

**HOWARD COUNTY
SECONDARY SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL**

FESTIVAL GUIDELINES

ELIGIBILITY

Participants must be members of the music program in their school. Local private school students may be included in the festival with scheduling priority given to students of Howard County Public School System first.

MUSIC CLASSIFICATION

Participants may enter the festival on six grade levels designated according to music difficulty:

- 1 - Easy
- 2 - Moderately Easy
- 3 - Average
- 4 - Moderately Difficult
- 5 - Difficult
- 6 - Very Difficult

ENTRANCE LIMITATIONS

Schools may enter unlimited solo and ensemble events. However, each student is limited to a **maximum of three (3) events**. **This includes students who are also serving as accompanists.**

MUSIC REQUIREMENTS

Participants should perform music from the MBDA/MODA/MCEA/NYSSMA State Music Lists. Students may perform appropriate music that is not on the list, but they will receive comments only from the adjudicator and therefore be ineligible to perform at the MMEA State Solo and Ensemble Festival.

OTHER REQUIREMENTS

- Participants must provide an original copy of music for the adjudicator.
- A complete measure-numbered score for each ensemble or a measure-numbered original of the solo must be provided for the adjudicator.
- All solos must be accompanied by piano unless the music is specifically written to be performed unaccompanied.
- No ensemble, sextet or smaller, may be directed by the director/teacher.
- In all ensemble events, all music must be performed by students. There can be no missing parts, players, or substitutions with adult performers.

Failure to meet the above requirements will result in the final rating being lowered by one number, however the student will still receive a certificate and valuable feedback from the adjudicator.

TIME LIMITS

A maximum of ten (10) minutes for events will be allowed. This includes entering and leaving the adjudication room, warming-up, performing (including scales for soloists), and comments given by the adjudicator. In works that are more than ten (10) minutes, the adjudicator will determine the cuts. However, large ensembles (6 students or more) will be allotted twenty (20) minutes to allow for additional set-up required.

PERFORMANCE RATINGS

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| I. Superior | The best possible performance. This rating might be compared to a percentage of 96 - 100. |
| II. Excellent | A performance of distinctive quality but not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects in performance. This rating might be compared to a percentage of 90 - 95. |
| III. Average | A performance showing some accomplishment and promise but lacking essential musical qualities. This rating might be compared to a percentage of 80 - 89. |
| IV. Fair | A performance that is weak and uncertain. This rating might be comparable to a percentage of 74 - 79. |
| V. Poor | A performance that reveals a lack of preparedness and musical understanding. |

Where the director or teacher desires, the entrant(s) may perform for a “Comments Only” category at the District Festival only. There will be no rating given nor will entrants qualify for participation at the State level.

Only those soloists or ensembles who receive a Superior (I) rating at the District Festival on music that is level 2 through 6 are eligible to participate at the State Solo and Ensemble Festival. Performers may change their performance music for the State festival but it must be at the same difficulty level or higher. No substitutions of personnel will be allowed. **The person or persons who qualify at the district level must be the same person or persons who perform at the state level.**

SCALE PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

Students performing instrumental solos (except snare drum and timpani) must perform one chromatic scale and one major scale appropriate for their instrument and music difficulty level. The adjudicator may select one of the following major scales: C, G, D, A, E, F, B flat, E flat, or A flat. (A flat and E major scales are not required of string students.) Scales are to be performed ascending and descending, evenly and smoothly in a 16th note pattern at a metronome speed of a quarter note = 72. The scales may be performed before or after the solo, and will be included in the adjudicator’s final rating.