



Music Performance Assessments

ANNUAL PROGRAM MEETING

This annual meeting is for District MPA Reps, hosts, and directors who have participated in an MPA. Other interested PMEA members are welcome!

AGENDA

I. 2024 MPA Calendar

-22 MPA's are currently scheduled, listed both chronologically and by PMEA District (attached)

II. NEW FOR 2024!

- *PMEA Selective Music List – Band* was formally approved by the PMEA State Board in summer 2024
- *PMEA Selective Music List – Mixed Chorus* was posted mid-year as a 'Draft' resource for choral directors
- The online *Selective Music Request* form is now being used to both submit pieces not already on the list and to appeal an assigned grade level. It can also be used to request permission to perform fewer movements of a given piece at a lower grade level
- A list of all repertoire performed from ensembles performing in 'Traditional' will be compiled as a director resource for 2025
- Updated Adjudicator forms for more consistent data collection and verification
 - Adjudicator Application
 - Adjudicator Contract
 - Adjudicator Stipend Confirmation Form
- **LARGE ENSEMBLE (BOC) MPA'S**
 - Increased the Adjudicator stipend from approximately \$35 per hour to \$35 per ensemble adjudicated. Last increased in 2008, this provides both more appropriate compensation and eliminates confusion about calculating payment among the differing performance schedules.

- Added a Travel Reimbursement for adjudicators based on the number of miles traveled one-way to the MPA site. This supports adjudicators traveling from a distance, especially to sites located in less populated areas of the state. A defined structure also enables better cost control management compared those based on 'per mile' calculations.

 - No Travel Reimbursement for adjudicators traveling less than 50 miles one way.

 - \$25 - Traveling 50-99 miles one way

 - \$50 - Traveling 100-149 miles one way

 - \$75 - Traveling 150+ miles one-way

- Increased the maximum reimbursement for Host Expenses from \$100 to \$130 to better fund the increased cost of lunch and refreshment expenses.

- Established the Host Honorarium as \$175. Hosts continue to have the option to apply that honorarium to registration fees, paying any difference owed or receiving any balance remaining. This continues to provide some compensation in appreciation for serving as the host and 'site manager' for MPA's. Issued payable to an activity account, booster group, or music department account, a defined Host Honorarium eliminates confusion given the varying situations within which hosts serve.

- Eliminated the requirement and funding for the performances to be recorded due to the burden on hosts, increased costs, and prevailing inconsistency in providing recordings among MPA's. Given that directors prefer recording sessions with multiple takes to use for an application and to play adjudicator recordings to the students, continuing to fund recordings is no longer necessary.

- Increased Registration Fees to fund the increased expenses as follows: (last increased in 2016)

 - Ensembles in the 'Traditional' performance context from \$185 to \$235 for ensembles

 - Ensembles in the 'Festival' performance context from \$150 to \$200

- **SOLO & SMALL ENSEMBLE MPA'S**

 - Increased the Adjudicator stipend from \$25 per hour to \$35 per hour, better providing fair stipends corresponding with other states while operating within prevailing PMEA MPA budget parameters.

 - Added a Travel Reimbursement for adjudicators same as above

 - Increased the maximum reimbursement for Host Expenses from \$150 to \$175. This funds lunch and refreshment expenses at an amount larger than large ensemble MPA's since more adjudicators are involved.

 - Approved providing the appropriate medal to each participating student, returning to past practice. For extrinsic recognition, bands, orchestras, and choruses participating in an MPA in the Traditional context receive an award plaque with the option for directors to purchase medals for individual students separately. Ensembles participating in the Festival context receive an award certificate. Providing the appropriate medal to each participating student playing a solo or in a small ensemble best offers this extrinsic recognition as funded by registration fees.

- Established the Host Honorarium as \$175 for each Solo & Small Ensemble MPA hosts same as above
 - Increased Registration Fees as follows:
 - Solos from \$10 to \$20
 - Small Ensembles of 2-5 Students from \$7 per student to \$35 per ensemble
 - Small Ensembles of 6-12 Students from \$5 for each student to \$50 per ensemble
- Given that the financial structure for Solo & Small Ensemble MPA's had not changed since 2011, the increase in fees were needed to fund the increase expenses, including medals.
- Approved not maintaining Selective Music Lists for Solos & Small Ensembles, instead recommending the use of existing comprehensive state lists, publisher offerings, and other current resources. More available repertoire from more sources better facilitates participation, an ongoing priority.

III. PLANNED 'NEXT STEPS'

- Continue to reflect upon and improve all processes and systems involved within the MPA Program
- Continue to research common and best MPA practices in other states
- Finish the *Selective Music List – String Orchestra* that is about 2/3 finished
- Finish the selective music lists for both *Treble Chorus* and *Tenor-Bass Chorus*
- Subsequent steps involving the Selective Music Lists include the following:
 - Develop grading criteria
 - Develop approval criteria
 - To systematically research which titles are 'OOP' (Out of Print) or available only as rentals
 - To establish a network for borrowing a piece that is out of print
 - Identifying which of the titles included in the PMEA SML's are indeed 'masterworks' or 'core repertoire' as an additional resource for new and veteran directors alike
- Update the guides to *Participating in* and *Hosting* a Jazz Ensemble MPA
- Develop and pilot a structure for a Marching Band MPA
- Develop and pilot a Sight-reading component for Chorus
- Update the Assessment Forms (Developed in 2009)
 - Develop a separate form for Orchestra and update String Solo & String Small Ensemble forms to better reflect string performance
 - Review 'Evaluation' Areas on Chorus, Vocal Solo, and Vocal Small Ensemble forms to better reflect vocal performance
 - Review the 'Attributes' under the 'Evaluation Areas' on all forms
- Develop a *Guide to Adjudicating a PMEA MPA* as a resource for adjudicators intended to better communicate the core philosophies, approaches and expectations as well as clarifying the processes involved with using the formal assessment forms, all within the goal of improving consistency throughout the state

- Develop a roster of directors interested in going into schools as a resource for ensemble directors to provide feedback on pieces being rehearsed to perform at an MPA, to do a 'practice MPA' on a single piece, or to do a 'practice sight-reading MPA'.
- Continuing to update and maximize the MPA area within the PMEA website.
- To continue to communicate with and maximize feedback from all stakeholders ---- PMEA members, adjudicators, students, and anyone interested in performance assessment.

IV. PROMOTING THE MPA PROGRAM

- Moving up the calendar development and publicity timeline to be able to post the initial calendar for the new season in October and add the Registration and Declaration links as soon as possible after that.
- More effectively communicating to members through the PMEA Office, District Presidents, District MPA Reps, District websites, the *PMEA News*, and the *PMEA Digital News*.
- Reaching out to speak at PMEA District & Region Festivals, other professional development events, and to college/university music students

V. INCREASING PARTICIPATION

- Developing more effective strategies to encourage participation
 - Five of the most common reasons cited by directors for not participating include the following:
 1. Awareness about the MPA program
 2. Understanding the benefits of participation for their students, program, and themselves
 3. Fear of being assessed
 4. Funding for registration fees and bus travel
 5. Permission by administrators to miss classes to travel and perform
- YOUR IDEAS?

VI. YOUR additional Questions, Comments & Suggestions!



2024 MPA CALENDAR (sorted by date)

Note that ensembles may participate at ANY site in ANY PMEA District.

**3 in District 1; 1 in District 2; 1 in District 3; 1 in District 4; 5 in District 5; 0 in District 6;
4 in District 7; 2 in District 8; 1 in District 9; 3 in District 10; 0 in District 11; 1 in District 12**

DATE	TYPE	PMEA DIST.	SITE	HOST(s)	Links
Feb 29 Thursday	Band/Orchestra	D3	Clarion Area JSHS	Sarah Dawson	Event Completed
March 4-7 Monday - Thursday	Band/ Chorus	D7	Millersville University	Scott Muenz	Event Completed
March 16 Saturday	Solo & Small Ensemble (winds, percussion & strings)	D10	Southern Lehigh MS	Jeffrey Loda	Event Completed
March 20 Wednesday	Band/Orchestra	D1	PennWest California	Frank Stetar	Event Completed
March 20 Wednesday NEW SITE	Band/Orchestra	D5	Greenville HS	Dan Danch	Event Completed
March 27 Wednesday	Internal MPA Choral	D5	Seneca Valley Int. HS	Claire Barker	Event Completed
April 4-5 Thursday/Friday	Band/Orchestra	D7	Cedar Crest MS	Jared Daubert & Scott Muenz	Register Declaring Pieces Form
April 5 Friday NEW SITE	Band/Orchestra	D8	Lewisburg Area HS	Daniel Schwanger	Register Declaring Pieces Form
April 9 Tuesday	Band *Festival Only	D7	Camp Hill HS	Armon Raygani	Register Declaring Pieces Form
April 9 Tuesday	Chorus	D12	Immaculata University	Katherine Chmelko	Register Declaring Pieces Form
April 11 Thursday	Band/Orchestra	D1	Upper St. Clair HS	John Seybert	Register Declaring Pieces Form
April 16 Tuesday	Band/Orchestra	D7	Central York HS	Jim Martini	Register Declaring Pieces Form
April 25 Thursday	Band/Orchestra	D10	East Stroudsburg HS North	Paul Bakner	Register Declaring Pieces Form
April 27 Saturday NEW SITE	Solo & Small Ens. (winds & strings)	D9	Wyoming Valley West MS	Megan Wilski-Schneider & Suzanne Hall	Register Declaring Participants & Repertoire Form
April 29 Monday	Band/Orchestra	D1	Norwin HS	Tim Daniels	Register Declaring Pieces Form
May 2 Thursday	Chorus	D5	Hickory HS	Brandy Rockage	Register Declaring Pieces Form
May 3 Friday NEW SITE	Band/Orchestra	D10	Exeter Township SHS	Lorraine Selke	Register Declaring Pieces Form
May 9 Thursday NEW SITE	Band/Orchestra	D8	Commonwealth Univ. of PA – Mansfield	Adam Brennan	Register Declaring Pieces Form
May 10 Friday	Band/Orchestra, Jazz	D2	Port Allegany HS	Brad Stewart	Register Declaring Pieces Form
May 17 Saturday	Chorus	D5	West Middlesex SD	Kelli Burlett	Register Declaring Pieces Form
May 18 Friday	Solo & Small Ens. (winds, strings, perc. & vocal)	D4	Penn State University	Ashley Shank	Register Declaring Pieces Form
May 30 Thursday	Internal MPA Band/Orchestra	D5	Seneca Valley Int. HS	Sara Snyder , Brian Croach & Kelly Levere	Internal MPA

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