Stevenson High School Instrumental Music

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Music website: www.shsmusic.org

MSBOA Solo and Ensemble Festival

Saturday, February 6, 2027

Description

Every winter, students have the opportunity to perform as a soloist and/or as part of a small ensemble at the Michigan State Band and Orchestra Association's Solo and Ensemble Festival. The festival will be held at LIVONIA FRANKLIN HS this year. At this event, students perform a solo, a small ensemble piece, or both in front of a judge. Student receive a rating of I-V on their performance (I being Superior). Those students that receive a rating of I or II earn a medal. In addition, events that receive a I quality for State Solo and Ensemble in March. Students usually find the experience to be quite rewarding, even though it may be a little intimidating the first time. I highly encourage all students to participate in this festival.

Registration

Students interested in participating in Solo and Ensemble must register to attend the competition. Registration forms can be found on the music website (shsmusic.org) starting in October.

Registration Deadline: Wednesday, October 28th

Students can perform a solo on their band or orchestra instrument as well as on piano. Additionally, many students choose to participate as a member of an ensemble such as a duet, trio, or quartet. Whatever event a student chooses to prepare, a registration form must be completed and turned in to Mr. Alessandrini with the appropriate registration fees. These items should be placed in a sealed envelope and marked with the student's name and "Solo and Ensemble."

ALL Solos: $15 Ensemble: $10/member ($20 for a duet)
Chamber Ensembles: $75 (ensembles of 9-20 performers)

Music Selection

Students should have an idea of what music they are going to perform when the registration form is turned in; however, final selections are not due until mid-December. Music needs to be classical in nature. If you are unsure whether your music is appropriate, see Mr. Alessandrini with your music.

Suggested Timeline

October:
Determine if you want to participate, what type event(s) you want to perform, and with whom. If you choose to perform in an ensemble, make sure all individuals are responsible and willing to work as hard as necessary.

October 28th:
Turn in a completed registration form and all registration fees to Mr. Alessandrini in a sealed envelope labeled with your name and "Solo and Ensemble" on or before October 28th.

October-November:
Read through several pieces and determine the music you will perform. Private instructors are a good resource for suggesting music. If this is not possible, see Mr. Alessandrini for recommendations.

December:
Bring selected music to Mr. Alessandrini for approval. Remember that there must be a published score, containing all parts lined up, for the judge and that all parts of the ensemble must be covered and not doubled.

Practice your individual part to learn the notes and rhythms before attempting to rehearse with the entire ensemble or with your accompanist. PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE!

December-January:
Begin rehearsing with your ensemble members or accompanist. This is the time to work on musicality and ensemble playing. If you come to these rehearsals unprepared technically, you will be wasting you accompanist and/or your ensemble members' time.

February (week of Solo and Ensemble festival):
Performance for the S&E Clinic or class! Bring the judge's copy of your music and your personal copy for clinic or class performance. This is your last chance to double check that you have followed all the rules and regulations!

Saturday, February 6, 2026:
Solo and Ensemble Day!

Accompanists

Brandon Reeves	(734) 626-5245 – bdonreeves@gmail.com
Lori Porter	pianowonder@gmail.com
Karen Danke	(313) 937-327
Yaroslav Daniels	(734) 883-3437 - yarodaniels3@gmail.com
Marilyn Sluka	(734)464-7382
John Beresford	(248) 374-5971
Richard Schneider	(734) 502-9783
Tracey Conrad	tntconrad59@gmail.com

Students are responsible for contacting and communicating with an accompanist. Simply writing them on your registration will not make them appear in your performance room. Please contact them ASAP and include them on your registration so we can avoid accompanist overlap at the event, which slows down the whole day.

FAQ

Q: Who can participate?
A: All orchestra, wind ensemble, symphony band, and concert band members.

Q: How do I pick music?
A: Ask your private teacher, go to the music store, check online at jwpepper.com, or ask Mr. Alessandrini. Do not wait until the last minute to ask Mr. Alessandrini; the Stevenson Solo and Ensemble music library is limited and orders from music suppliers are often backlogged at festival time. Remember that you are performing for a judge and that pop tunes and movie theme songs are not appropriate. Mr. Alessandrini must approve all pieces by mid-December.

Q: Who helps me get ready?
A: The majority of work is done on your own. Private teachers love to work with you on your solos. If you need additional help, make an appointment with Mr. Alessandrini before or after school. The week before the festival all events must perform for their class or for the Solo and Ensemble clinic. This is a mandatory part of Solo and Ensemble. Meeting with Mr. Alessandrini will help avoid disqualification due to the misunderstanding of the rules.

Q: Do I have to have an accompanist?
A: If you music calls for a piano accompaniment, you MUST have an accompanist. If your music calls for piano accompaniment and you perform without it, you will NOT receive a rating. Therefore, secure an accompanist early because they book up fast. As soon as you register for Solo and Ensemble (in late October to early November), contact an accompanist to reserve a place on their schedule.

Q: Why should I participate in Solo and Ensemble?
A: Solo and Ensemble allows you the chance to refine skills on your instrument through solo literature and ensembles. At the festival, an individual who is a professional on your instrument will judge you. The information this person provides will directly benefit you and your growth as a musician.

Rules and Regulations

Events that do not abide by the following rules and regulations will be disqualified and will not receive a rating or a medal.

1. Time Limits: An event will not receive a rating if the minimum time limit is not reached. Repeats or any other markings may not be added to lengthen a piece. High school events must be a minimum of 2 minutes (timing your piece to be a minimum of 2 ½ minutes to allow for faster tempos the day of the performance is a good idea) with a maximum of 6 minutes. Chamber ensemble events must be a minimum of 3 minutes with a maximum of 12 minutes. There is no penalty if a longer event is stopped after reaching the maximum time limit.
2. Accompaniment: If a written accompaniment is published for your piece, whether a solo or an ensemble, it must be played. No rating will be given if the accompaniment is not played.
3. Ensemble parts: All ensemble parts must be played with one to a part. For example, a trio must have three players; not two, not four. Instrument substitutions are allowed.
4. Original Full Score: An original full score showing all parts (accompaniment does not have to show), with each measure numbered must be provided to the judge. No rating will be given if an original numbered score is not provided. If a score is not published, it is the responsibility of the performers to make one in which all parts are aligned. When a handwritten or computer generated score is presented, the performers must play from original parts.
5. Multiple Events: Each student is limited to three (3) events. If a student enters more than one solo, the solos must be played on different instruments.

Helpful information (for the day of Solo and Ensemble)

1. Sign in at the warm up room 30 minutes prior to your event. The warm-up room staff will escort you to the performance room.
2. Let the warm-up room staff know if you have event or accompanist conflicts so they can work around the conflict.
3. When you arrive in the performance room, you may have to wait for the previous event to exit the room. DO NOT play your instrument in the hallway. Upon entering the performance room, hand your numbered score to the room chairperson and tune to your pianist or ensemble members.
4. When the judge is ready to hear your event, the room chairperson will introduce your event. This is your signal to begin.
5. Following the performance, the judge will usually make comments to you.
6. Wait in the hall outside the room for your rating. Ratings are posted after the event following you exits the room. If you receive a rating of I or II, you will receive a card that can be exchanged for a medal at the medal room.