



## FACT SHEET

### New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Festivals

The **NYSSMA SOLO MUSIC FESTIVAL** is an annual music event in which music students in all grade levels perform a piece of prepared music for evaluation by a professional music educator. Students must play scales, sight read and perform a prepared solo selected from the official NYSSMA Manual (Levels 1-6) by a private or school music teacher. Students perform for an adjudicator who writes comments and gives a written rating such as "outstanding," "excellent," "good," etc. While even a score of 100% does not guarantee a seat in next year's All County or Long Island String (LISFA) Festivals, participation does qualify the student for consideration.

**All-STATE AUDITIONS** are attended by 10<sup>th</sup> and 11<sup>th</sup> grade students who are interested in being considered for participation in the All State music festival the following year. While even a score of 100% does not guarantee a seat in next year's All State Festival, participation does qualify the student for consideration. Students must be recommended by their school music teacher for this category of adjudication

Students registering for **PIANO NYSSMA** must work with a private teacher who is responsible for all aspects of preparation for and follow up after the adjudication date, including distribution of the rating sheets which can be obtained from the district's Arts Office (277-7045). The school district is responsible only for the submission of completed registration forms, and does not prepare certificates for students participating in PIANO NYSSMA.

Each performance takes approximately 15 minutes. There is no flexibility with the assigned day and time. If you do not make the scheduled time, you lose the slot. Parents must be available to transport and accompany their child at the NYSSMA site. Contact your child's music teacher to determine the location of your child's event.

Students receive their evaluation forms and grades from their school music teacher several weeks following the festival. All students will receive a certificate of participation prior to the end of the school year.

Parents must purchase 2 original copies of music as instructed by the private or school music teacher. Vocal students are required to have an accompanist or recording with portable player. Parents are responsible for arranging and paying for accompanists. All-State Instrumental and Vocal students are required to have an accompanist which is the parent responsibility.

The registration fee must accompany the enclosed registration form and be submitted to the Department of Fine & Performing Arts office by the indicated deadline.. There are no fees or applications accepted after the deadline and no refunds are given once the form and fee are submitted.

## **SHOULD I PARTICIPATE IN THIS SOLO MUSIC FESTIVAL?**

All NYSSMA Festivals are optional activities in which students elect to participate. Participation has no bearing on a student's grade, and, in fact, is not a choice made by all students. Students must be prepared to set aside several months for steady practice prior to the festival date in order to be fully prepared.

Students must be motivated to practice and to putting in extra effort to participate in NYSSMA in order to do their best. It is suggested that students have a private teacher to prepare. While it is not required that a student have private instruction, it is understood that because not all students participate, the school music teacher has limited time to devote to NYSSMA preparation. School lesson time cannot be devoted to NYSSMA preparation.

### **ADVANTAGES OF PARTICIPATING IN NYSSMA**

- A great sense of accomplishment that hard work pays off, plus a prepared solo on the instrument of choice.
- An opportunity for someone to listen to the student's musicianship and offer constructive help.
- A possible consideration for selected into the All County, Long Island String (LISFA) and All-State Music Festivals the following school year.
- Certificates are distributed at the end of the school year to all students who participate in the Solo Festival or All-State Auditions.

Please consider carefully all of the above as you and your child decide on whether or not to embark on this musical experience.

If you have any questions, consult your child's music teacher.