



Emily Moore

Solo and Ensemble Festivals

Welcome back to another new school year! As the Solo and Ensemble Festival Coordinator, I would like to make you all aware of the procedures for registering for Solo and Ensemble festivals for 2016. We will be using a new festival registration site, which can be found under the “Festival Registration” tab on the CMEA Bay Section website. I encourage everyone to visit the site and create their user account before registering for your festivals. Registration for Solo and Ensemble festivals will begin on Thursday, October 1, 2015 and will close in February. I encourage you to register for your festival as early as possible, as many festivals will fill long before the February deadline and it can be very difficult to add students to a festival after the closing date.

This year, we will also be offering a special, high school only, Solo and Ensemble festival at San

José State University on Saturday, March 19, 2016. All of the performance slots at this festival will be increased to 20 minutes long and will cost \$40.00 per slot. This is an excellent opportunity for high school students to perform longer works that may not fit into the standard 10-minute time slot (\$25.00). Directors are also welcome to purchase double time slots at any other Solo and Ensemble festival (\$50.00).

It is never too early to discuss participation in Solo and Ensemble festivals with your students. Many students have already selected music to perform, while for others it may be their first opportunity to perform alone or in a small ensemble. I strongly encourage anyone who has not yet had students participate to try it, as the students benefit greatly from working to perform on their own as well as receive individual feedback from a high-quality adjudicator. There are specific guidelines related to the number of students that can perform as part of a small ensemble, these guidelines are different for

instrumental and vocal ensembles. Please refer to the CMEA Bay Section Handbook, available on the Bay Section website, for specific size requirements.

Once you have registered your students, it is important to get the payments in as soon as possible to ensure that your registration is finalized. All festival registration will take place on our new festival registration site. All directors who register students for festivals must make a user account on the new site, as well as have an active NafME (formerly MENC) number when they make the payments.

If you need to cancel a registration entry for a Solo and Ensemble festival, please contact me at emoore@musd.org (before you receive the festival schedule) or the festival

NEW CMEA Bay Section Registration Site!
All information at www.cmeabaysection.org

Solo and Ensemble Festival registration
opens Thursday, October 1 at 4:00 p.m.

site host (after you receive the schedule). Any changes to festival entries must be done no later than one week prior to the festival date. Also, CMEA Bay Section does not provide accompanists for Solo and Ensemble festivals. If needed, an accompanist must be arranged by either the performer or the director prior to the festival.

All rules and regulations regarding small and large group festivals are detailed in the CMEA Bay Section Handbook, located on the CMEA Bay Section website. I recommend reading through sections of the handbook that pertain to festivals if you have not already done so, as it is a great resource for seeking answers to questions. If we can assist you in any way, please do not hesitate to send me (emoore@musd.org) or Greg Conway, Assistant Solo and Ensemble Festival Coordinator (gconway@musicathopkins.com) an email. Additionally, we are always seeking new site hosts for Solo and Ensemble festivals; please contact either of us if you are interested in hosting a festival. I hope you all have a wonderful year! **T**