

# Solo and Ensemble Information Sheet

## **What is Solo and Ensemble?**

Solo and Ensemble (S&E) is an opportunity for students to play their instrument at an individual (solo) or small group of 2-6 (ensemble) level. There is a judge, who is an expert on the student's instrument, who evaluates the student's playing ability by written and verbal comments and then gives them a rating (grade).

## **What is the date and place of Solo and Ensemble?**

Saturday, April 14<sup>th</sup> at Schoolcraft High School.

## **Is there a fee to participate?**

Yes. It is \$10 for each solo and \$6 for each member in an ensemble. The fee pays for the judge, the rental of pianos, and a Division I or II medal if they earn it.

## **Is transportation provided by the school?**

No. Parents are responsible for getting their student to Solo and Ensemble. Car pooling is encouraged if possible. However, you may want to drive your student as parents are allowed in the performance room.

## **How do I know what time my student performs?**

About two to three weeks before the event, the schedules of exact times for each event are sent out to our school and that information is passed along to students. The MSBOA (Michigan School Band and Orchestra Association) State Office schedules all of the students for our district and that is why we have to wait until closer to the event to get our student's times.

## **May I request a specific time to perform?**

No, but you may request an early (8-11 am), middle (11 am -2 pm), or late time (2-5 pm). Your student may pick up an S&E sign up form and you may fill out that information.

## **What happens if the time assigned to my student does not work?**

Your student may request a different time by contacting the band director. Your band director will then contact the chairperson and put them on a waiting list for a change.

## **What if my student can not attend due to a last minute conflict?**

Your student will need to tell the band director and that information will be relayed to the chairperson. However, there will not be a refund of the participation fee.

## **Where does my student get music?**

If your student has a private lesson teacher, they may help them with choosing appropriate music. Otherwise, they may receive music from their band director. Pop, Disney, or other "theme" oriented music is not appropriate literature for this event. Again, your band director can help with this. Please be sure to get your music approved by your band director. Your student will need to make a photo copy of the music as the original will need to be given to the judge so that they can see the music that is being played.

**Is there a time requirement for the music?**

Yes. The music needs to be at least 90 seconds in length. If it is not, a rating will not be awarded. However, comments will be provided to the student by the judge.

**Is my student required to have a piano accompanist?**

If your student is playing a piece that requires piano accompaniment, then yes. Normally, solos always require piano accompaniment. Sometimes, ensembles do as well. It is your responsibility to pay the accompanist. You may secure your own pianist or use one that is available through the school. Expect to pay \$40-\$50 for an accompanist.

**Is this a required event for my student?**

No. However, they will receive extra credit for participating and it is also a chance for your student to challenge themselves on more of an individual level.

**How many events may my student participate in?**

Your student may participate in two events, such as a solo and a duet.

**Below is a checklist that is given to the students before solo and ensemble:**

1. Dress professionally, i.e. nice dress slacks/skirt/shirt, etc., but no jeans, t-shirts, or tennis shoes! (You do not need to wear your uniform, but you may if you'd like!)
2. Be sure to time your solo or ensemble. It must be at least 90 seconds long. If it is not 90 seconds, please see your director. Also understand that if you go to S&E with music that does not meet the 90 second minimum time requirement, you will not receive a rating. It may be longer than 90 seconds, but not to exceed 6 minutes in length.
3. Be sure you have an accompanist (piano player) if your solo or ensemble requires one. You may use one of our accompanists or use someone that you know. You will want to rehearse with them at least twice before S&E. (Be sure to know how much they are charging to accompany you. You may pay them before S&E or pay them at S&E. You may want to write them a thank you note and place the payment inside the note!)
4. Have a numbered photo copy of your music for you to play off of. Put all of your markings on this sheet.
5. Have the original copy of your music with the measures numbered. This copy goes to the judge and should have your name and Gull Lake written in the upper right hand corner of the music. If you do not have the original copy, you will not be able to get a rating and may not be able to play.
6. Arrive 30 minutes early to the hosting school before your scheduled performance time.