

2018 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 2018 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 without a band or orchestra 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 Conference/In-service 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 student's application, the eligibility of the student.

CONTENT OF THE STRING INSTRUMENT AUDITION:

The timeline for submitting audition live will be September 19 – September 29. 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 (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 Set B All-State etude. 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 etude 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 (OpusEvents.com).

Guidelines for submitting applications:

- Use only the website (OpusEvents.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 (getacceptd.com).
- The application deadline is September 10, 2018. All applications submitted after midnight on September 10, 2018 will incur a \$20.00 late fee. (That fee is in addition to the regular application fee.) Late applications will be accepted from September 11 until September 17, 2018. No applications will be accepted after September 17, 2018.
- 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. No refunds for application fees.

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 17, 2018.

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
- November 1, 2018 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 and his/her parents complete a contract, have it notarized and returned to the NMEA Auditions Director 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. Directors MUST register for Conference and must attend with their student(s). Student registration materials will only be released to their Director on Day 1 of Conference.
- It is the director's responsibility to notify the Ensemble Affairs Director if their all state students are part of a performing or a demonstration group.

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

Wednesday, NOVEMBER 14

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.

Thursday, NOVEMBER 15

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)

Friday, NOVEMBER 16

8:00 – 10:00 A.M. – All-State Orchestra Rehearsal (Lied Center Stage)

12:45 A.M. – 1:30 P.M. – All-State Orchestra Final Rehearsal (Lied Center 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 Director 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 between the segments 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. Do not stop the recorder until the audition is complete.
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 the application. You are now finished and can set up for the next audition.

Strings

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.

String Instruments Director's Script

Follow and announce the script exactly as follows:

1. Press RECORD. Read the auditor's statement: **"This is an audition for _____."** (For example: "This is an audition for Violin." Do not identify your student by name or school. Do not pause the recording. PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT EXACTLY AS IT IS PRINTED. DO NOT VARY FROM THIS SCRIPT IN ANY WAY.
2. Tell the student to **"Play the ___ major scale from memory."** (No scale sheets are allowed.) The student plays the scale. (After the student is finished, give the student time to recover for the next segment but allow no warm-up.)
3. Tell the student to **"Play the ___ minor scale from memory."** (No scale sheets are allowed.) The student plays the minor scale. (After the student is finished, give the student time to recover for the next segment but allow no warm-up.)
4. Tell the student to **"Please play the audition etude."** The student plays the etude. (After the student is finished, give the student time to recover for the next segment but allow no warm-up.)
5. Tell the student to **"Play the excerpt from the All-State music."** The student plays the required excerpt(s). Press STOP to end the recording session.
6. 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. You are now finished and can set up for the next audition.