

DEADLINE FOR TURNING IN FORMS AND MONEY: THURSDAY, OCT. 27th!

**WATERFORD KETTERING HIGH SCHOOL BANDS
DISTRICT 4 SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL INFORMATION**

FESTIVAL DATES: Friday, January 13, 2017

AND Saturday, January 14, 2017

Brighton High School, Brighton, MI

Dear WK Band Students and Parents,

This letter is to invite and encourage Kettering High School students to participate in this year's District 4 Solo & Ensemble Festival. This is an event sponsored by the Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association (MSBOA) and is designed to help instrumental students improve and to get constructive educational comments from a professional adjudicator. The students may enter as a soloist and/or in a small ensemble (duet, trio, quartet, etc.) in a maximum of **three events** and **two chamber ensembles** (a Chamber Ensemble is a group of 9 or more players). The event will be held on **Friday, January 13, 2017 and Saturday, January 14, 2017**.

Students will be rated and awarded one of the following Divisions:

Division I (Superior); Division II (Excellent); Division III (Good); Division IV (Fair); and Division V (Poor). Students who earn a Division I or II will be eligible to receive a medal, which will be given at the festival (there is no charge for the medal).

Students who participate will receive extra-credit in class and given points for the awards program. In addition, those who receive a Division I rating will have the opportunity to play at State Solo & Ensemble (Saturday, 3/18/17) and possibly on a student recital, if we set one up this year. We feel many of the students would benefit from working in a small ensemble, and are capable of doing an excellent job. The music should be of a "classical" or "symphonic" nature, not from "pop" tunes or show tunes. S & E is largely for students to prepare pieces **on their own** as an **independent project**. However, I will help the students select their music if needed, and I am willing to help the student(s) prepare their music also. Students who would like our help will need to be able to meet with me outside the school day. All students will need to play their piece for me at least once before the festival to show their progress.

Please consider this opportunity, and decide if you are going to participate. Detailed information is attached on the following sheet. Please note: Since most solos have a piano accompaniment, it will be your responsibility to find one and to pay them for their services. If there is a piano part written into your music, it is NOT an option to skip the piano part!! The S & E Registration Form must be filled out and returned **ALONG WITH PAYMENT** to Mr. Adkins by **THURSDAY, OCTOBER 27, 2016, at the time of their class**. Last-minute adding IS NOT POSSIBLE. Please contact me if you have any questions. Mr. Adkins can be reached at 248-673-1261 x906 or email at AdkinR01@wsdmi.org.

Sincerely,
Mr. Adkins, Director of Bands



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SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Important Dates

Deadline for entry: **Thursday, October 27, 2016**

Dates of Festival: **Friday, January 13, 2017 & Saturday, January 14, 2017**

Cost to perform

Solo w/your own accompanist	\$10.00 (you must pay your own piano player)
Piano Solo	\$18.00
Duet	\$10.00 each person
Trio	\$10.00 each person
Quartet	\$10.00 each person
Quintet	\$10.00 each person
Sextet	\$10.00 each person
Septet	\$10.00 each person
Octet	\$10.00 each person
Chamber Ensemble	\$7.00 per student in the ensemble

NOTE: This is a **NON-refundable** fee, so **Please** be certain that you can participate before you pay!

Place (NOTE! IT IS AT A DIFFERENT SCHOOL THIS YEAR!!!)

Brighton High School will be hosting Solo & Ensemble Festival. Directions will be provided as we get closer to the Festival, or you can use a computer mapping site like mapquest.com or yahoo.com or others. The address:

7878 Brighton Rd, Brighton, MI 48116 **NOTE:** It is **NOT** at Hartland HS this year!

Other Information

1. Medals will be available **free of charge** at the Festival if you receive a Division I or II rating. There are no medals for Division III, IV, or V ratings.
2. If you are performing a solo that has a piano accompaniment in existence, you must find an accompanist. We will help if necessary, but we cannot provide nor pay for an accompanist for you.
 - a. Note: There are a rare few solos that are truly UNACCOMPANIED and will not require a piano accompanist. MAKE SURE of this, however! If there IS a piano part and you don't have one, this means DISQUALIFICATION and NO RATING.
3. You must find your own ride to the Festival.
4. There will be concession-type food available the day of the performance.

Important Information from the MSBOA Rule Book

1. The music must be a minimum of two (2) minutes long or no rating will be given.
2. You must *number each measure* of the score in your music for the judge. You must give the judge the SCORE (the part that has all parts listed) and this CANNOT be a photocopy...originals only! Otherwise, you are disqualified.
 - If you legally purchase the music online and print it yourself, you must PROVIDE PROOF (i.e., sales invoice) that it was bought legally. If it is public domain, provide proof.
3. Students must be in the warm-up room approximately 30 minutes before their scheduled playing time. The warm-up room is to be used for the purpose of tuning and briefly warming up the instrument.
4. All events are open to the public. The performance room cannot be cleared for any event (i.e., you can't tell anybody that they have to leave the room).
5. The host school and MSBOA cannot assume any responsibility for lost or stolen property and equipment. (Suggestion: keep money with you and leave nothing of value in any room).

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Festival Philosophy

Solo & Ensemble Festival is an activity sponsored by the Michigan School Band & Orchestra Association (MSBOA). MSBOA is a statewide organization that provides activities that promote music education and achievement through educational adjudication by certified judges. Solo & Ensemble Festival is an opportunity for students to perform one or more musical selections for a single judge, to receive a written evaluation, and sometimes, verbal comments. These comments will all address ways in which the student can improve their musical abilities. The Festival is organized such that students may select music that is at their individual performance level. It is an honor for a high school band or orchestra director to have a lot of his/her students participate in such a festival.

Music Selection Guidelines

Students can play a solo (with or without accompaniment—whatever the music specifies) and/or an ensemble. If a musical selection is published with an accompaniment (piano or other), it must be performed with this accompaniment, or no rating will be given (only written comments will be given). Students must perform a minimum of two minutes, or no rating will be given. To satisfy the minimum time requirement, you may play more than one piece, but this is not recommended. The maximum time allowed for a selection is six minutes—you may be asked to stop if the time goes over this. This will not negatively affect your rating--it is just a way to keep the Festival day on schedule.

The student must provide the judge with the **original score** (the part which shows piano and your part together for solos; or the part which shows all ensemble parts together). The score must have all its measures **numbered**. Due to copyright laws, you must provide the adjudicator with the original score (not a photocopy) **and** you might be asked to prove that you own or possess an original copy of your part as well (no photocopied parts should be used either). Students may use a copy of the original for their personal use and for the use of the accompanist (just be prepared to show that you do indeed own or possess the originals). Violations of any of the above rules will result in no rating being given.

If we can assist students in choosing musical selections that are appropriate for S & E Festival, let us know. As you are choosing your music, or as we help you select your music, the difficulty level of your music should stretch you a little bit and be within your capability to play an excellent complete musical performance. There are no extra points or credit given for an extremely hard piece that is partially learned, or one that you cannot play with all of the musical aspects required. If we do not have the right music in our files, we will make every effort to recommend appropriate music that you can purchase. Due to severe budget restrictions, however, we will most likely NOT be able to purchase music for students to use at S & E. Students are encouraged to purchase this music anyway (even if we DO have it in our library) to begin and develop their own personal music library. Here are 2 good sources of S & E music:

- **Stanton's Sheet Music 800/426-8742 www.stantons.com**
- **JW Pepper Company 800/345-6296 www.jwpepper.com**

Remember to find **appropriate** music for S & E Festival...music should be "classical" or "symphonic" in nature, because pop music and show tunes are not appropriate for this type of Festival.

Accompanists

If you are taking a piece of music that has a piano part (either a solo OR an ensemble), you **MUST** have an accompanist. Otherwise you will not receive a rating. Find an accompanist as soon as possible, get with them early!! It is NOT AN OPTION to just not have the piano part played with your solo. If you need help finding an accompanist, let us know.

Evaluation

Students are evaluated and then given a final rating ranging from "Division I" through "Division V." These ratings are basically equivalent to an overall grade of "A" for a Division I; "B" for Division II; "C" for Division III; "D" for Division IV; and "E" for Division V. Students who receive a Division I or II will receive a free medal of recognition which can be picked up soon after their rating has been posted (before they leave the Festival site). There is no 1st, 2nd, 3rd, or last place at S & E Festival...ALL students have the opportunity to receive a Division I rating if they work hard enough.

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Rehearsal Requirements

Students who choose to participate in Solo & Ensemble Festival (S & E participation is not required) are expected to play the piece for Mr. Adkins at least one time prior to the Festival. If you want some free help with your music, let me know. If you want to schedule more than one time to meet with a teacher, you are welcome to do so. We *strongly recommend*, however, that you find a **private lesson teacher** to help you with your music, as this will be the very best source of help. Let us know if you want help finding a good lessons teacher. Either way, we are here to help, so let us know how we can help you.

Mr. Adkins will invite you to perform your music IN YOUR BAND CLASS in mid-December or early January, just prior to the Festival. This will be an opportunity for you to play your music in a public setting before you play for the judge at the Festival. This is a perfect time to give your piece a try and it will help you to “get the jitters out.” It will also give you an opportunity to receive some written and verbal comments from a teacher before Festival.

Festival Location and Transportation

The S & E Festival will be at Brighton High School. We will probably not have exact information for you regarding your performance time until about mid-December before the Festival. **Remember, students are responsible for their own transportation (including transportation of their instrument—percussion also) to and from the Festival site. Whatever you do, DON'T LEAVE YOUR INSTRUMENT OR MUSIC LOCKED UP AT KETTERING ON FRIDAY NIGHT BEFORE THE FESTIVAL! TAKE IT HOME ON FRIDAY!!**

State Solo & Ensemble

If you get a Division I rating at District S & E Festival, you will automatically be eligible to go to State S & E Festival. The date for State is: **Saturday, March 18, 2017**. This Festival location is STONEY CREEK HIGH SCHOOL in ROCHESTER. It is a great honor to go to State, and we would encourage you to do so if you get a “I.” The decision has to be made right away after District S & E, however...forms for State are due the week after District...so let us know right away! **We may also set up a student recital for students going to State.**

Award Points

Everyone who goes to S & E Festival will receive points for **each** entered event at S & E in our *Kettering Bands Award Program* and those students will receive extra credit points in their band class as well. If you go to State, you will receive additional points for each event you take to State.

Opportunity to Play in District & State Honor Groups

As stated, students who go to District Solo & Ensemble and receive a Division One rating qualify for State Solo & Ensemble. Students who go to State Solo & Ensemble and receive a Division One rating are then eligible to be nominated for the District 4 Honor Band (the Festival is held each January). Students who play a solo at State S & E and receive a Division One on Proficiency III their senior year solo may qualify for the Michigan Youth Arts Festival All-State Honor Band or Orchestra. ***This is one of the greatest honors that can be achieved by a high school musician at Kettering—to perform in an All-State group!***

FROM THE DIRECTOR

I believe that student participation in the Solo & Ensemble process is the best indicator of the health of our program and of our groups. While we are here ready to help you prepare for S & E, this is largely a process of self-preparation for each student and it showcases their abilities and talents. I would love to see EVERY STUDENT PARTICIPATE! I realize that this is not possible or practical for everyone, though.

PLEASE do not underestimate the importance of Solo & Ensemble Festival to:

- YOU AS AN INDIVIDUAL***
- YOUR BAND PROGRAM***
- YOUR DIRECTOR***

When kids get involved in Solo & Ensemble, when they are enthusiastic about it, and when they are successful at it, we know that WE ARE ON THE RIGHT TRACK AS A BAND PROGRAM AT WATERFORD KETTERING!!