



Solo and Ensemble Festival

Eligibility, Rules, and Regulations

2026-2027

Chairperson: Kimberly Smith

Kimberly.L.Smith@k12.wv.us

West Virginia students in grades 4-12 are encouraged to study and perform solo and ensemble literature. Solo and Ensemble Festivals are conducted consistently throughout West Virginia. The regulations outlined below establish the standards and expectations that all participants, parents/guardians, and festival sites are required to follow and uphold.

Public, Private, Charter School and Home School Eligibility:

- Applicants must be enrolled in a West Virginia school recognized by the West Virginia Department of Education.
- Applicants must fall into one of the three age categories: Elementary (grades 4-5), Middle School (grades 6-8), or Senior High (grades 9-12).
- Applicants may attend whichever site they see fit. However, they may only attend **ONE** regional festival per scholastic year.
- Students specializing in vocal and instrumental performance may perform at **ONE** regional festival per specialization.
- Applicants must be sponsored by a current WVMEA/NA/ME member: private and/or public teacher/instructor/director
- NA/ME Membership must be current at the time of submission through the State Honors Recital at the WVMEA conference.
- Accompanists do not have to hold active membership in WVMEA/ NA/ME to accompany students. However, they cannot take the place of the primary sponsoring teacher/instructor/director.
- Solo and Ensemble participants who are invited to perform on the State Honor Recital must be accompanied to the WVMEA Conference by his/her primary sponsoring teacher/instructor/director, who must be registered for the WVMEA Conference.

Fees & Payments:

Region Festival:

- All fees associated with the Solo and Ensemble Festivals are due at the time of application. All festival fees are non-refundable for any reason. The fee schedule is as follows:
 - Site/Local fee per event: **\$10.00**. Please contact your Region Representative Host for payment methods.
 - Once a student or ensemble has been registered, **NO** substitutions may be made.
 - Once a registration has occurred, payment must be made on that registration **regardless of whether the student chooses to participate or not**.
- Site level payments must be received no later than one week before the festival.

State Honors Recital:

- State Honors Recital Submission fee per event: **\$20.00**.
- Directors are **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** to pay by credit/debit card on the WVMEA website. Payment by check should only be done in the case of absolute necessity.
- If a check must be issued for the State Honors Recital audition, they must be endorsed to WVMEA and must be **RECEIVED** by **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2027**. Directors may need to overnight their payment to ensure this happens.
- There will be a \$40 fee for any returned checks. If a returned check fee is assessed, the corresponding director and/or organization's students will not be allowed to participate in any SEF events until fees are paid in full.

Policies:

- Should any WVMEA member sign a Solo and Ensemble application for an ineligible student, no applications signed by that WVMEA member will be accepted the following year.
- If any eligible student is found participating in more than one local/regional festival (per specialization) per scholastic year, they will be immediately removed. They will also be declared ineligible for an invitation to the State Honors Recital the next year even if they meet the requirements. Said students will also have their festival ratings revoked. Any fees associated with Solo and Ensemble will not be returned.
- Should any WVMEA member sign more than one Solo and Ensemble application for a student in multiple regions, no applications signed by that member will be accepted the following year.

Ensembles

- Ensembles may not have more than 18 members.
- Instrumental ensembles are urged to assign one player per part.
- Ensembles of 6 or fewer members (high school age) cannot not be conducted.
- Ensembles of 7 or more can be conducted if desired.
- Elementary and middle school ensembles can be conducted if desired.

Musical Selections

- There is no required music list.
- Memorization of solos is encouraged but not required.
- Ensemble music does not need to be memorized.
- Time limit is eight (8) minute maximum per each performance.
- Judges must be furnished with a copy of the sheet music with the measures numbered. Photocopies are not to be used without proof of the publisher's permission.
- If the selection calls for piano accompaniment, performers are urged to use it. However, their overall rating will not be negatively affected by the lack of accompaniment.

Adjudication

- All festival entries will receive a rating (1+ through 5). Directors can submit 'comments only' upon request. Request must be made before the performance begins.
- Judges will consider the grade level of each performer/ensemble.
- Judges are not permitted to aide or coach any student performer(s).
- All adjudications within a specialization must take place on the same day.
- All adjudicators must stay consistent throughout the course of the festival. (For example, all percussion performances must be adjudicated by the same person.
- Judges are not permitted, under any circumstances, to participate in a performance.
- A performance may only be adjudicated once.
- Any performance receiving a Superior Plus (1+) rating shall be considered worthy of nomination *to audition* to perform at the State Honors Recital

Concerning mixed ensembles:

- Ensembles with 7th and/or 8th graders will be considered a middle school ensemble.
- Ensembles that have 9th graders or above will be considered a high school ensemble.
- Ensembles that have all three levels represented will be adjudicated at the level of the highest performing student.

Rating Scale:

1+ Superior Plus (Exceptional) – worthy of nomination to perform at the State level.

1 Superior

2 Excellent

3 Good

4 Fair

5 Developing

Comments Only – No rating will be given

Copyright/Arrangements

- Teachers and students must follow Federal copyright laws in providing music for all performers.
- Adjudicators must be provided with a legal copy of the music to be performed. For photocopies to be considered legal you must have written permission from the owner/publisher of the music.
- Attach a letter granting permission to photocopy to any copies being used.
- Teachers and students must follow Federal copyright laws concerning personal arrangements or alterations. For an arrangement to be considered legal you must have written permission from the owner/publisher of the music. Attach a letter granting permission to arrange to any music being used.

Inclement Weather Policy

- Every local/regional site will have a 'snow date' established in case of inclement weather.
- If a local/regional level festival as well as its snow date must be cancelled due to inclement weather, all applicants for the festival may submit state honor recordings for consideration.

To the Adjudicators:

- Adjudicators will be paid \$75 for a half day of work (up to 4 hours) and at least \$150 for a full day of work (any time over 4 hours). Due to various site differences, site chairs may use discretion on the amount of an adjudicator's payment.
- All adjudicators must hold an undergraduate degree in music or a professional equivalent.
- All adjudicators must complete the free NFHS Music Adjudication course once every 5 years. Proof of completion must be submitted to the Site Chair before you may adjudicate any students.
<https://nfhslearn.com/courses>
- Solo and Ensemble is an educational experience, so please make comments as positive and constructive as possible.
- All adjudicators must sign each ratings sheet.
- All adjudicators must submit ratings to site chairs.
- Certificates should be awarded for Superior (1) and Superior Plus (1+) ratings.
- Only performances receiving a Superior Plus (1+) and a nomination from their respective judge (at the local level), will be considered to submit for the State Honors Recital process.
- Adjudicators must follow instructions by their site chair(s) regarding compensation and/or paperwork. All needed paperwork should be completed in a timely fashion in order to be paid accordingly. Contact your Site Chair for further details.

To the Site Chairs:

- Site Chairs must be active members of the West Virginia Music Educators' Association by September 1st of each year.
- All Site Chairs must complete the free NFHS Music Adjudication course once every five years. Proof of completion must be submitted to the state chair before September 1st of every 5th year.
- Site Chairs are responsible for enforcing all the rules and regulations above to the best of their ability.
- State recital nomination sheets should be completed by the judges before leaving the site. The Site Chair is to collect the following information for all 1+ nominations: Student name, School, Director, Solo/Ensemble, Title of Piece and Nominating Judge. This information is to be sent to the State Chair.
- All Site Chairs must attend the Solo and Ensemble meeting at the annual WVMEA Conference. Any unavoidable absences must be cleared with the Solo and Ensemble State Chair ahead of time. If approved, a proxy or representative must be sent in their place.

State Honors Recital Recommendation:

- Performances receiving a rating of Superior Plus (1+) and a recommendation from their respective judge (at the local level) may submit a video recording of their performance to be considered for inclusion in the State Honors Recital held during the annual WVMEA Conference.
- Additional applications and fees must be completed and submitted. See guidelines below. Submitted recordings will be adjudicated by an Honors Recital Committee and results will be posted on or about **February 23, 2027**, and directors will be notified as soon as possible following the adjudication of those selected for the State Honors Recitals.

State Honors Recital Submission Guidelines:

- All submissions must be uploaded via website link that will be provided on the WVMEA Solo and Ensemble website on or about January 1, 2027. All videos must be uploaded no later than **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2027, at 11:59:59 pm.**
<https://www.wvmea.org/soloandensemble/>
- Submissions must be video recordings only. Audio recordings will not be accepted.
- All performing members must be visible in the video.
- Large ensembles should include as many members as possible in the video.
- A photo release form must be submitted for EACH student. The photo release may be found on the WVMEA Solo and Ensemble website.
- Electronic accompaniments are NOT permitted on the State Honors Recital. Therefore, all submissions must include a live accompaniment if the work calls for it.
- Video submissions MUST include a live accompaniment if it is written in the music unless it is specified as optional by the composer or arranger.
- Video files should be renamed for identification in this way before uploading to the website:

Event Name-Grade Level (ES, MS or HS)-Type of Event-Title Selection

Example: Flute and Clarinet Duet-MS-Andantino from 30 Melodious Duets

- Directors are **HIGHLY ENCOURAGED** to pay by credit/debit card on the WVMEA website. Payment by check should only be done in the case of absolute necessity.
- If you must pay by check, payments of **\$20** (per submission) MUST be **RECEIVED** by **FRIDAY, FEBRUARY 19, 2027**. Directors may need to overnight their payment to ensure this happens. Checks should be endorsed and sent to the following address:

**West Virginia Music Educators Association
ATTN: Sandra Schwartz, Executive Director
1436 Evansdale Drive
Morgantown, WV 26506**

- If checks are not received by the deadline, immediate payment by credit card will be required in order for adjudication to take place.

State Honors Recital Photo Release Information

Site Chairs: Please share this information with your festival participants. Compliance is mandatory to be considered for a State Honors Recital Invitation.

Parents and/or legal guardians of all students, both minor and of-age, who submit a recording for State Honors Recital consideration must authorize the West Virginia Music Educators Association, hereafter referred to as WVMEA, to publish photographs, film, and social media posts of minor child or children and their names and likenesses, for use in the WVMEA's print, online and video-based marketing, its contractors, its employees and any third parties involved in the creation or publication of Beave Media Productions, from liability for any claims by any parent or any third-party connection with the participants of the minor children, materials, as well as other WVMEA publications. Parents must release and hold harmless WVMEA from any reasonable expectation of privacy or confidentiality for any participating minor child and children listed in Solo and Ensemble related posts or materials, both printed and electronically.

Recorded Accompaniment Policy at the Site and State Levels:

- Site chairs are under no obligation to provide any materials for facilitating electronic accompaniment. The student(s)/teacher are responsible for providing their own amplification, playback devices, computer, etc.
- MakeMusic™, pre-recorded accompaniment, and other similar programs are permitted to be used to accompany performances ONLY at the local/site level.
- Students selected to submit a video for consideration for the State Honors Recital MUST use a live accompanist in their recorded submissions. The accompanist MUST be seen in the recorded submission. **Under no circumstances will electronic accompaniment be permitted at the State Honors Recital.**
- All State Honors Recital performances must include a live accompaniment if it is included in the music unless it is specified as optional by the composer or arranger.



Solo and Ensemble Festival

Locations & Site Chairs 2026-2027

SITE NAME	EVENT DATE	SNOW DATE	EVENT LOCATION	CITY	CHAIRPERSON(S)	EMAIL
Parkersburg Piano & Vocal Festival	Saturday, November 14th, 2026	NO SNOW DATE	First United Methodist Church	Parkersburg	Robin Shepard	rsamuels@k12.wv.us
West Virginia Wesleyan	Saturday, January 23, 2027	NO SNOW DATE	West Virginia Wesleyan College	Buckhannon	Eliza Taylor	taylor.e@wvwc.edu
Parkersburg Instrumental Festival	Saturday, January 30, 2027	Saturday, February 6, 2027	Parkersburg South HS	Parkersburg	Shaun Davis	sedavis@k12.wv.us
Huntington	Saturday, January 30, 2027	Saturday, February 6, 2027	Spring Valley HS	Huntington	Jacob Smith	jacob.d.smith@k12.wv.us
Northern Panhandle	Saturday, January 30, 2027	Saturday, February 6, 2027	John Marshall HS	Glendale	Tracey Filben	tfilben@k12.wv.us
Morgantown/Clarksburg/Fairmont	Saturday, January 30, 2027	Saturday, February 6, 2027	Robert C. Byrd HS	Clarksburg	Thomas Myers & Dr. Jeremiah Smallridge	trmyers@k12.wv.us jsmallridge@k12.wv.us
Princeton	Saturday, February 6, 2027	Saturday, February 13, 2027	Princeton MS	Princeton	Jacob Pauley	jacob.pauley@k12.wv.us
Eastern Panhandle	Saturday, February 6, 2027	Saturday, February 13, 2027	Spring Mills MS	Martinsburg	Jordan English	jordan.english@k12.wv.us
Eastern Greenbrier	Saturday, February 6, 2027	Saturday, February 13, 2027	Eastern Greenbrier MS	Ronceverte	Brian Carr	becarr@k12.wv.us