

# GETTING STARTED WITH PMEA ADJUDICATION!

By Tom Snyder, Adjudication Chair

Thinking about participating in *PMEA Adjudication*? Not sure where to begin? Did you access the *Adjudication* section of the PMEA website, then not be sure what information you *really* needed or what materials you *absolutely* had to take the time to download, save and read? If you answered, “Yes, yes and yes”, the following information will help you ‘Get Started’!

PMEA Adjudication events are formally called ‘Music Performance Assessments’, or ‘MPA’s’, instead of ‘festivals’. In addition, what were generally known as ‘score sheets’ are called ‘Assessment Forms’. The main reason for the change to the term ‘Music Performance Assessments’ was to strongly and accurately place PMEA Adjudication events in an educationally valid context more readily understandable and, hopefully, more supported by administrators, school boards, other teachers, directors, parents and the students themselves. The ‘Assessment Forms’, updated for 2009, better reflect current assessment processes and are more academic in stature.

A goal of PMEA Adjudication remains to provide quality opportunities for soloists and small, medium and large ensembles to receive a rating reflecting performance level---a snapshot evaluation of how effectively the music curriculum has been implemented---along with meaningful feedback from the adjudicator commentary recordings and written forms to maximize learning for both directors and students. In today’s educational environment, this is indeed ‘assessment’. Directors can benefit from the evaluation process as applied to music performance and ‘speak the language’ of testing, curricular accountability and program validity when promoting the results to stakeholders and decision-makers.

PMEA Adjudication, by focusing on educational input through assessment with both ratings and written and aural feedback, is striving for effectiveness, relevance and acceptance by directors. The goal remains to establish PMEA Adjudication as a priority option for directors within the hectic schedule demands of each school year.

First, download the current *Adjudication Calendar* for the most current list of scheduled MPA’s to identify the contexts, dates and sites of the events that may work best for your program.

Then, download the current *Guide to Participating* in whichever context interests you – Band and Orchestra, Chorus, Jazz Ensemble, Percussion Ensemble or Solo and Small Ensemble. All of the PMEA Guides should answer the most common questions potential participating directors have and serve as a review or just a reference for those who have participated in the past.

Note that adjudication IS currently offered for standard medium-sized choral ensembles, such as madrigals, concert chorales, women’s choirs and men’s choirs within the existing Choral MPA event context. However, MPA’s are not yet available for jazz choirs or show choirs.

Solo and Small Ensemble MPA’s provide assessments for your winds, percussion, strings and vocal soloists and duets, trios, quartets and larger small ensembles.

*Guides to Hosting* all current PMEA Adjudication MPA contexts are also posted. New hosts are needed throughout the state in every context; please contact me if interested!

*Checklists for Participating* and *Hosting* for all MPA contexts are also posted as a ready reference and a snapshot of what is involved.

How will your students' performances be assessed? Download the *Assessment Forms* for each MPA context to check out the first updates to adjudication assessment since Adjudication began in PA in 1986 with forms issued by MENC in 1958. These updated forms better reflect current assessment processes while improving ease of use by adjudicators as well as enhancing their educational value for directors and students alike.

All registration forms and forms needed to participate or host are posted. A complete list of forms needed to participate in or host a particular MPA context can be found on the *Introduction* page of the given Participation or Hosting Guide.

Not sure what repertoire to perform? Consult the *Selective Music Lists* posted on the website. Note that all of the existing lists will be updated. Much flexibility exists concerning what repertoire can be approved for participation, as these lists have not been updated for almost 20 years. If you wish to perform a piece or pieces not on 'the list'----as it is likely that any recently-published piece is *not* included----simply download and submit the *Request for Addition to Selective Music List Form* no later than 60 days prior to the event. PMEA Adjudication strives to be as 'inclusive' as possible.

Once you choose the site and date that best works for your program, contact the host via email or phone to reserve performance slot(s). Some sites fill quickly; be sure to confirm that openings exists before processing the application and check for registration.

I hope this helps you 'Get Started' in PMEA Adjudication! Please contact me with any questions at [tsnyder@westasd.org](mailto:tsnyder@westasd.org) or at (724) 695-5269.