

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT



NYSSMA®

A State Unit of NAfME, National Association for Music Education

TO: NYSSMA® Membership
FROM: Edmund Chiarello, NYSSMA® 2nd Vice President
RE: **2 Important Announcements**
1. 2020 NYSSMA® "Virtual" All-State Concert
2. 2021 NYSSMA® "Virtual" Solo / Small Ensemble Festival Season
DATE: September 2020

ANNOUNCEMENT #1: INTRODUCING A 2020 "VIRTUAL" NYSSMA® ALL-STATE CONCERT

The status of all school programs this fall has been greatly affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. NYSSMA® is following the guidance from NYSED, NYSDOH, and the Governor and therefore not assembling selected All-State students to rehearse and perform.

While we cannot have the festival, we believe it is important to acknowledge the musical efforts of those students who applied by recognizing their acceptance into our prestigious ensembles. We anticipate that school districts, teachers, families, and friends will find a way to celebrate the accomplishments of making a NYSSMA® All-State Ensemble.

Additionally, NYSSMA® is planning to assemble the All-State ensembles in a virtual format to perform a 2020 Virtual All-State Concert. All 2020 selected All-State students representing each of the eight ensembles are being encouraged to participate. Students are receiving their All-State acceptance notifications this September and are required to respond accordingly. Similar to every year All-State Alternates will be notified if All-State selectees choose not to participate. Students and their teachers will be provided with directions detailing exactly how to prepare, perform, record, and then upload their file. The students will be recording themselves in an audio/visual format while performing a specifically selected repertoire piece. There will be digital guidelines provided as well as ensemble manager teachers to offer instruction and guidance in a virtual format. For the recording students will be able to listen to the composition while simultaneously recording their part. The artist selected to build the concert video is recognized for exceptional work in this medium. The culminating project will be a 2020 All-State Virtual Concert featuring all eight ensembles including the Treble Choir, Mixed Choir, String Orchestra, Symphony Orchestra, Wind Ensemble, Band, Instrumental Jazz Ensemble, and the Vocal Jazz Ensemble in performance. Each group will be featured separately performing the work they have prepared. The virtual concert will be scheduled for release via the NYSSMA® website later this school year.

All-State acceptance letters and alternate letters will be sent from the NYSSMA Office by the end of September. Congratulations to All-State 2020 students! We very much look forward to their Virtual All-State performance later on this school year

ANNOUNCEMENT #2: NYSSMA® SOLO & SMALL ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL SEASON 2021

NYSSMA® President David Brown has called upon the NYSSMA® Adjudication Festival Committee Chairperson George Smith to assemble a sub-committee with the charge of developing a plan for the Spring 2021 Solo / Small Ensemble Festival season. The committee continues to meet regularly and at this time the following can be reported:

Looking ahead to 2021, NYSSMA® has been researching, discussing, and developing plans to move forward with its 2021 Spring Solo / Small Ensemble Festival season. Normally solo / small ensemble festivals are held in schools and hundreds of students, including many from outside of the school and school district, perform. This past spring it was not possible for our solo/ small ensemble festivals to proceed in this manner due to the pandemic.

For the spring of 2021 NYSSMA® is working to produce a “Virtual” NYSSMA® Solo / Small Ensemble Festival Season. While we remain fully committed to the in-person evaluation experience we recognize that live performance is not an option for spring of 2021. The plans NYSSMA® is developing for a Spring 2021 “Virtual” Solo / Small Ensemble Festival season will therefore serve as a substitute.

The 2021 NYSSMA® Spring Festival Calendar that will appear in The School Music News and on the NYSSMA® website will be utilized and traditional deadline dates such as the closing of registration six weeks prior to the festival date will still apply. Repertoire selection, rules, and regulations will follow the current NYSSMA® Manual, Edition 32. Many of the details for the spring 2021 festival season are currently being worked out, however the basic elements of a traditional festival performance have been preserved:

- Teachers will recommend and encourage students to participate and assist in assigning appropriate repertoire to students. All students register through the school music teacher.
- School music teachers enter registrations for students, and collect payments.
- School music teacher receives the specific login credentials for the uploading of student work.
- Students utilize a smart phone, tablet, laptop, etc. to record an audio/visual recording performing their prepared solo.
- School music teacher provides URL to students to upload their work, and assists students where necessary.
- Student work to be uploaded includes scanned copy of the solo (copyright will not affect this requirement for this circumstance), as well as the performance of scales, solo, and sight reading. The scales assigned to each student and the sight reading will be provided by the platform at the time of the upload.
- Evaluations will be returned to students through their school music teacher.

There will be webinars provided for teachers and students detailing exactly how to proceed. Additionally, there will be printable instructions and guidelines to assist the process.

At this time, it is important for you to know that:

- No NYSSMA® Major Organization Festivals in the Spring of 2021: At the present time there is no safe platform available to provide a safe-distance performance experience therefore unless circumstances change there will be no NYSSMA® Major Organization Festivals for Spring, 2021.
- NYSSMA® will be running the full Solo / Small Ensemble Festival Season this Spring, 2021.

Please be patient as the information will be available in the coming weeks and months.