



**October 4, 2021**

**Letter to the membership:**

The NMEA board, in light of the current Covid pandemic, have found it necessary to make changes in the numbers of selected students for All-State ensembles. The decision for these changes is based on mitigation policy guidance from Lancaster County and University of Nebraska - Lincoln.

The following changes will be implemented for this year's All-State ensemble experience:

**Choir** - reduction of selected singers due to limitations of safe spacing in the rehearsal space of Kimball Hall. Choir members will be masked in rehearsal and in concert.

**Orchestra** - change from full orchestra with winds and percussion to a strings only ensemble to allow for safe spacing in Westbrook 132. Orchestra members will be masked in rehearsals and concert.

**Band** - Placement for chairs will be determined by ranking of recorded audition only. The number of winds and percussion selected for the concert band will be comparable to previous years. Since there will be no winds or percussion placed in the orchestra, this means the overall number of winds and percussion selected for the All-State ensembles will be reduced from previous years. Band members will be masked when not playing in rehearsal and will have bell covers on their instruments.

**Jazz Band** - no changes due to the small number of students in this group. Jazz band members will be masked when not playing in rehearsal and will have bell covers on their instruments.

**Children's Choir** - reduction of selected singers due to limitations of safe spacing in the rehearsal space of Kimball Hall. Students will be masked in rehearsal and in concert.

A revised schedule will be emailed at a later date. Thank you for your understanding in this matter.

Sincerely,  
Evan Lee, President  
Nebraska Music Education Association