



NEBRASKA SCHOOL ACTIVITIES ASSOCIATION
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TO: Nebraska Music Educators
FROM: Bud Dahlstrom, Assistant Director
SUBJECT: 2012 District Music Contests
DATE: January 24, 2012

Winter still has a grip on most of us but spring will come and with it NSAA District Music contests across the state. This year there are no major changes for district music contest. This gives us all time to review the most recent additions to our process and help others with less experience view some of the necessary points of preparation for this annual event.

Changes the past two years include:

- The NSAA bylaw regarding the use of illegally photocopied music along with the numbering of measures on adjudicators' scores requirement and penalty was modified.
- The "Outstanding Performance Award" was launched statewide for solos or small ensembles.
- The large vocal ensemble "Madrigal" was modified to "Madrigal/Chamber Choir" to avoid lowered ratings because of stylistic conflicts with these two vocal ensembles.
- Music deemed to be in the "Public Domain" is allowed to be photocopied for contest providing documentation is attached providing confirmation of that free-to-use status.
- The large vocal ensemble "Mixed Chorus" definition for non-coed or single gender high schools may now be comprised of only one gender of students and when entered as "Mixed Chorus" will be adjudicated with the longer time limit and by three judges.

Those most recent changes are highlighted in more detail below with information taken from the 2011-12 NSAA Music Manual and other supplemental materials. Please address any questions you may have to your district music coordinator or to me at the NSAA office.

The NSAA District Music Contests are held and managed at the district level. However, all NSAA District Music Contests are to be conducted according to NSAA Bylaws. Article 7--7.1.1 through 7.9.1 in the NSAA Yearbook contains the bylaws by which all NSAA District Music Contests are to be conducted. There should be no exceptions to these regulations, and if there are any questions concerning the interpretation of the wording, the NSAA office should be contacted for that interpretation. Please study carefully the Bylaws, Approved Rulings and recent changes to existing Bylaws.

DISTRICT CONTEST ENTRY FORM (www.nsaahome.org)

To use the on-line music contest entry form the School Activities Director must input a school's **music student eligibility list** into the NSAA Website by the **deadline** every year which is **February 20**.

The NSAA electronic entry form is used exclusively for all entries via the NSAA Web site. The deadline for all District Music Contest Entries is midnight Central Time on Tuesday, March 20.

School music directors access their District Contest entry forms through their personal NSAA Web-page. They log in through the **Login** link under **AD's/Coaches/Colleges** by selecting their school and entering their personal passcode which may be obtained or created with assistance from the School's Activities/Athletic Director or by calling the NSAA office at 402-489-0386. **Each school or cooperative school unit will complete only 1 on-line entry.** The **entry form** can be completed over a period of days or weeks in advance of the submission **deadline** which is the same every year, **March 20**. Instructions for completing each school's on-line entry are contained in the form and the total number of entries and applicable fees are figured automatically as the form is constructed. Detailed information for completing the entry form can be found on page 7 of the current NSAA Music Manual.

PERMISSION TO ARRANGE & OUT OF PRINT MUSIC FORMS

The "Request for Permission to Arrange" and the "Inquiry Form for out of Print Music" documents are posted on the NSAA Website Music Homepage. This allows easy access to these Copyright Infringement Release documents. You just print and submit these to music publishers in order to secure permission for the purposes indicated on the forms. Go to www.nsaahome.org and click on **Music**. The forms are then accessible on this page. See the following pages for more details.

NSAA MUSIC MANUAL AND ADJUDICATORS' LIST

The current year's NSAA Music Manual and list of music contest adjudicators is available through a link on each music director's personal page. Regarding the music adjudicators' list, judges may be employed who are not on this list, but they are asked to complete the on-line judges' application form in the Music section of the NSAA website and email us the form as an attachment.

NSAA DISTRICT MUSIC COORDINATOR

Each of the six NSAA Geographical Districts designates a District Music Coordinator to represent that district's music committee which is appointed annually by the NSAA District Managing Committee. The District Music Coordinator is responsible for the administration of district music contests within their district and represents the music committee on the State Music Advisory Committee which meets once every year with the NSAA staff in Lincoln.

DISTRICT CONTEST ENTRY FEES

The entry fee for NSAA District Music Contests is established by the NSAA District Managing Committee for each district. If required by the contest host site, schools need to submit their appropriate contest fees to the designated address on the entry form immediately after the March 20 deadline.

Recent NSAA Music Bylaws with Approved Rulings

7.7.5 Large Ensembles.

7.7.5.1 Large groups shall be bands, orchestras, *mixed choruses, madrigals/chamber choirs, jazz choirs, show choirs, and men's/women's choruses and jazz bands. Each NSAA District Music Coordinator will determine the number of Large Ensemble entries allowed in each District Music Contest.

The term **Mixed Chorus in the Large Ensembles category shall not mean the requirement exists for both genders of students to be included for those schools comprised of a single gender only (non-coed schools).*

7.7.9 Time Limits.

All events shall be limited in time as follows. These time limits include time for preparation on stage, tuning, playing, and exit. Time between numbers is included in the time of performance. Any performance violating these time limits will receive a rating which has been lowered one Division.

Class AA	Class A	Classes B, C, D
Band or Orchestras 25	Band or Orchestras 25	Band or Orchestras 22
*Mixed Chorus 18	*Mixed Chorus 18	*Mixed Chorus 15
Jazz Band 20	Jazz Band 20	Jazz Band 20
Show Choir 20	Show Choir 20	Show Choir 20
Men's/Women's Chorus 12	Men's/Women's Chorus 12	Men's/Women's Chorus 12
Madrigal/Chamber Choir 12	Madrigal/Chamber Choir 12	Madrigal/Chamber Choir 12
Jazz Choir 15	Jazz Choir 15	Jazz Choir 15

ALL CLASSES

Small Ensembles: All Classes 6

Solo Events: All Classes 6

The term **Mixed Chorus in the Large Ensembles category shall not mean the requirement exists for both genders of students to be included for those schools comprised of a single gender only (non-coed schools).*

7.7.10

Scores.

It is strongly recommended that the measures be numbered for all scores provided to adjudicators. **Performers or their accompanists using illegally copied music will not be allowed to perform.**

- (a) Solo and Small Ensemble Scores. The performer shall provide the judge with an original score for each solo and small ensemble entry. Proof of a second original score must also be presented for the accompanist and for the performer (if the performance is not memorized).
- (b) Large Ensemble Scores. With the exception of show choirs only, the director shall furnish the judges of large ensembles with one original score for each selection for each judge, (three sets of scores for three judges). Show Choir directors assume responsibility for the legality of the musical arrangements performed.

NSAA Approved Ruling for 7.7.10

For all District Music Contest performances, judges presented with or observing photocopied sheet music without required permissive documentation shall deem the music as illegally copied and shall not allow the performance to begin, continue, or be critiqued and rated.

Point of Emphasis: U.S. COPYRIGHT LAW & NSAA DISTRICT MUSIC CONTEST

For a consistent interpretation of the law, this document serves as a guideline as music directors/students approach contest performances.

If any performance uses photocopied music that does not have documentation authorizing the reproduction, the performance is not allowed to begin, if begun-the performance is to be stopped immediately, if completed-no comments or rating is to be provided due to the use of illegally copied music.

The adjudicator may be the only person who sees the score provided for them or the music used by the performer(s). Using illegally photocopied music is a Federal Crime and constitutes theft from musicians.

The student/accompanist/adjudicator should be provided with a legally printed, copyrighted, published edition. There is no possible violation if this is done. **HOWEVER**, when this cannot be done, the director has several options. Judges are instructed to accept, **as a legitimate score, any of the following:**

1. A copied score with an attached, signed statement from a music supply house stating that the music is on order and will be delivered and paid for upon its arrival. This order **SHOULD BE** initiated at least 60 days prior to the contest date.
2. A copied score with an attached, signed statement from the publishing company or composer, verifying permission is granted for the duplication/arrangement being used. (The NSAA website has “*Permission to Arrange*” and “*Permission to Perform Out-of-Print Music*” forms available.)
3. Original Composition. This must contain a statement from the composer granting permission to perform and/or duplicate.
4. *Public domain compositions should only be used if proof of public domain is included from a legitimate source. A legitimate source is a tangible copy (original or photocopied from a reliable source) of the work with a copyright date (usually on the first page) old enough to be in the public domain. If you do not do your own research and obtain a legitimate public domain copy of each work you use, you can make errors which could result in your having to pay substantial royalties.

**In the U.S.—a copyright notice of 1922 or earlier is in the public domain*

**Outside of the U.S.-each individual country’s copyright law determines when you can use the work*

5. Transposition. Transposition of **vocal solo or ensemble literature** not available in the needed key is permissible provided the student/director supply a copy of the original arrangement from which the transposition was made.
6. Reductions for instrumental ensembles: A director **must** construct a reduced score for instrumental ensembles for which no conductor's score is available.
7. Accompanists may play from duplicated music in a binder provided they give the adjudicator **TWO** legitimate copies of the score.

Keep in mind that **ANY AND ALL** arrangements, other than legitimate scores, must have a "*Permission to Arrange*" form attached granting approval. Directors **cannot** rewrite parts to accommodate a specific solo or ensemble without granted permission.

8. Numbered Measures. The requirement to number measures of original scores provided to adjudicators has been dropped. This earlier bylaw requirement was not being enforced consistently to justify lowering the rating of the performance. Nevertheless, adjudicators can make more specific comments concerning performances if the precise measure being referenced is easily identified. It is within the right of the judge(s) to ask the performer(s) to number the measures of the score and return to perform when this is accomplished.

IT IS THE SCHOOL MUSIC DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITY TO COMMUNICATE THESE RULES TO STUDENT PERFORMERS AND PLAN AHEAD ACCORDINGLY.

APPROVED RULINGS

Awards

4. Outstanding Performance Award:

Purpose: This award is designed to recognize the top performers at District Music Contest in the soloist and small ensemble categories. These are the students who go above and beyond the standard of a Superior rating in skill and musicianship.

Process of Selection:

- ✦ This award will only be given to soloists and small ensembles (up to 24 members) that are adjudicated by a single judge. (Large ensembles adjudicated by a panel of judges will not be eligible.)
- ✦ Only one performance *per judge* will receive this award regardless of the number and types of entries in that room.
- ✦ Each adjudicator will be given the opportunity to designate one performance as an "Outstanding Performance". They may also nominate up to two additional performances as "Honorable Mention" in addition to the Outstanding Performance.
- ✦ Judges do not have to select an Outstanding Performance unless they have given a perfect score on the contest ballot.
- ✦ This award can be given to any instrument or voice category, class size or grade level of performer.
- ✦ Forms will be given to each judge to assist them in selecting and then reporting this award.
- ✦ The recipients of the Outstanding Performance and Honorable Mention Awards will be presented specially designed certificates in recognition of their performances.

Important Reminders:

- ◆ **The deadline for submitting music contest on-line entries is March 20.** One entry form for each school or school cooperative unit is required. The forms are designed to be completed by the music department directors of the school, not the AD's secretary.
- ◆ Post-deadline individual contest entry additions are allowed only with the contest site directors' approval and a \$50 processing fee per change in addition to your site's regular contest fee for that entry type.

The following excerpt from the NSAA Yearbook and Music Manual is the reference for the above regulations.

7.6.2.1 **Date Due.** The entries to the District Contest must be submitted online via the NSAA Website by Midnight Central Time, March 20 prior to the contest. No late entries are permitted.

NSAA Approved Ruling for 7.6.2.1

- 1) Due to the transition to the electronic submittal of District Music Contest entries, no hard copy entry forms will be accepted. All schools must complete and submit their District Music Contest entries electronically no later than midnight Central time, March 20, prior to their contests.*
- 2) Any school that does not submit the electronic entry by the deadline will be notified by the NSAA and given two school days to submit their electronic form. A \$500 late administrative fee will be paid to the NSAA in addition to regular District Contest fees for the late entry to be allowed within this two-day period.*
- 3) A school may substitute personnel for existing legal entries up until the scheduled performance of that entry, for example student B may replace student A in a Trumpet solo entry or vocal duet entry or string quartet entry, which will not require making a change to the contest schedule.*
- 4) Schools may make additions to their contest entries after the entry deadline with permission from their contest site director, providing they do not exceed the legal number of entries for their class. A \$50 administrative fee will be paid by the requesting school to the contest site for each added entry.*

7.6.2.2 **Entry Fees.** The District Music Committee shall determine the entry fees for District Music Contests. All fees for the District Music Contest shall be submitted according to each district's requirements immediately after the March 20 deadline. An additional charge may be made for schools from outside the district.

NSAA Approved Ruling for 7.6.2.2

Due to the transition to the electronic submittal of District Music Contest entries, payment for contest entry fees must be sent to the contest site address specified on the electronic entry submission acknowledgement immediately after the March 20 deadline, unless payment is required at a different time by the host director or NSAA district involved. Schools will not be allowed to participate at the district music contest until the designated district host receives the required fees.

- ◆ The new Outstanding Performance/Honorable Mention Award certificates will be completed and printed by each contest host site or at a location as determined by your NSAA Music Coordinator.

All the best to you and your students at the 2012 NSAA District Music contest!