

NMEA All-State Audition Discussion Forum

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Norms

- End on time (7:00pm)
- Keep the discussion moving
 - The board has not met since auditions – I will bring comments & concerns to the board
 - NOTE: This meeting is all based on the High School ensembles
- Advocate for your students' needs!
 - Be sure to put the best for your students and their growth front of mind

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Numbers

- Band
 - Applications received: 601 (578 in 2021)
 - Auditions completed: 482 (443)
 - Students placed: 201 (40 in Orchestra)
- Chorus
 - Applications received: 1,507 (1,657 in 2021)
 - Auditions completed: 1,324 (1,421)
 - Students placed: 440
- Jazz Band
 - Applications received: 82 (72 in 2021)
 - Auditions completed: 68 (60)
 - Students placed: 19
- Orchestra (strings)
 - Applications received: 205 (210 in 2021)
 - Auditions completed: 187 (173)
 - Students placed: 86

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Totals

- Total Applications: 2,395
 - 2,518 in 2021, 1,945 in 2020, 3,001 in 2019
 - Schools participating: 174 (162 in 2021)
- Completed Auditions: 2,061
 - 2,097 in 2021, 2,484 in 2019
 - Percentage placed: 36% (27% in 2021, 31% in 2019)

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What do these numbers tell us?

- Compared to last year, Chorus had a major drop-off in applications but a more modest drop-off in completed auditions. All other ensembles essentially increased participation
- Significantly more schools participated as well!
- We are still well behind pre-COVID numbers

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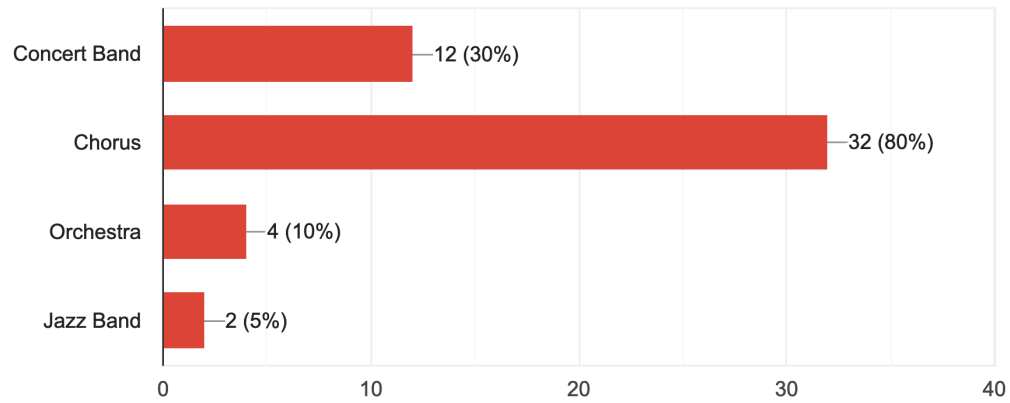
Survey Results

Google Form sent out to members – full response data included in Online Resources accessible via QR code later

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Which ensemble(s) do you represent? (check all that apply)

40 responses

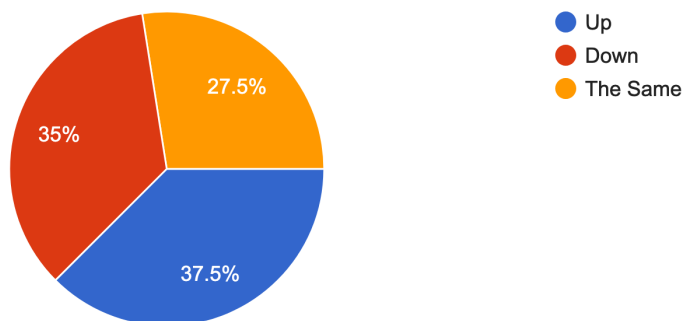


40 total responses

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Is the amount of completed auditions from your school up or down compared to the previous year?

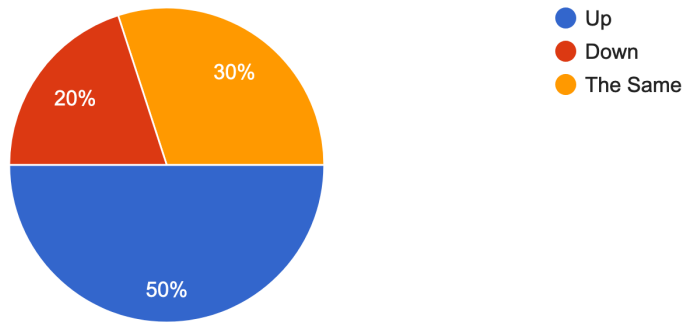
40 responses



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Is the amount of placed students (alternate included) up or down compared to the previous year?

40 responses



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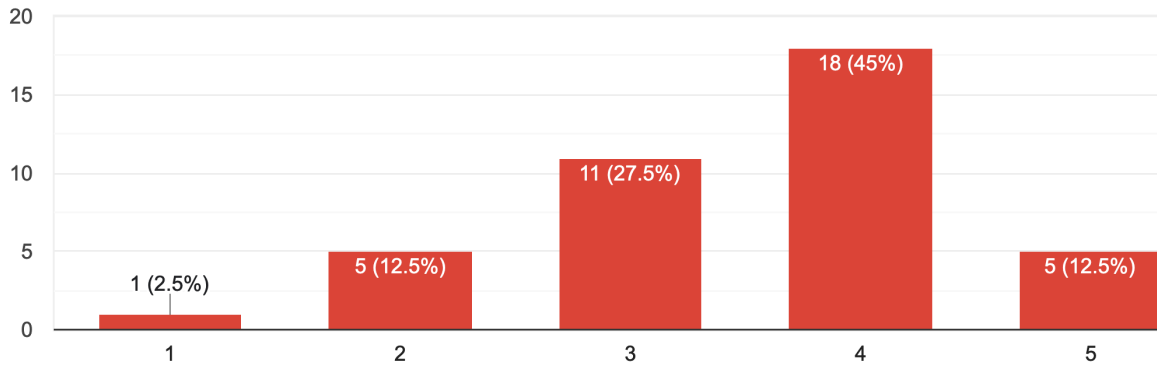
The elephant in the room...

Five separate comments mentioned sight-singing in the choral audition when attributing reasons to a significant shift in their school's participation

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I find it easy to get a high quality recording of my student through OpusEvent

40 responses



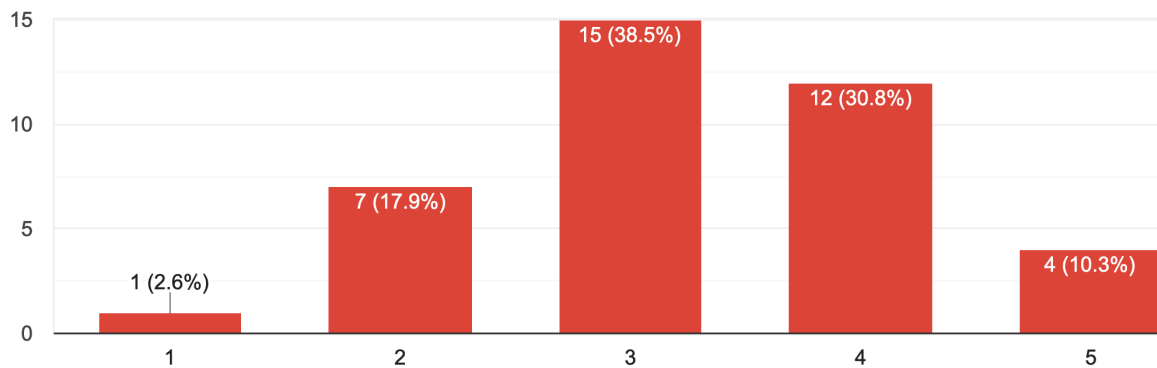
1 = Strongly Disagree | 5 = Strongly Agree

All OpusEvent and NMEA resource questions essentially followed this pattern EXCEPT...

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I would recommend other states use OpusEvent for their All-State Ensembles

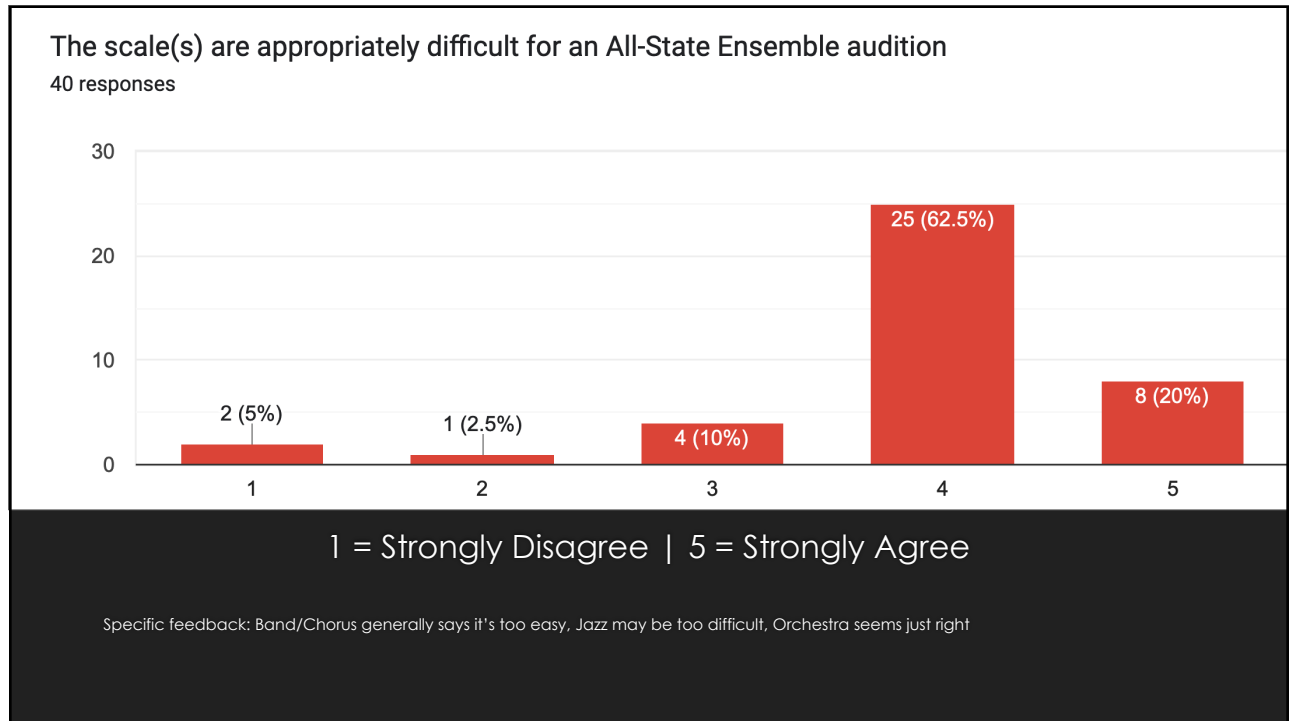
39 responses



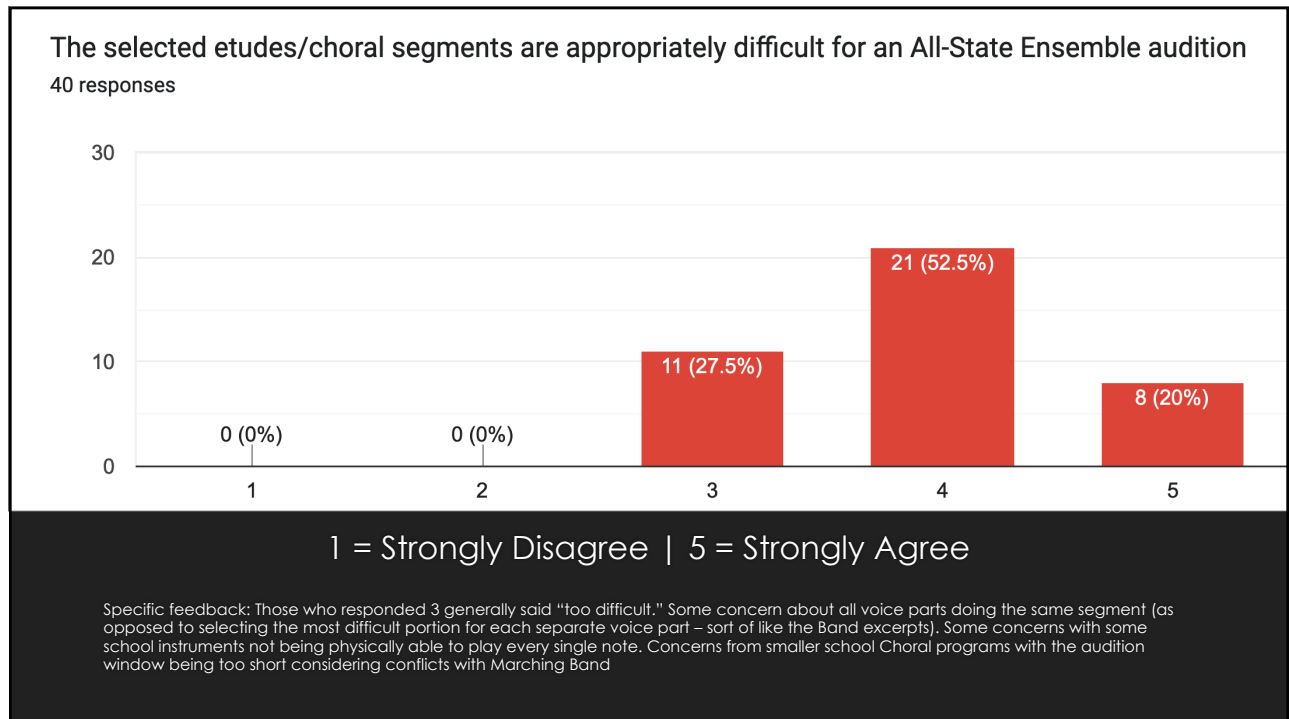
1 = Strongly Disagree | 5 = Strongly Agree

Specific feedback: "It's clunky," customer service should be available on the Saturday of auditions, "Opus is just glitchy enough to be annoying," popping/crackling with higher-end microphones

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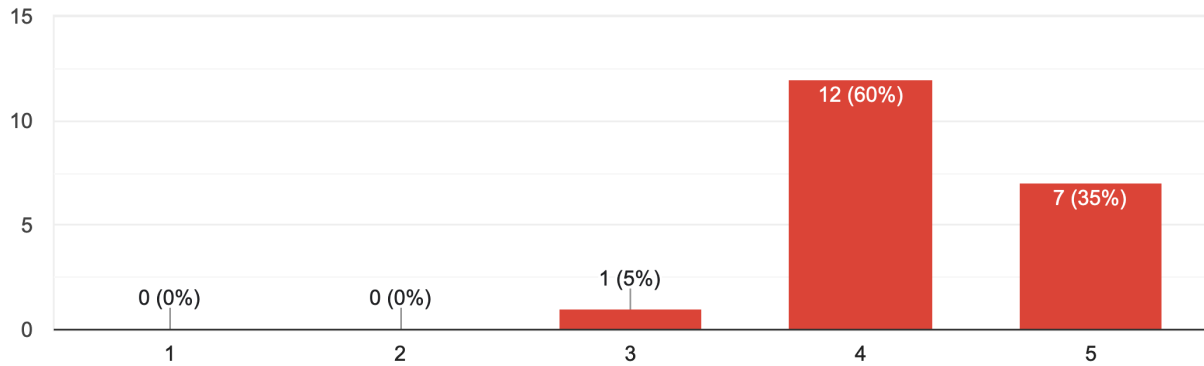
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The excerpts from the All-State music (Concert Band and Orchestra only) are appropriately difficult for an All-State Ensemble audition

20 responses



1 = Strongly Disagree | 5 = Strongly Agree

Specific feedback: Consider orchestral wind parts for Band audition as well

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Other feedback

○ NMEA Website

- More intuitive layout – "one stop shop" and fewer clicks needed
- Consistency of information across the board – too many miscommunications (manuals especially)
- Easier access to judging rubric & placement processes
- Band audition etude music available as a PDF download?

○ Ensemble Placement

- What should our All-State Chorus be, really? Should we as an organization offer a "true" Honors group (i.e. – the top auditions make the chorus, period)? What are the merits of the current "Regional" group? *Is it feasible and/or a good idea to offer both??*
 - To that end, should every discipline follow the same procedure?
- Do we want to release Choral student names of who were "quota-ed" out?

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Thank you!

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[Online resources](#)

