

**MASSACHUSETTS MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION
CENTRAL DISTRICT
FESTIVAL HANDBOOK**

Revised September 2007

This document has been designed to help all music educators; private teachers and parents understand fully the regulations regarding auditions for Central District Senior and Junior Music Festivals. It is a basic guide to the principles on which auditions are held, and provides some specific information regarding scales, audition selections, and procedures. Each school year will bring additional information which may change from year to year, such as audition and registration fees, deadlines, possible cuts in audition selections, and audition and festival sites. All concerned are advised to peruse this booklet as well as be aware of exact procedures published *on the* web site (www.cdmmea.org), and distributed to the membership from time to time.

For specific questions or clarifications please contact
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I. CDMMEA SENIOR FESTIVAL

A. Registration information (grades 9–12)

Schools with less than 2000 students

Sr. CHORAL

- * A maximum of 30 chorus students may register per school
- * There is a limit of 7 sopranos and 7 altos per school
- * There is no limit for male voices as long as the total School limit does not exceed 30 vocalists.
- * Female voices may only register as Soprano or Alto
- * Male voices may only register as Tenor or Bass

Sr. WIND/PERCUSSION

- * A maximum of 30 wind/percussion students may register per school
- * There is a limit of 6 per instrument
- * Percussionist may multiple audition on Snare, Mallet & Timpani pending they are
 1. Listed separately for each instrument,
 2. Pay a separate registration fee for each instrument &
 3. Each multiple percussion counts towards a school's Total 30–student limit.

Sr. STRINGS

- * There is no limit for string instruments

Sr. JAZZ ENSEMBLE

- * A maximum of 16 students may register per school
- * There is a limit of 3 per instrument
- * Students auditioning for Jazz Ensemble may double audition For one (1) other group pending all registration Conditions are met (see list below).
 1. Jazz Ensemble & Chorus or
 2. Jazz Ensemble & Winds/Percussion or
 3. Jazz Ensemble & Strings

NO other combination will be allowed

High Schools in excess of 2000 students will be allowed to double their limits as follows:

- Vocal (60 students), maximum of 14 soprano, 14 Alto,
- Winds/Percussion (60 Students), maximum of 12 per instrument,
- Jazz Ensemble remains limited to 16 students,
- No limit on string instruments.

B. Senior Registration Process

1. Carefully read through all Festival information.
2. Check dates for conflicts
 - Registration deadline
 - Audition date
 - Rehearsal dates
 - Concert date
 - Accepted musicians are expected to participate in the Festival
3. Download the appropriate audition registration forms
 - One form for each category
 - a. Vocal,
 - b. Winds/Percussion,
 - c. Strings,
 - d. Jazz
 - e. **Plus** the total school “recap” form
 - Legibly print information
 - Fill out all school information
 - Double check “**Principal’s**” Signature
 - Keep a copy for your records
4. Send the completed forms plus a check, PO# or actual PO to:

Steve Archambault,
Audition Coordinator.
662 Page Street
Lunenburg, MA 01462

Please attach special requests to your recap form (I.e. Time slot, schedule with another school, etc).

5. The Audition Coordinator will process the information and mail one (1) audition information packet to the school around the 4th week of October. The packet will contain audition times, updated information, an updated student registration print out and other pertinent information. It is the responsibility of the music staff to read and share the information, check the registration print out for errors, and prepare students for the audition process. All corrections & changes need to be reported ASAP to the Audition Coordinator.
6. **No changes will be made 7 days prior to the audition day.**
7. Registration for any festival audition must be done by the school music instructor or a school-appointed education authority and must bear the signature of the appropriate building Principal.

C. Audition Day

1. Any substitutions, additions, or changes in student registration forms, made on the day of auditions, will be assessed the audition fee. There are no refunds for "no-shows".
2. A maximum of two (2) changes (addition/substitution), for each school will be allowed on the day of an audition.
A **substitution** involves the replacement of a non-participating registered student with a different student or the switching of a registered student from one instrument/voice to a different instrument/voice (i.e. soprano to alto, clarinet to trumpet, etc.).
An **addition** is the adding of a new student not currently registered.
3. An audition fee is charged for each change and your changes cannot exceed school instrument/voice limitations.
4. Illegally copied music is not allowed in the audition rooms.

5. Audition Procedures;
 - a. It is suggested that groups should arrive at least 30 Minutes prior to their audition time.
 - b. Only an adult chaperone checks in the group and verifies the accuracy of the registration information. No Shows, late or early arrivals and any other changes/corrections are made at this time.
 - c. Musicians will fill out an audition form.
 - d. Musicians will be allowed an area to warm-up and Prepare for their audition.
 - e. Managers will bring musicians to their Audition area.
 - f. Chaperones are not allowed in the audition areas.

6. All processed audition information, acceptance information, All-State information, etc. will be mailed within one week of the auditions. Cut off scores will be posted on the website. It is the responsibility of the Music Staff to double-check all audition information for accuracy and report concerns or errors immediately to the Audition Coordinator.

7. Download, fill out, and send in the Festival Participation form with payment (check or PO), to
Treasurer of CDMMEA.

8. Music and part/seating assignments will be mailed to each school.
9. All State audition information and registrations are dealt With on-line through their website.
(www.mmeaonline.org)

10. All inquiries regarding auditions and audition results must be made from the school music teacher. Committee members will not respond to individual student or parent inquiries.

D. SENIOR FESTIVAL General Guidelines

1. Audition and Festival registration/participation fees are to be paid on the basis of the number of students registered on the forms. No reduction or refund is allowed for a student's non-participation. Audition fees not paid on or before the day of auditions may be subject to a \$20 penalty fee to be reviewed by the Executive Board.

2. Applicants must attend all rehearsals to be eligible for the concert.

Students accepted and registered, but who do not participate in the Festival, will not be allowed to participate the following year. Exceptions for medical reasons will be considered by the executive board upon receipt of a letter from the school director.

Senior Festival Students who are participating in a Varsity, MIAA approved contest during the District Festival will be allowed to miss a portion of one rehearsal. This will apply only to the mid week rehearsals and not to the dress rehearsal at Mechanics Hall. In all cases the ensemble manager is to be given advance notice at least one week prior to the first rehearsal. The request must come from the student's director. Students who miss a portion of a rehearsal for this reason will not be considered for any type of solo assignment and may have their seating reassigned.

3. Illegally copied music is not allowed in the audition rooms.

4. Student participants must be transported by an adult chaperone. Students are not allowed to drive themselves or others to or from any audition, rehearsal, or concert.

5. Students auditioning for Central District and/or All-State are to be in good standing in their own school music groups. "In good standing" means that the student is an active participant in the school's music department. For example, an active participant attends the ensemble's rehearsals and performances and abides by the policies of the school music department.

6. Directors must notify managers regarding any selected student who is unable to participate in a festival as soon as possible. Only the manager will make substitutions in any District performing organization only.

7. Registration for any audition or festival must be done by the school music instructor or a school-appointed education authority and must bear the signature of the appropriate building Principal.

8. Chaperones are expected to be present for the entire duration of an audition or festival, and will be asked to fill out a Designated Chaperone Form at each festival.

9. No smoking, drugs, alcohol, or disrespectful behavior allowed. Infraction of this rule will result in dismissal from the audition or festival.

E. SENIOR FESTIVAL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. Required solo (check published audition list),
2. Sight-reading,
3. Scales, percussion rudiments or tonal patterns to be played/sung by memory
(Instrument/voice specific see attached files)

Sr. PERCUSSION – Senior Festival – additional information

Sr. SNARE DRUM –

STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR OWN SNARE DRUM, AS THE TUNING OF THE INSTRUMENT USED WILL AFFECT THE OVERALL SCORE.

Explanations and demonstrations of all rudiments can be found at;
www.vicfirth.com/education/rudiments.html

1. Moderately closed long roll with dynamics ff > pp and pp < ff
2. 5 and 9 stroke rolls, alternating (open & closed)
3. 7 stroke roll, left hand (open & closed)
4. flam accents 1 and 2
5. single and flam paradiddle
6. ruff
7. triple ratamacue
8. flamacue

Sr. TIMPANI

1. single stroke roll with dynamics ff > pp and pp < ff
2. Student should tune timpani to required pitches
3. Sight reading on two timpani

Sr. MALLETS

1. Students must bring their own selection of xylophone mallets.
2. Mallet players must be prepared to play on a 3 & 1/3 octave xylophone.
3. Scales as posted

Senior Jazz – Questions should be directed to the jazz manager.

Sr. Jazz IMPROVISATION REQUIREMENTS for Jazz Auditions: Improvisation for ALL players except drums will be "Slow Blues in F", from Volume 2 of the Jamey Abersold Record Series A NEW APPROACH TO JAZZ IMPROVISATION. Comping is described as performing in appropriate rhythmic style to the chord progressions, using a variety of appropriate jazz voicings of the chords in the progression.

Sr. Jazz Winds

1. Jazz Solo (see audition list)
2. Scales (same as Band & Strings)
3. Improvisation (see above)

Sr. Jazz Piano

1. Jazz solo – melody in right hand with comp changes in left in style of piece
2. Comp changes of the piece in the appropriate style with two hands.
3. Scales to be performed in 2 octaves with 2 hands (4#'s to 4b's)
4. Improvisation (see above) with the right & comp with the left

Sr. Jazz Guitar

1. Jazz solo
2. Comp changes of the piece in the appropriate style.
3. Scales to be performed in 2 octaves (4#'s to 4b's)
4. Improvisation (see above)
5. Guitarists are required to bring their own amp to auditions

Sr. Jazz Bass

1. Jazz solo

2. Play a Bass Line in eighth notes following the chord changes of the piece in the appropriate style.
3. Scales to be performed in 2 octaves (4#'s to 4b's)
4. Improvisation (see above)
5. Bass players may play on an acoustic or Electric Bass
6. Bass players are required to bring their own amp to auditions

Sr. Jazz Drums

1. Jazz solo
2. Trade 4's in a medium swing feel for 24 bars
3. Prepare 8 bars of:
 - a. Jazz Waltz
 - b. Bossa Nova
 - b. Medium Swing
 - c. Latin/Samba
4. Drummers are required to bring their own drums to the audition.

Sr. Jazz Vibes

1. Jazz solo
2. Comp changes of the piece in the appropriate style.
3. Scales to be performed in 2 octaves (4#'s to 4b's)
4. Improvisation (see above)

Senior CHORAL

1. Vocal solo selection performed using a compact disc recording containing a commercial accompaniment.
2. Tonal recall exercises:

Each exercise will be played twice on the keyboard after which the student sings back the example.

 - Ascending major triad,
 - Up half-step/down whole-step/up half-step,
 - Descending major/ascending minor triads,
 - Ascending major-seventh interval,
 - Ascending diminished triad).
3. Sight Reading:
 - a. The student will sing an eight measure phrase, in major tonality, in either 2/4, 3/4, or 4/4 meter; soprano/alto/tenor in G-Clef (tenor sung down the octave and bass in F-Clef (same example as the SAT).
 - b. Any major key signature through 4 sharps/4 flats may be used.
 - c. Students will need to know where "Do" is.
 - d. Both the rhythm and pitches of the sight reading exercise will be adjudicated at the same time. The student will be given from the keyboard a tonic major triad, followed by the tonic "Do," note. The student will have one minute to examine the sight-reading. Again, they will be given the tonic major triad, followed by tonic note. The student sings the exercise. (N.B. Solfege, numbers, a neutral syllable or any other method may be used to perform the tonal recall and sight-reading portions of this adjudication.)

II. CDMMEA Junior FESTIVAL

A. Registration information (grades 7–8)

Jr. CHORAL

- * A maximum of 30 chorus students may register per school
- * There is a limit of 7 sopranos and 7 altos per school
 - There is no limit for male (Baritone) voices as long as the total School limit does not exceed 30 vocalists.
- * Unchanged male voice may register as Soprano or Alto, But are counted toward the 7 registration limits.

Jr. WIND/PERCUSSION

- * A maximum of 30 wind/percussion students may register per school
- * There is a limit of 6 per instrument
- * Percussionist may multiple audition on Snare, Mallet & Timpani pending they are
 1. Listed separately for each instrument,
 2. Pay a separate registration fee for each instrument &
 3. Each multiple percussion counts towards a school's Total 30–student limit.

Jr. STRINGS

- * There is no limit for string instruments

Jr. JAZZ ENSEMBLE

- * A maximum of 16 students may register per school
- * There is a limit of 3 per instrument
- * Students auditioning for Jazz Ensemble may double audition For one (1) other group pending all registration Conditions are met (see list below).
 1. Jazz Ensemble & Chorus or
 2. Jazz Ensemble & Winds/Percussion or
 3. Jazz Ensemble & Strings

NO other combination will be allowed

B. Junior Registration Process

1. Carefully read through all Festival information.
2. Check dates for conflicts
 - * Registration deadline
 - * Audition date
 - * Rehearsal dates
 - * Concert date
 - * Accepted musicians are expected to participate in the Festival
3. Download the appropriate audition registration forms
 1. One form for each category
 - a. Vocal,
 - b. Winds/Percussion,
 - c. Strings,
 - d. Jazz
 - e. Plus the school total “recap” form
 2. Legibly print information
 3. Fill out all school information
 4. Double check “**Principal’s**” Signature
 5. Keep a copy for your records
4. Send the completed forms plus a check, PO# or actual PO to;
 - Steve Archambault,
 - Audition Coordinator.
 - 662 Page Street
 - Lunenburg, MA 01462Please attach special requests to your recap form (l.e. Time slot, schedule with another school, etc)
5. Illegally copied music is not allowed in the audition room.
6. The Audition Coordinator will process the information and mail one (1) audition information packet to the school around the 1st week of January. The packet will contain audition times, updated information, an updated student registration print out and other pertinent information. It is the responsibility of the music staff to read and share the information, check the registration print out for errors, and prepare

students for the audition process. All corrections and changes need to be reported ASAP to the Audition Coordinator. No changes will be made during the 7 days prior to the audition day.

7. No changes will be made 7 days prior to the audition day.

8. Registration for any festival audition must be done by the school music instructor or a school-appointed education authority and must bear the signature of the appropriate building Principal.

C. Audition Day

1. Any substitutions, additions, or changes in student registration forms, made on the day of auditions, will be assessed the audition fee. There are no refunds for "no-shows".

2. A maximum of two (2) changes (addition/substitution), for each school will be allowed on the day of an audition.

A **substitution** involves the replacement of a non-participating registered student with a different student or the switching of a registered student from one instrument/voice to a different instrument/voice (i.e. soprano to alto, clarinet to trumpet, etc.).

An **addition** is the adding of a new student not currently registered.

3. An audition fee is charged for each change and your changes cannot exceed school instrument/voice limitations.

4. Illegally copied music is not allowed in the audition rooms.

5. Audition Procedures;

a. It is suggested that groups should arrive at least 30 minutes prior to their audition time.

- b. Only an adult chaperone checks in the group and verifies the accuracy of the registration information. No Shows, late or early arrivals and any other changes/corrections are made at this time.
- c. Musicians will fill out an audition form.
- d. Musicians will be allowed an area to warm-up and prepare for their audition.
- e. Managers will bring musicians to their Audition area.
- f. Chaperones are not allowed in the audition areas.

6. All processed audition information & acceptance information, etc. will be mailed within one week of the auditions. Cut off scores will be posted on the website. It is the responsibility of the Music Staff to double-check all audition information for accuracy and report concerns or errors immediately to the Audition Coordinator.

7. Download, fill out, and send in the Festival Participation form with payment (check or PO), to
Treasurer of CDMMEA.

8. Music and part/seating assignments will be mailed to each school.

9. All inquiries regarding auditions and audition results must be made from the school music teacher. Committee members will not respond to individual student or parent inquiries.

C. Junior FESTIVAL General Guidelines

1. Audition and Festival registration/participation fees are to be paid on the basis of the number of students registered on the forms. No reduction or refund is allowed for a student's non-participation. Audition fees not paid on or before the day of auditions may be subject to a \$20 penalty fee to be reviewed by the Executive Board.

2. Student participants must attend all rehearsals to be eligible for the concert.

Students accepted and registered, but who do not participate in a CD Festival, will not be allowed to participate the following year. Exceptions for medical reasons or emergencies will be considered by the executive board upon receipt of a letter from the school director.

3. Student participants must be transported by an adult chaperone. Students are not allowed to drive themselves or others to or from any audition, rehearsal, or concert.

4. Students auditioning for Central District and/or All-State are to be in good standing in their own school music groups. "In good standing" means that the student is an active participant in the school's music department. For example, an active participant attends the ensemble's rehearsals and performances and abides by the policies of the school music department.

5. Directors must notify managers regarding any selected student who is unable to participate in a festival as soon as possible. Only the manager will make substitutions in any District performing organization only.

6. Registration for any audition or festival must be done by the school music instructor or a school-appointed education authority and must bear the signature of the appropriate building Principal.

7. Chaperones are expected to be present for the entire duration of an audition or festival, and will be asked to fill out a Designated Chaperone Form at each festival.

8. No smoking, drugs, alcohol, or disrespectful behavior allowed. Infraction of this rule will result in dismissal from the audition or festival.

D. JUNIOR FESTIVAL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. Required solo (check published audition list),
2. Sight-reading, (not required for vocal)
3. Scales, percussion rudiments or tonal patterns to be played/sung by memory (instrument/voice specific see attached files)

Junior Percussion – additional information

Jr. SNARE DRUM:

STUDENTS MUST BRING THEIR OWN SNARE DRUM, AS THE TUNING OF THE INSTRUMENT USED WILL AFFECT THE OVERALL SCORE.

Explanations and demonstrations of all rudiments can be found at;
www.vicfirth.com/education/rudiments.html

1. Moderately closed long roll with dynamics ff > pp and pp < ff
2. 5 and 9 stroke rolls, alternating (open & closed)
3. 7 stroke roll, left hand lead (open & closed)
4. flam accents 1 and 2
5. flam paradiddle
6. single and double paradiddle

Jr. TIMPANI

1. single stroke roll with dynamics ff > pp and pp < ff
2. student should tune timpani to required pitches
3. Sight reading on two timpani

Jr. MALLETS

1. Students must bring their own selection of xylophone mallets.
2. Mallet players must be prepared to play on a 3 & 1/3 octave xylophone.
3. Scales as posted

Junior CHORAL

1. Vocal solo selection performed using a compact disc recording containing a piano accompaniment.
2. Tonal recall exercises:
 - Each exercise will be played twice on the keyboard after which the student sings back the example.
 - Ascending perfect 5th,
 - Descending perfect 4th,
 - Ascending minor 3rd,
 - Ascending major triad,
 - Up 1/2 step/down whole step,
3. There is **NO** sight-reading for Junior Festival.

Junior JAZZ – Questions should be directed to the jazz manager.

Jr. Jazz Winds

1. Jazz Solo (see audition list)
2. Scales (same as Band & Strings)
3. Improvisation for **comments only** (not required)
 - "Slow Blues in F", from Volume 2 of the Jamey Abersold Record Series A NEW APPROACH TO JAZZ IMPROVISATION.

Jr. Jazz Piano

1. Jazz solo

2. Comp changes of the piece in the appropriate style with both hands.
3. Scales to be performed in 2 octaves with 2 hands (2# to 2b's)
4. Improvisation for comments only (not required) see winds

Jr. Jazz Guitar

1. Jazz solo – Play melody
2. Comp changes of the piece in the appropriate style.
3. Scales to be performed in 2 octaves (2# to 2b's)
4. Improvisation for comments only (not required) see winds
5. Guitarists are required to bring their own amp to auditions

Jr. Jazz Bass

1. Jazz solo – Play melody
2. Play a Bass Line in quarter notes following the chord changes of the piece in the appropriate style.
3. Scales to be performed in 2 octaves (2# to 2b's)
4. Improvisation for comments only (not required) see winds
5. Bass players may play on an acoustic or Electric Bass
6. Bass players are required to bring their own amp to auditions

Jr. Jazz Drums

1. Jazz solo – students should be able to comp the snare drum rhythm conversational style between Bass Drum and Snare Drum while keeping time with the ride cymbal and hi-hat
2. Trade 4's in a medium swing feel for 24 bars
3. Prepare 8 bars of:
 - a. Jazz Waltz
 - b. Bossa Nova
 - b. Medium Swing
 - d. Latin/Samba
4. Drummers are required to bring their own drums to the audition.

Jr. Jazz Vibes

1. Jazz solo – Play melody
2. Comp changes of the piece in an appropriate style.
3. Scales to be performed in 2 octaves (2# to 2b's)
4. Improvisation for comments only (see winds)

III. AUDITION SELECTIONS

A list of the audition selections is published each year on the CDMMEA website (<http://www.cdmmea.org>), and updated lists are available at the Fall Dinner Meeting. ANY changes or cuts in the audition music will also be announced at that meeting and then posted on the web page.

IV. ADJUDICATION FORMS

Are available as attached pdf files on the website.

V. ADJUDICATION PROCEDURES

A. FOR STUDENTS:

All students must audition on the prescribed audition selection as stated by MMEA. Photo copied music cannot be used. Students may tape record their own audition if it does not interfere with or delay the audition process. Please do not write anything else on the audition form.

Upon entering the audition room, please hand your audition form to the judge. Instrumental students will be allowed to audition either standing or seated, at the student's choice. Please do not divulge who your teacher or school is verbally or physically in wearing apparel.

B. FOR ADJUDICATORS:

- Please do not ask students who their teacher is or what school they are from.
- Student names and school codes will have been written on the adjudication sheets. Any variation from this should be brought to the Manager's attention before a student is auditioned.

- As stated by MMEA, photocopied audition music cannot be used. Mark all categories on the adjudication form, and be sure to sign each form. Please make comments, which are positive and encouraging.
- Avoid any distracting activity during the audition.
- Please be attentive and refrain from talking while students are performing.
- Please do not be negative.
- Time will be important. Try to be fair and reasonable within a suitable period of time.
- It is the function of the District to inform all Directors of their student's acceptance or non-acceptance to a festival. It is expected that adjudicators will refrain from indicating, even to their own students, any audition results prior to notification by Central District. MENC / MMEA members will be given preference to adjudicate.

VI. ALL-STATE REGULATIONS

High School Student musicians will be given an All State recommendation if they;

1. Place in the top 50% of the accepted Winds & Percussion (Per. instrument category),
2. Are the top 25 accepted per voice part,
3. Are accepted to the jazz band,
4. Successfully participate in the CD Senior Festival.

Will be notified and have their name submitted as a candidate for participation in All State.

It is the responsibility of the student's sponsor to go online, read, and follow appropriate procedures for All State registration and audition requirements. (www.mmeaonline.org)