

2019 Strings Auditions

This manual includes specific information about auditions for the NMEA All-State Orchestra. (Please refer to the other manuals for information about auditions for the All-State Band, Jazz Band, and Chorus.)

WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO AUDITION FOR THE 2019 ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA?

- Students must be chosen by their director and be declared eligible for auditions by their administration. No student will be eligible without the signed permission of the music director and administrator.
- All students **MUST** be currently participating in the music program of the school in which they are enrolled.
- Students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 who are enrolled in their school's orchestra program may audition for orchestra.
- Orchestra applicants who attend a school does not have an orchestra program then must be members of the band or choir. If they attend a school without a band or orchestra they may audition if they are currently enrolled in their school's vocal music program. If no music program exists in the school, their private music teacher may sponsor students. That teacher must be an active member of NMEA.
- Final determination of student eligibility is made by each school's music teacher and administration.
- No student is eligible if his/her director is not a current member of NMEA/NAfME and is not planning to attend the in-service Conference/Clinic.
- No student below ninth grade will be accepted in any All-State ensemble.
- Students may audition for multiple All-State ensembles but must prioritize their ensemble choice. A separate application and fee are required for EACH audition.
- Directors will verify, on the students' application, the eligibility of the student(s).

CONTENT OF THE STRING INSTRUMENT AUDITION:

The timeline for submitting audition live will be September 18 – September 28. No entries will be accepted before or after these dates.

- A nine-minute time limit will be observed for each audition.
- Auditions for all instruments will be recorded by the respective directors at their respective schools and live-recorded to the OPUS website (audition.opusevent.com).
- Only the director and the student are to be in the room at the time of the actual audition.
- In order to standardize instrumental auditions across the state, all directors are asked to maintain uniformity during the memorized parts of the audition (scales and percussion rudiments or rhythm patterns).

The student will perform:

1. Two scales. (The list of required scales will be found on the NMEA website.) The student will be asked to play one major scale and one minor scale. SCALES MUST BE MEMORIZED and played one note per bow at MM = 80 per quarter note. Scales will be selected the week of auditions and posted on the NMEA website.
2. The All-State String Excerpts Set 1. The etudes for each instrument will be played unaccompanied to demonstrate tone, technique, intonation, expression, phrasing, rhythm and general effect. The etude does not have to be memorized. The ENTIRE excerpt must be played for the audition.
3. An excerpt from the All-State Orchestra repertoire. This music will be found only on the NMEA website.
Please note: Harpists do not play scales. Pianists do not play an etude.

HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED?

All applications will be submitted through the OPUS website (audition.opusevent.com).

Guidelines for submitting applications:

- Use only the website (audition.opusevent.com) for registration and live recording.

- Director's membership fee be completed by accessing the NAFME website.
- It is the director's responsibility to check the accuracy of the information on this confirmation and correct any errors. Changes in a student's instrument made after the September 12 deadline will result in creating a new application.
- Applications will NOT be accepted if they are for instruments not considered part of the instrumentation of the respective All-State ensembles.

AUDITION FEES AND DEADLINES:

- The fee for each audition is \$20.00. The only way to submit an application is through the website (audition.opusevent.com).
- The application deadline is September 9, 2019. All applications submitted after midnight on September 9, 2019 will incur a \$20.00 late fee. (That fee is in addition to the regular application fee; total \$40.) Late applications will be accepted from September 10 until September 16, 2019. No applications will be accepted after September 16, 2019.
- Once submission is complete there will be no changes allowed to the application. If a change in instrument is required, the applicant will need to submit a new application and pay the application fee again.

NOTIFICATION OF AUDITION RESULTS:

Notification of acceptance into an All-State ensemble will be made via email. Directors of all students auditioning will be sent results two days prior to public release of results. Results are scheduled to be posted on Wednesday, October 16, 2019.

HOUSING INFORMATION:

- Participating schools are responsible for their own housing. Rooms will be filled on a first come-first served basis. The official conference hotels for the NMEA In-service Conference/Clinic are:
 - ✓ Embassy Suites Lincoln, 1040 P Street, (402) 474-1111
 - ✓ The Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th Street (402) 474-7474

A complete hotel listing may be found on the website.

- November 1, 2019 is the deadline for reserving rooms at the special conference rates at the official conference hotels. The Cornhusker Hotel will not refund cancellations made after November 1.
- Be sure to identify yourself as a music director attending the NMEA Conference when you make your reservations at Lincoln area hotels.

DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The director of all students accepted for the All-State Orchestra will receive a packet of forms to give to each student. This will be a PDF file that you receive by email. It should be printed and given to the student or forwarded to a parent's email address. Included in this packet will be a congratulatory letter, the order form for tickets to the All-State final concert, links to the order forms for All-State memorabilia (apparel, CDs, DVDs, plaques, photos, etc.), and the student's participation contract.
- The All-State Orchestra music will be sent to you by the NMEA Orchestra Chair. Expect this music to arrive as an email attachment in PDF format.
- All-State Student Contracts - Selection to prestigious All-State ensembles carries with it an implied level of maturity. Therefore, each student will be expected to complete and sign a participant's contract and medical release form indicating his/her agreement to fulfill all responsibilities. Contracts will be sent to directors by email at the time of notification of acceptance into All State ensembles. It is the director's responsibility to make sure that the student completes each contract and their parents, notarized and returned to NMEA. Contracts must be returned to the NMEA Director of Auditions by November 1st.
- All participating schools and their directors are responsible for the behavior and well-being of students selected for the All-State ensembles.
 - It is the director's responsibility to notify the Ensemble Director if their All-State students are part of a performing ensemble or a demonstration group.

ALL-STATE ORCHESTRA REHEARSAL SCHEDULE (Tentative based on space available)

Thursday, NOVEMBER 21st

2:30 – 3:45 P.M. – All-State Orchestra sectional rehearsals & chair placements (wind, percussion, and string instruments)

6:30 – 9:00 P.M. – All-State Orchestra Rehearsal (Lied Center Stage)
All students have a rehearsal from 6:30 to 9:00 p.m. on Thursday, November 19.

Friday, NOVEMBER 22nd

8:00 – 10:00 A.M. – All-State Orchestra Rehearsal (Lied Center Stage) 1:00 – 3:30 P.M. – All-State Orchestra Rehearsal (Westbrook 130) 6:00 – 7:30 P.M. – All-State Orchestra Rehearsal (Lied Center Stage)

Saturday, NOVEMBER 23rd

7:45-8:45 A.M. – Rehearsal: All-State Band (Westbrook 132) and All-State Orchestra (Lied Center Stage)

4:30-5:15 P.M. – All-State Band Final Rehearsal – Lied Center Main Stage

5:45-6:30 P.M. – All-State Orchestra Final Rehearsal – Lied Center Main Stage

7:30 P.M. – All-State Orchestra and Band Final Concert

(Any adjustments to this schedule will be announced during rehearsals. Check the NMEA website for a complete student schedule – www.nmeanebraska.org.)

NMEA ALL-STATE STUDENT REHEARSAL POLICY

Students participating in NMEA All-State ensembles are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled rehearsals and the final concert performance. Absences from any rehearsals because of an emergency reason will be considered on an individual basis to be determined by the respective clinic group chairman and the NMEA President.

Note: It is expected that all students actively participate in rehearsals. If a student cannot participate in a rehearsal due to illness it is considered a missed rehearsal.

Regardless if students stay in their own homes or a hotel, it is the director's responsibility to get their students to All-State rehearsals on time. NMEA will not be responsible for contacting any students absent from rehearsal.

PLEASE BE AWARE THAT...

- Any student who is a member of an ensemble performing as an "NMEA Performance Group" during the conference/clinic may be excused from All-State rehearsal 30 minutes prior to the start of the performance. The student is expected to return to the All-State rehearsal immediately after the performance if the All-State rehearsal is still in progress.
- Any student who is a member of an ensemble performing as a demonstration group during the conference/clinic may be excused from All-State rehearsal 15 minutes prior

to the start of the performance. The student is expected to return to the All-State rehearsal immediately after the performance if the All-State rehearsal is still in progress.

GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DIRECTOR FOR STRINGS AUDITIONS

You will record your voice announcing. The remainder of the recording will be the student's performance. Do not press pause during each section of the audition for each student. Check after each audition to make sure the student was recorded.

1. Be sure your room is a quiet, well-lighted environment for best audio and live recording.
2. Use the test function as many times necessary to determine audio quality. This may require you to change the distance between the recording device and the instrument.
3. Record your student's audition. Each section can be recorded only once, however there is no limit or control on the amount of time between recording one segment to the next.
4. Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on every section of the application. You are now finished and can set up for the next audition.

Strings, Harp Recording Procedure and Script

To begin, you will record your voice reading the name of the instrument. The remainder of the recording will be the student's performance. Please follow this script exactly! Do not pause the recording once each section has started.

String Instruments Director's Script

Follow and announce the script exactly as follows:

1. (Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass) Press RECORD on the Major Scale portion. Tell the student to **"Play the _____ Major Scale."** Student performs the major scale. Stop the recording for the major scale. **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**
2. (Violin, Viola, Cello, Bass) Press RECORD on the Minor Scale portion. Tell the student to **"Play the _____ Minor Scale."** Student performs the minor scale. Stop the recording for the minor scale. **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**
3. Press RECORD on the Etude 1 portion. Tell the student to **"Play Etude 1."** The student plays etude number 1. Stop the recording for Etude 1. **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**
4. (Viola, Cello, Bass, Harp) Press RECORD on the Etude 2 portion. Tell the student to **"Play Etude 2."** The student plays etude number 2. Stop the recording for Etude 2. **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**
5. (Harp) Press RECORD on the Etude 3 portion. Tell the student to **"Play Etude 3."** The student plays etude number 2. Stop the recording for Etude 2. **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**
6. Press RECORD on the excerpt portion. Tell the student to **"Play the excerpt from the All-State music."** The student plays the required excerpt. (Press STOP if this is the end of the audition.) **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

Piano Recording Procedures and Script

To begin, you will record your voice reading the name of the instrument. The remainder of the recording will be the student's performance. Please follow this script exactly! Do not pause the recording once it has started.

Piano Director's Script

Follow and announce the script exactly as follows. Do not identify your student by name or school:

1. Press RECORD on the Excerpt 1 Portion. Tell the student to **“Play the first piano excerpt from the All-State music.”** The student plays the piano excerpt. Press STOP to end the recording segment. **Listen to enough of each recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

2. Press RECORD on the Excerpt 2 Portion. Tell the student to **“Play the second piano excerpt from the All-State music.”** The student plays the piano excerpt. Press STOP to end the recording segment. **Listen to enough of each recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

3. **You are now finished and can set up for the next audition.**