



Montana High School Association

1 South Dakota Avenue ♦ Helena, MT 59601 ♦ (406) 442-6010 ♦ Fax: (406) 442-8250 ♦ www.mhsa.org

March 13, 2008

TO: EASTERN AND WESTERN STATE SOLO AND ENSEMBLE MUSIC INSTRUCTORS

**FROM: ROB WELLS, EASTERN STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL CHAIR
ROB LOVERIDGE, WESTERN STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL CHAIRS
JOANNE AUSTIN, MHSA ASSOCIATE DIRECTOR**

RE: 2008 STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL INFORMATION

Attached you will find the following materials in preparation of the coming State Solo & Ensemble Festivals:

- ▶ State Solo & Ensemble Bulletin
- ▶ Festival Registration Form

Please complete the entire registration form. STATE ADJUDICATION FORMS SHOULD BE PRINTED FROM THE MHSA CD AND ATTACHED TO EACH ENTRY. All additional material will be sent to you by the respective festival chair.

IMPORTANT! When sending your district forms to the state festival chair, you must attach the correct blank state form to each entry. Festival chairs will not accept entries without the correct state form attached.

Your registration form is to be mailed to the appropriate festival chair by midnight of the Tuesday following your district festival at the following addresses:

Eastern State Music Festival	Western State Music Festival
<p>Rob Wells, Organizing Chair Billings Public Schools Department of Music 415 North 30th Billings, MT 59101 Phone: 406-247-3796 Email: wellsr@billings.k12.mt.us</p>	<p>Rob Loveridge, Organizing Chair Helena High School 1300 Billings Avenue Helena, MT 59601 Phone: 406-324-2342 Email: rloveridge@helena.k12.mt.us Schedule will be posted at www.hhs.helena.k12.mt.us after Sunday, April 27th.</p>

Thank you for your cooperation.

/jpa

Enclosures

2008 Montana State Solo and Ensemble Festival Information

Festival Sites

Eastern Division

Billings West High School
2201 St. Johns Avenue
Billings, MT 59102
May 2-3, 2008

Western Division

Helena High School
1300 Billings Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
May 2-3, 2008

APPLICATION PROCEDURE AND FEES

The rating sheet used at the District Festival, properly signed, and indicating a Superior rating, *with the correct state form printed and attached by you*, serves as the application for solo and ensemble entries. These forms and the appropriate fees must be mailed to the chairperson of the applicable State Music Festival. The fees are assessed at the rate of \$12 per student - regardless of the number of events a student enters. Accompanists pay no fees, but accompanists are restricted to a maximum of 25 entries.

The applications must be postmarked no later than midnight of the first Tuesday after your District Music Festival. Applications must be mailed **FIRST CLASS**, and the state form **MUST** be attached. State festival chairs will not accept applications without the proper state form attached.

An alphabetical listing of all students, including accompanists, from the same high school must be attached to the application forms. Listed beside each student's name will be the event(s) in which he/she is participating. **This information is critical in order to avoid scheduling conflict in the cluster format of the State Festival.**

Whenever possible, one check covering fees from each school should be forwarded with the applications to the Festival Chairperson. **DO NOT SEND CASH!** No refunds will be made for soloists or ensembles regardless of reason. Make checks payable to "Eastern State Music Festival" or "Western State Music Festival."

Send all completed forms and fees:

Eastern State Music Festival

Rob Wells, Organizing Chair
Billings Public Schools
Department of Music
Administration Building, 415 N 30th
Billings, MT 59101
Telephone: 406-247-3796
Email: wellsr@billings.k12.mt.us

Western State Music Festival

Rob Loveridge, Organizing Chair
Helena High School
1300 Billings Avenue
Helena, MT 59601
Telephone: 324-2342
Email: rloveridge@helena.k12.mt.us
Schedule will be posted at www.hhs.helena.k12.mt.us
after Sunday, April 27th.

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE ELIGIBILITY

Only those soloists or ensembles, which have received Superior ratings in their District Festival, may take part in the solo and ensemble events at the State Festival. An ensemble including stage band may exceed sixteen (16) in number providing no parts are doubled and the ensemble has been selected from a major performing group. If parts are doubled, sixteen (16) is the maximum number for an ensemble. (Not including accompanist). Accompanists are restricted to a maximum of 25 entries.

SOME IMPORTANT GUIDELINES FOR PERFORMERS

- ▶ Events will be scheduled in sixty (60) minute blocks throughout the two-day session. Students will be heard by an adjudicator for comments during the first forty (40) minutes, and remain to attend a master class based on the presentations heard within the cluster. Refer to page 201 in the *MHSA Handbook* for clarifications of this format. The exception to this format is a Stage Band/Jazz Group will be assigned a 20 to 30 minute block of time.
- ▶ Larger ensembles and stage bands are encouraged to do no more than two selections of varied styles. Soloists and ensembles are limited to six (6) minutes performing time and to only one solo per category. They should stay well within this six-minute framework in order to provide for clinicians to present a master class.
- ▶ Please provide the adjudicator with a copy of your music with measures numbered. Copyright restrictions are expected to be honored at the State Festival. Illegal copying of materials is punishable by fine, imprisonment or both. Failure to comply with the copyright law will result in no rating.
- ▶ You are not required to perform the same repertoire which you performed at the District Festival.
- ▶ Each performer is expected to be present for the entire 60 minutes of the performance/master class to which they are assigned.
- ▶ **No schools, directors, private teachers or students should expect the festival chair to accede to special scheduling requests, irrespective of other activity conflicts.** Scheduling students from the same school into a few time-blocks or a single day may seriously undermine the educational intent of the Festival and diminish the opportunity to hear other students.
- ▶ A tentative schedule listing the entries from each school will be forwarded to each music director as soon as possible after applications have been received. Please report any scheduling problems to the Festival Organizing Chair immediately.

HOUSING AND MEALS

Housing arrangements for Festival participants should be made by local school administrators. The Festival Chair encourages contact with the desired motel/hotel as soon as possible. A number of fast food and local restaurants are located within a close proximity of the Festival sites. Concessions will be available at each festival site.

NOTE TO DISTRICT ORGANIZING CHAIRPERSONS

It is your responsibility to make arrangements for the distribution of rating sheets to all school directors and teachers involved in your Festival, immediately following the close of the District Music Festival.

The State Festival Chairpersons will make every effort to retain outstanding adjudicators who are experts in their respective fields of endeavor and all will meet MHSA guidelines which include certification with the MHSA Adjudicators Seminar. This will be done to assure students the best possible educational experience.

NOTE REGARDING PRIVATE MUSIC TEACHERS

All entries in the State and District Music Festivals must be made through local high schools and approved by the local superintendent or principal. Any student who is studying with a private music teacher and who is eligible for participation in the State Music Festival must be a member of a "Major School Performing Group" and must enter through auspices of their respective school organization.

RATING SHEETS

Rating sheets will be available in the Festival Headquarters within a **reasonable** time after ALL entries from a school have been processed. **ONLY MUSIC DIRECTORS** may pick up the rating sheets. Please allow time in your travel plans for this processing to be completed after the final time block in which your students perform. Ratings will be posted in a timely manner in a public area.

PERFORMANCE TIMES

Please check with your respective Festival site for registration and performance times. Directors must register their entire group before students can participate in the Festival. School and city maps will be available. Schedules will be available in electronic format.

