10th grade -- Proficiency I, may not enter II or III
11th grade -- Proficiency I or II, may not enter III
12th grade -- Proficiency I, II, or III

B. Rules and Information

1. Proficiency Exams:

- a. Wind and String Instrument Proficiency examinations consist of three sections:

1. Scales 25 points
2. Sight Reading 25 points
3. Prepared Solo 50 points

- b. Piano Proficiencies consist of four sections:

1. Scales and Arpeggios 15 points
2. JS Bach Invention/Fugue 15 points
3. Sight Reading 20 points
4. Prepared Solo 50 points

- c. Snare Drum Proficiencies consist of three sections:

1. Stick Control 25 points
2. Sight Reading 25 points
3. Prepared Solo 50 points

- d. Melody Percussion Proficiencies consist of three sections:

1. Scales and/or Four Mallet
Chord Progressions 25 points
2. Sight Reading 25 points

- 3. Prepared Solo 50 points
- e. Timpani Proficiencies consist of three sections:
 - 1. Sight Reading 25 points
 - 2. Prepared Etude 25 points (Proficiency III Students must prepare both Etudes I and II)
 - 3. Prepared Solo 50 points
- f. Mixed percussion soloists must play proficiency requirements 1 and 2 on either snare, mallets, or tympani.

2. Scales:

(Note: these appear on the following pages) The student must be prepared to play the scales listed for his/her instrument in the rhythm and tempo indicated. Scales must be memorized. Articulations for winds will be all slurred or all tongued. Strings use bowings on String Proficiency page. Melody percussion only roll the last note.

3. Piano Invention or Fugue: (Piano Solo events only)

The piano invention or fugue does not have to be memorized. The adjudicator's copy of the Bach Selection will be provided by the State Association. Piano entries play the scale and arpeggio as a unit and are rated on them as one item.

4. Prepared Solo

- a. The student may prepare a solo of any length, but not less than two minutes or no rating will be given, and the judge shall have the right to start and stop the student in the solo as he/she desires. The judge must be furnished an ORIGINAL (*), numbered copy of the solo, other than the one used by the student, for adjudication. Remember, no ORIGINAL (*) numbered score, no rating.

The solo which the student performs in the Proficiency Examination need not be the same solo used for qualification in the District Festival.

5. Sight Reading

- a. Sight reading is to be prepared by a designated committee appointed by the President of Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association.
- b. Sight reading shall be graded according to the Proficiency level.
- c. Sixty seconds will be allowed for study of proficiency sight reading. Following this, the student shall begin to play.
- d. Proficiency sight reading will be waived for all blind or visually impaired entrants as determined by their director. Full credit will be given.

6. Percussionists

- a. The entry fees for Percussion Proficiencies (and Piano) are higher because the examinations are longer.
- b. No equipment will be provided for the Percussion Proficiency Examinations.
- c. Stick Control proficiency rudiments are not cumulative. Rudiments must be performed slow-fast-slow at a consistent volume.

7. Miscellaneous

- a. Each examination is allowed a total of 12 minutes, 5 minutes for solo and 5 minutes for scales and sight reading (and Inventions and Fugues). (Piano and Percussion proficiencies are allowed a total of 16 minutes.) The breakdown of time is left to the discretion of the adjudicator, however, he/she must hear five scales or five stick control rudiments and the sight reading in addition to the solo. Generally, the solo is played first, to allow the accompanist to leave. However, adjudicators will give the students their choice of the playing order of the proficiency items or sections. In each event the adjudicator is allowed two minutes in the schedule to complete the written and/or oral comments.
- b. A total of 85 points is required for successfully passing any proficiency examination provided all sections have been attempted.
- c. A Proficiency Certificate which can be completed by the music director will be issued with each rating sheet bearing a passing score