

SOUTH JERSEY BAND AND ORCHESTRA DIRECTORS' ASSOCIATION
New Jersey Music Educators Association Region III
7th Annual Elementary Honors String Ensemble
April 20, 2024

The 2024 Elementary Honors String Ensemble Festival will take place at Fernwood Middle School in Egg Harbor Township on Saturday, April 20, 2024. All of the information you need to nominate your students is in this packet. All of your nominations will be completed online. The online instructions are outlined in detail below.

The coordinator for Elementary Honors String Ensemble is listed here with her contact information. Questions regarding the festival and program may be directed to her. Selection of students will be decided by the auditions committee and questions regarding the selection process, online application, and nominations should be directed to our auditions email: sjuditions@gmail.com. This is the fastest way to get an answer to your registration questions. If you have a nomination or selection question and need to speak with someone, please leave a phone number and we will get back to you; you may also text your question to Phil at 609-513-3677.

Christine Macaulay cmacaulay@chclc.org

Student Eligibility: All students in grades 5 and 6 are eligible for recommendation. Advanced 4th grade students may be nominated based on your judgment; however, students are selected first from grades 5 and 6, with 4th graders considered if the need arises for additional students.

Participation Requirements: Only students nominated by their directors will be considered for the Honors String Ensemble. Sponsoring directors must be members of NAFME and are required to attend the meeting and assist with the rehearsal and concert on April 20th. If you cannot be available or provide another director as a substitute you should not nominate students. Your NAFME information will be required when you submit your nominations. If you do not have your information or are not a member, please go to the NAFME web site (nafme.org) for assistance. If you are sending a substitute to the rehearsal, that person must be a member as well.

Selection: We will accept at least three students from each school. We will take your first nominee, but due to instrumentation constraints, additional students may not be invited in the order in which you nominated them. But, to fill sections, we may need to take students further down the list. Hopefully two ensembles will allow us to accept most nominees.

Festival Schedule: Report time at Fernwood MS is 8:45AM. Rehearsal is from 9:00am to 12:30pm. There will be a lunch break at 12:30. Lunch will be available for purchase or students may bring their own lunch. The concerts will begin at 2:00pm and specific ticket and performance information will be sent with the confirmation letters.

Deadlines: Online registration and mailing deadlines are listed here. A payment voucher is at the end of this letter. The fee is \$20 per school. All online registration and mailing of fees must be completed by Feb. 5th. There is no provision for late registration or late mailing - Feb. 5 is the final deadline.

Please do not assume your office will complete the mailing on time. It is best if you personally mail your payment so it is postmarked before the deadline.

On-line Registration and Recommendation Form:

All registration **MUST** be completed on-line in order for you to register your school and recommend students. The process changed last year. *An individual online registration form must be completed for you as the director and one for each student you recommend.* The link to the director form is at the bottom of this letter. When you submit your director form you will be redirected directly to the student form which you must complete. There is also a link to the student registration form in this letter so you can easily go to the form. You as director must complete a director registration for each school from which you are recommending students. You must also complete a form for each of your students, beginning with your #1 recommendation, then #2, etc. You do not have to indicate their number as the forms are time and date stamped upon submission and we will sort them that way. This change should greatly increase our accuracy in selecting the correct students and will ensure that students or schools are not missed in the selection process.

Once you start a form you must complete that form before leaving the program. There is no provision to save and return to a form. You may, however, submit your forms at different times as long as you have submitted them in the order in which you want them considered. The criteria and ratings have not changed, and they will appear on each form as you make your recommendations.

Once the form has been submitted, you will receive a confirming email listing everything you submitted on your form. Please check this carefully; if you find that you have made an error or need to change something, you will need to submit a new recommendation form. We will not make changes to your submissions once you complete the form. Please do not send corrections or changes to auditions or festival coordinators. They do not have access to the registration files. You may **NOT** change the ranking of your students once your forms are submitted. Note: submitting a replacement form may change your final ranking order. Please check everything carefully before submission.

Notification of Acceptance:

Upon completion of the selection process, we will email you links to the ensemble assignments, information letters, acceptance letters, confirmation forms, and scanned copies of the music for each student. These links will be sent to the email address provided by you on the on-line nomination form. Please be sure to enter the email at which you want to receive these materials. **NOTE:** This email must be able to accept several PDFs as attachments. You may need to provide an alternate email as many schools block attachments (gmail.com offers free email and will accept attachments). You will need to print the music and forms for your students.

With only one rehearsal it is imperative that students arrive the morning of the concert already being able to play through the music. It is the directors' responsibility to ensure that is the case. Instructions will be included regarding the completion and return of the confirmation forms. You should note that if we do not receive confirmations by March 8th, we will replace your students to ensure complete instrumentation for the festival. **REMINDER:** You **DO NOT** mail us the original signed forms - they must be scanned and emailed to us at the audition email by March 8th. This allows us to have tighter deadlines without allowing for mailing time.

Instructions for Student Recommendation

Demand: The ensemble will be performing grade 1-2 literature. All students should feel comfortable on all strings in first position in the keys of D, G and C (Basses should be able to shift up to high D). They should also be comfortable slurring up to four notes on a bow if needed. If they need assistance with the music, remember that it is the teacher's responsibility to prepare the student for the concert.

Instrumentation: In order to provide a balanced ensemble, each school (**note – school, not school district**) may recommend **UP TO TWENTY STUDENTS**. However, **A MAXIMUM OF EIGHT VIOLINS** from each school will be accepted. Students may be recommended on only one instrument. Please pay close attention to the comments as they are the only way we have to ensure the highest caliber ensemble, and the best possible experience for all students. Due to the large number of recommendations, not every student may be accepted but we will attempt to produce the largest ensembles possible given balance and physical limitations.

Order of Recommendation: You should list your strongest player in the first blank, regardless of their instrument; then continue to list your students according to their ability. By accurately listing students in this order, you will be helping us to determine the most qualified choices. You will not submit their names by number but in the order in which you are recommending them. We will then sort by date/time to determine the recommended order. Although you have to complete each form in one session, you do not have to submit all your recommendations at one time as each is a separate registration form.

Scoring Changes: We are no longer using the scoring as it has not been beneficial in the selection process. The comment codes will now become more important in guiding our selection.

Comment List and Codes:

There is a place to enter comment codes from the list below. You may enter up to 3 codes. The scoring rubric and code list will appear on each application for your reference.

- A – Plays with consistent and reliable intonation
- B – Is comfortable playing in the keys of D and G
- C – Is comfortable playing in the keys of A,C,F, and d minor
- D – Uses 4th finger comfortably (violin and viola)
- E – Utilizes ideal bow lengths for various expressive techniques
- F – Is comfortable with bowings such as slurs and hooked bows
- G – Has clear and robust tone production
- H – Consistently demonstrates accurate basic rhythms: quarter, eighth, half, and whole notes
- I - Consistently demonstrates accurate dotted rhythms: dotted quarters and eighths
- J – Takes private lessons
- K – Participated in Elementary Honors Ensemble last year
- L – Auditioned for but not accepted into the Junior High String Ensemble

Click this link to begin director/school registration.

<https://form.jotform.com/213137223648958>

Click this link to access the student recommendation form.

<https://form.jotform.com/213137358465964>

General Information

Prior to sending the application, please be sure to ensure students availability for the performance and any transportation issues.

Once the selection process is completed, you will receive a confirmation form listing the students who have been selected from your school. Please stress to your students and their parents the importance of this commitment. No-shows affect the quality of the festival. If a selected student is unable to participate, **please notify us immediately at sjuditions@gmail.com** so the seat can be filled. Parts will be assigned and music and confirmation forms will be emailed to you at the address you provided with your registration.

It is extremely important that each student comes to the festival **PREPARED**. With only one rehearsal, it is essential that **parts be learned before the rehearsal day**. Please be sure students are also supplied with extra strings, rosin, endpin anchors, pencils, etc. to avoid problems during the rehearsal. Your help is essential in making this festival successful.

All Directors are expected to participate on the day of the festival and should report at 8:45 AM for job assignments during the festival. Remember, if you recommend students, **you must attend**.

Just a reminder...6th grade students who are accepted into the Region III Junior High String Ensemble are NOT eligible for the elementary festival.

PAYMENT INFORMATION

Registration fee is \$20 per school. School checks, your personal check, or money orders should be made payable to SJBODA (NO PARENT CHECKS). Purchase orders may be submitted by the registration deadline as long as payment is received prior to the March acceptance date. The online and postmark deadline is Feb. 5th.

Late registrations will not be accepted. Once your online application has been submitted, please mail your payment and payment form below to:

Rich Beckman
437 Jessup Mill Rd.
Mantua, NJ 08051

Please tear off and return this form with your payment.

Rich Beckman
437 Jessup Mill Rd.
Mantua, NJ 08051

SJBODA 2024 ELEMENTARY HONORS STRINGS PAYMENT FORM

SCHOOL NAME: _____

DIRECTOR'S NAME: _____

DATE: _____ AMOUNT ENCLOSED: _____

Information for Students and Parents

Please distribute this to the parents of each of your participating students.

FESTIVAL DATE: Saturday, April 20, 2024

LOCATION: Fernwood Middle School, Egg Harbor Township, NJ

REPORT TIME: 8:45 AM

DRESS: All participating students must wear dress clothes to the rehearsal. No changing facilities are available. Boys should wear a white dress shirt, dark slacks, and dress shoes (ties are optional). Girls should wear dark dress slacks or skirt (no miniskirts), and white blouse with flat black dress shoes. Jewelry should be kept to minimum.

WHAT TO BRING: Students must bring their instrument and **THEIR OWN FOLDING MUSIC STAND LABELED WITH THEIR NAME AND SCHOOL. This is very important as the school cannot supply enough stands for the day.** They should also bring extra strings, rosin, endpin anchors (basses – stools). Students should bring their lunch or bring money to purchase a snack or lunch in the cafeteria.

REHEARSAL TIME: Rehearsal runs from 9:00am to 12:30pm. At 12:30 students will have a break to eat lunch and prepare for the concert.

CONCERT: The concert begins at 2:00pm. Tickets may be purchased in the lobby on the day of the concert. Ticket and performance information will be included with the acceptance letter.