

August 2019

Dear Parents,

Your child has expressed an interest in participating in Solo/Ensemble Festival. Each year the Georgia Music Educators Association sponsors Solo/Ensemble Festival. This event is designed to give students the experience of performing alone or in small groups for a judge and receiving a rating.

When students are properly prepared, Solo/Ensemble Festival can be one of the most rewarding and educational experiences offered during the year. At the same time, if not handled correctly, it can be an unnerving, uneducational exercise in futility that can do more harm than good.

To insure that our students have a beneficial experience, we are establishing the following guidelines for participation in Solo/Ensemble Festival. Please bear in mind that all of these guidelines are designed to make the experience more meaningful for our students. Make sure that your child is aware of these rules.

GENERAL RULES:

1. Students may participate in no more than 2 events (either one solo and one ensemble or two ensembles). There is simply not enough time to adequately prepare for more than 2.
2. Students are expected to take Solo/Ensemble Festival just as seriously as Large Group Performance Evaluation. To perform at a level to be proud of, it will take many more than a couple of rehearsals. We will have to reserve the right to cancel, at any time, any event which has not made the adequate preparation.

SPECIFIC RULES--SOLOS:

1. Playing a solo requires individual attention with the student by a qualified private teacher. We simply do not have time to coach ensembles and provide private instruction for soloists. Therefore, any student desiring to play a solo must be taking private lessons.
2. Ninety-nine percent of all solos require a piano accompaniment. Students are expected to make every effort to secure an adequate pianist (NOTE: payment is customary; rates vary with each pianist). Finding a GOOD pianist is vital to the success of your solo. In most cases, the average middle school age pianist is not far along to do a good job, depending on the person and the music. If the student cannot find an adequate accompanist, he/she should notify us immediately and we will do our best to help find someone. Find an accompanist soon -- the good players fill up quickly. You should tell your accompanist when you ask them to play that you will need the following amount of time with them:
 - A. Of course the festival date: November 9th, Brown Middle School. (Exact performance time TBA)

B. At least 3 rehearsals with pianist at you and your accompanist's convenience, with at least one of these with your private lesson teacher.

3. You will need to have your private teacher help you find a solo that best suits your playing ability.

SPECIFIC RULES-- ENSEMBLES

1. Since ensembles are a group effort involving several students, we will set up a weekly schedule for ensemble coaching sessions. Students do not have to be studying privately to participate in an ensemble.
2. Ensembles will be formed based on student's preferences AND practicality. It is, of course, enjoyable for friends to join together and form ensembles. Since ensembles involve only a few people, each member is vitally important. Groups that consistently have someone absent from coaching sessions can expect to have their ensemble cancelled!
3. Have your group approach us for ensemble music options.

DATES, DEADLINES, AND FEES:

1. The actual sight of the Festival – Brown Middle School, 765 Peoples Street SW Atlanta, GA 30310). The festival will take place on November 9th. Exact performance times will be submitted to our school 2 weeks prior to the festival. Therefore, do not plan anything else on that date from 8:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. since we have no idea at this point when we will be scheduled. We will tell you exact performance times as soon as we receive them.
2. Fees, as dictated by GMEA, are as follows:
Solos.....\$12.00
Ensembles....\$12.00 per ensemble (everyone in the group will pay towards the \$12.00 and only 1 parent pay online)
Please pay all fees on-line through OSP by the deadline below.
3. **ALL FEES MUST BE PAID BY SEPTEMBER 3RD.** This is an absolute iron-clad deadline since we have to mail in all applications on time for them to be accepted.

Solo/Ensemble Registration

Student's Name

Check the following that apply to you:

____ YES, I wish to participate in Solo/Ensemble Festival. I am aware of the requirements and agree to adhere to them. I wish to take part in:

____ SOLO (_____)
Private teacher's name

____ ENSEMBLE: Type of ensemble _____
For example: flute, clarinet duet)

Names of other students in
ensemble _____

____ ENSEMBLE: Type of ensemble _____

Names of other students in
ensemble _____

I have read the enclosed guidelines, and my child has my permission to participate in Solo-Ensemble Festival.

Parent's Signature

I am paying \$_____ participation fee. (\$12.00 per ensemble and or \$12.00 per solo.)