



MMEA In-Service Workshop/Conference Performance Criteria

Revised May 16, 2009

Failure to comply with the MMEA In-Service Workshop/Conference Performance Criteria will result in the Performance Application not being considered for the Workshop/ Conference. All deadlines and criteria must be met. No refunds of performance application fees will be made.

1. All groups wanting to appear in any concert session of the MMEA In-Service Workshop/Conference must submit the following to the appropriate vice president:
 - A. Completed application for performance
 - B. Application fee
 - C. Copies of performance program(s) from the current school year which must include all selections submitted on audition recording.
 - D. Unedited live recording of three (3) selections performed during the current school year (compact disc preferred, cassette tape format acceptable).
 - i. Unedited shall mean NO studio enhancements or alterations of any type.
 - ii. Live performance shall mean a complete performance of each selected work, whether in the rehearsal room or concert venue, with or without an audience. *Example: It is not acceptable to "build" a recording using individual tracks recorded at different times and then mixing the tracks together to create the final recording of that selection.*
 - iii. Live performances shall also mean that all accompaniments must be live; no recorded accompaniment tracks.
 - iv. Show choirs/vocal jazz choirs must submit a video tape or DVD in lieu of an audio recording.
 - v. Elementary applicants may opt to audition by video tape or DVD.
 - E. All audition materials shall be submitted to the proper MMEA Vice President (Band, Choir, Orchestra, Early Childhood/Elementary, Jazz, General Music, and College/University) by the June 1 postmark deadline.
2. Each Application for Performance must be signed by an administrator (principal, superintendent, or department head) certifying it is the intent of the group to appear on the conference program, if invited.
3. Conductors of performance groups:
 - A. must be paid members of MMEA.
 - B. must be the director of the group on the audition recording.
 - C. may not appear on the conference in consecutive years.
 - D. who are serving as MMEA Vice-Presidents (Band, Choir, Orchestra, Early Childhood/Elementary, Jazz, General Music, Early Childhood/Elementary, or College/University) are restricted from submitting recordings for performance consideration in their own area at the annual MMEA In-Service Workshop Conference during their tenure in office.
 - E. who are serving as President-Elect and President are restricted from submitting recordings for performance consideration during their tenure in office. This does not include the office of Past-President.
4. Performance groups appearing at the conference must be the same ensemble represented on the audition recording.
Example: If your 2009-10 5th Grade Honor Choir auditions and is selected, your 2010-2011 5th Grade Honor Choir performs.
5. MMEA acknowledges the wide diversity of performing ensembles and does not wish to discourage the evolution of new ensembles; however for purpose of "Concert Sessions" at the MMEA In-Service Workshop/Conference performing ensembles will be limited to the following:
 - A. **Bands:** traditional concert bands, wind ensembles, and jazz bands (no combos).
 - B. **Choirs:** traditional choral ensembles of like or mixed voices, chamber choirs, show choirs and vocal jazz ensembles (minimum 16 members).
 - C. **Orchestras:** string or full orchestras.
 - D. **Small Ensembles:** Small ensembles may not perform during general sessions. The annual desired selection is one (1) college/university wind, brass, percussion, string, or vocal small ensemble, and one (1) high school wind, brass, percussion, string, or vocal small ensemble. However, in the event an ensemble from each level is not selected, the following may be substituted: two (2) collegiate small ensembles, or two (2) high school small ensembles.
6. In accordance with the Mission Statement and Objectives of MMEA, the following classifications of performing groups for the MMEA In-Service Workshop/Conference are established.
 - A. School Performance Group (public or private) is defined as an ensemble that:
 - i. represents the educational institution and is comprised of students officially enrolled in that institution.
 - ii. is established, and rehearses and performs on a regular basis throughout the school year.
 - iii. is conducted by an employee(s) of the same institution.

- B. School District-Wide Performance Group is defined as an ensemble that:
 - i. represents a school district.
 - ii. is comprised of students from two or more buildings within that district.
 - iii. is established, and rehearses and performs on a regular basis throughout the school year.
 - iv. is conducted by an employee(s) of the school district. *Example: A "one-time" honor ensemble which rehearses and performs a single concert (similar to All-District Honor Groups at the high school level) would not be appropriate. An established ensemble which rehearses weekly and performs multiple concerts throughout the school year as an enhancement to the music curriculum would be appropriate.*
- C. Elementary/Middle School/Jr. High/High School is defined by the building designation of each school district, not by the grade levels served in that building.
 - i. Ninth (9th) Grade Centers will be classified as high school.
 - ii. Fifth (5th) or Sixth (6th) Grade Centers will be classified as elementary.
- D. Community College is defined as all two-year institutions of higher education.
- E. Small College/University is defined as a four-year institution of higher education with a total enrollment of less than 2000.
- F. Large College/University is defined as a four year institution of higher education with a total enrollment of over 2000.
- G. Community Ensemble is defined as an established ensemble that:
 - i. receives primary financial support from private, municipal, or other sources.
 - ii. has an ensemble membership comprised of individuals who represent the community and are not necessarily affiliated with an educational institution.
 - iii. are supported and promoted solely for the purpose of the performing ensemble. *Example: A community music association would be appropriate for this category. A church affiliated ensemble (i.e. handbell choir, choir, orchestra, band, etc.) would not be appropriate.*

7. Performance groups may submit applications to appear at the annual MMEA Conference and Clinics as follows:

- A. Bands
 - i. Junior High/Middle School, High School band every four (4) years (conference date; i.e. 2000-2004).
 - ii. Community/Small College band every two (2) years; in odd years only (conference date; i.e. 2001, 2003, etc.).
 - Large College/University band every three (3) years (conference date; i.e. 1999, 2002, 2005, etc.).
- B. Choirs
 - i. Elementary, Junior High/Middle School, High School, College/University choir every four (4) years (conference date; i.e. 2000-2004).
 - ii. Community/Small College choir every two (2) years; in even years only (conference date; i.e. 2000, 2002, etc.).
- C. Orchestras
 - i. Junior High/Middle School, High School, College/University, Small College, and Community orchestra every three (3) years (conference date; i.e. 2000-2003)
 - ii. Small College and Community orchestra all years.

8. No school or organization may have a performance group of the same medium (i.e. choir, band, and orchestra) appear at consecutive MMEA Conference and Clinics. This applies to all ensembles appearing on any concert or clinic session sponsored by MMEA or its affiliate organizations at the MMEA Conference and Clinics. *Example: A school or organization may not enter a concert choir one year and a woman's choir the next year.*

9. Members of bands, orchestras, and choirs from the same school may not perform in a similar ensemble under a different name in a shorter period of time (see 7.A.B.C.) if 35% or more of the same personnel are in both groups. *Examples: Concert Band/Wind Ensemble, Mixed Chorus/Chamber Choir, Full Orchestra/String Orchestra, or Chamber Orchestra, etc.*

10. No more than two large ensembles from the same school may perform at the MMEA Conference and Clinics in the same year. Area vice presidents are responsible for coordinating performance invitations through the MMEA President. ***Questions about the classification or eligibility of an ensemble should be addressed to the area vice president or president PRIOR to submission of applications.***

11. An effort will be made to ensure that invited performing groups will represent all levels, sizes, and genres.

12. The conductor of each ensemble selected to perform will be REQUIRED to attend an informational meeting that coincides with the August MMEA Board of Directors meeting. If the conductor is unable to attend, another certified instructor or administrator from the school must attend in his/her place. Failure to attend this meeting will result in the invitation to perform being withdrawn, and the ensemble not being allowed to perform.

13. Groups selected as performing ensembles may be asked to serve as a demonstration group for the conference. Demonstration groups are required to wait one year before they can appear on an MMEA Conference and Clinics concert program in any other capacity. A group invited as a demonstration group only, is not required to go through the audition process, but must be approved by the MMEA President for official invitation. A demonstration group is not considered to be an MMEA Conference and Clinics performing group. Musical excerpts for performance will be selected by the clinician. In addition, the group may present a performance (not to exceed five minutes) of music directly related to the clinic topic within the time allotted for the session.

14. Concert Sessions

A. Time limits: MMEA understands the importance of instructions, acknowledgements and appropriate comments. Such announcements must be carefully planned to fit within the performance times as established or should be made during the introduction of the performance or clinic session. This includes introductions, acknowledgements, performance, and presentation of certificate.

- i. Twenty-five (25) minutes of music, downbeat to final release. **
- ii. Introductions of groups and clinics must be short and will not be counted against the ensemble or clinic time (prior to the downbeat).
- iii. Certificates of Performance will be presented following the session and will not be counted against the concert or clinic time.
- iv. There is no time allotted for the conductor to address the audience following the final release or presentation of certificate.

B. **The timing of each performance will begin at the downbeat of the first selection and will stop at the end of the final selection. The time of each concert and/or clinic will include the time of music selections presented, any tuning, shifting of personnel, instruments, or equipment and any comments, acknowledgments or introductions after the downbeat and before the final release. Applause will be part of the performance time prior to the final release. To avoid penalty (14.D.) performance time shall not exceed 25 minutes.

- i. The performance will be timed by the area vice president.
- ii. This time will be verified by use of the digital recording made at the time of the performance.

C. These time limits are firm and are not to be changed unless the MMEA President with the consent of the MMEA Board of Directors grants approval in advance and in writing.

D. Directors of performing groups that go over the allotted time or perform an encore will not be eligible for an appearance at the MMEA Conference and Clinics for a period of six (6) years.

E. Groups which wish to use additional musicians for the sole purpose of accompanying are limited to a maximum of sixteen (16) musicians.

F. Performing ensembles must perform on the staging and/or riser configuration provided by MMEA. Detailed diagrams of the performing areas will be provided prior to the event. Staging will not be moved for any performing ensemble. Performing ensembles may not bring portable staging, sound shells, risers, lighting, scenery or anything else that requires set up outside equipment provided by MMEA that requires set up and break down work. Any questions regarding ensemble set up must be submitted to the President-Elect by December 1.

G. Performing ensembles may not use balloons, confetti, smoke, streamers or any other 'props' that require retrieval and/or clean up after their performance. No living creatures [butterflies, birds, or other animals] may be used as part of an ensemble's performance. No audience seating will be eliminated for any performance. Any questions regarding the use of 'props' must be submitted to the President-elect by December 1.

H. Any exception to the above policies must be submitted to the MMEA President by December 1. Any exception must be approved in writing by the MMEA President.

15. Appeals to these Performance Criteria rulings must be made in writing to the MMEA Board of directors.