Concert Hour Performing Ensemble Application
NDMEA All-State and Conference
March 22-23-24, 2018 (Th-F-S)
Bismarck Event Center - 315 S 5th St, Bismarck, ND 58504

The following should be included in the submission:

- At least two contrasting works or sections of works. The total amount of music on the submission should be a maximum of 15-20 minutes.
- Submitted performances should be taken from an unedited live performance.
  - Unedited shall mean NO studio enhancements or alterations of any type.
  - Live performance shall mean a complete performance of each selected work, whether in the rehearsal room or concert stage, 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.
  - Live performances shall also mean that all accompaniments must be live; no recorded tracks.
- Programs for the year in question should be included with the listing of the submitted works.
- Electronic recording is the preferred medium. Show Choirs or Vocal Jazz Choirs should submit a DVD only. Elementary choirs may submit using either audio or video formats.

You will be notified by **August 1, 2017** if your ensemble has been chosen to perform.

Your audition recording and program must be accompanied by the application form below:

**Application**

The following information must accompany your recording (Please print or type):

- **Group Name:** ____________________________
- **No. of Members:** _________________
- **Student Grade Level:** _______________  **Type of Group** (college, HS, community, etc): __________________
- **Music Director:** ____________________________  **NAfME ID No.:** _______________
  *(you must be a NAfME member)*
- **Address:** ____________________________  **City:** _______________  **Zip:** _______________
- **Email:** ____________________________  **School phone:** _______________
- **Home:** ____________________________  **Cell:** ____________________________

**Music Director’s Signature:** ____________________________  **Date:** __________________

**Administrator’s Signature:** ____________________________  **Date:** __________________
*(signifying approval)*

Submit your audition recording and application by email, or (page 1) postmarked no later than **June 1, 2017**.

Mail to: Darcy Brandenburg: 3163 6th St E, West Fargo, ND 58078
NDMEA Concert Hour Selection Guidelines

Selection of Performing Groups
The document describes the process utilized for all aspects of the concert hour performance procedure at all conferences of the North Dakota Music Educators Association. Included in this document are complete descriptions of concert hours, their implementation, procedure for selection and a rationale for the justification of deviations from the procedure when necessary. A system of checks and balances to assure adequate selection is included.

While the possibility exists that the template described below may not be exact in the future, the conference is described in the context of an event beginning on Thursday afternoon and concluding on Saturday afternoon with the All-State concerts; in addition to descriptions of the suggested concert hours, placement in the conference schedule based on trends established by past practice in the conference are listed.

Description of the Concert Hours
In addition to the All-State ensembles, up to six performing groups will be included at the NDMEA conference. Distribution of the performing groups could include the following:

- Class A Concert Band or Orchestra
- Class A Concert Choir
- Class B Concert Band* or Orchestra
- Class B Concert Choir*
- University Concert Band or Orchestra
- University Concert Choir or Orchestra
- University Jazz Ensemble, Community, Professional or Military Ensemble
- Elementary/General Music Ensemble, Junior High/Middle School vocal or instrumental ensemble, String or Full Orchestra

*Collaborations between school districts may be allowed with the following criteria: name of directors, which schools will be involved, a proposed music selection list (subject to change with the availability new music), and a proposed rehearsal schedule. If a collaboration project is selected, all schools involved in the proposal will be expected to follow through with their commitment to the project. A recording would not need to be submitted.

Placement in Schedule
Utilizing past trends of scheduling, the following schedule is proposed for the conference:

First Night, 7:30 PM
College Night (with the possibility of substitution by community or professional ensembles, depending on the context or submission of ensembles in a given year).

Two ensembles would perform at this evening concert: a university concert band/orchestra and a university concert choir. In the event of a special occasion or an absence of submissions, the concert could also include a similar community

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or professional ensemble (such as a military band/choir). For these concerts, the total time frame allowed for each ensemble would be 40 minutes.

Second Day, 11:00 AM
Secondary Schools Concert Hour, using a Class B School Concert Band/Orchestra and a Class B School Concert Choir. Total time for each ensemble: 25 minutes for a total Concert Hour time of 60 minutes.

Second Day 3:30 PM
Secondary Schools Concert Hour, using a Class A School Concert Band/Orchestra and a Class A School Concert Choir. Total time for each ensemble: 25 minutes for a total Concert Hour time of 60 minutes.

Other Ensemble Issues
Chamber ensembles of all types have been a desirable addition to the musical fabric of the conference; however, they also do not always seem appropriate in the replacement of the large ensembles except in highly unusual instances. At the same time, chamber ensembles may serve a valuable role in the context of clinic sessions, which can also serve as mini-concerts.

Selection Process

Committee
A committee will be chaired by the past-president of NDMEA and will be composed of three other members representing the following areas: one band, one choir, and one other area (to be chosen from areas including elementary/general music, middle school/junior high, college or orchestra). These three committee members may be retired music educators from the state or qualified persons without an appearance of a conflict of interest. The past-president should have the freedom to develop a committee but should, at the same time, seek the counsel of the NDMEA president regarding questions of committee membership.

In addition, the president-elect of NDMEA will serve as a non-participating observer on the committee. The purpose behind this inclusion is to provide the president-elect with an active understanding of the committee’s procedures for use upon assuming the duties of president followed by the chairing of the committee as past-president. The president-elect’s impartial and non-binding feedback may also prove useful in the committee’s activities.

Application Process

Directors interested in submitting ensembles for consideration at a given conference should apply by June 1 (postmark date) of the previous year and will be notified of their selection by August 1. The following should be included in the submission:

- At least two contrasting works or sections of works. The total amount of music on the submission should be a maximum of 15-20 minutes.

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Role of the Committee in the Selection Process
As chair of the Selection Committee, the past-president shall convene the committee following the deadline for submission. At the first meeting, the committee shall agree to a process that includes listening to every submission in entirety. The committee may find agreement on selections to be a straightforward process and may successfully choose all necessary concert slots as described above. The committee chair should also feel free to, if necessary, expand the selection process as needed within the allowed time frame and convene additional meetings.

For all decisions regarding ensemble selection, the committee should assume a minimum standard of acceptable performance. For example, the committee should not feel compelled to select a sub-par ensemble as a performing group solely because it may be the only submitted ensemble in a particular category. It is the committee’s responsibility to define and identify acceptable performance.

In the event of significant deviations from the prescribed list of performing ensembles, the committee must provide a rationale for such decisions (insufficient applications, unusually high standard of quality within a particular category, special circumstances that include a military or professional ensemble, etc.).

Checks and Balances
The task force recommends an appropriate set of checks and balances in the process so as to protect the integrity of the process and guard against decisions that may be judged as questionable. As part of this, we recommend the following:

- As chair of the committee, the past-president reports to the president of NDMEA.
- The selection committee serves the board of NDMEA; membership of the selection committee will be available to the board but should remain anonymous to the general membership of NDMEA.
- Prior to the finalizing of any selections for performing groups, the chair will forward all recommended ensemble selections and, if needed, the rationale for selections to the president and president-elect of NDMEA. Both the president and president-elect will scrutinize the committee decisions and make one of the following recommendations:
  - Approve the selections
  - Request more information regarding a selection or selections

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- Recommend the committee review its decision and, if necessary, reconvene.
- Veto a committee selection if the rationale does not sufficiently justify the decision. This option should be applied in the most extreme of circumstances only if the president and president-elect feel it is warranted.

- In the instance of a request for additional action from the committee, the past-president should act as intermediary between the selection committee and the president/president-elect. In most cases, the past-president will be able to answer for the committee. However, the committee should be aware of the scrutiny imposed by the checks and balances in place to ensure a thorough and careful selection process.
- Upon approval of the selections, the committee is discharged from its duties. Notification of an ensemble’s selection falls to the president in coordination with the state manager.

Additional Rules of Performance

- Ensembles should observe all time limits as stipulated. Those ensembles that flagrantly violate time limits as described may be prohibited from performing at future conferences for five years.
- A given ensemble may apply for a conference performance every three years; i.e., if an ensemble performs in 2008, it would next be eligible to perform in 2011.
- No school or organization may have a performance group of the same medium (i.e. Choir, Band, and Orchestra) appear at consecutive NDMEA Conferences. This applies to all ensembles appearing on any concert or clinic session sponsored by NDMEA. Examples: a school or organization may not enter a Concert Choir one year and a Women’s Chorus the next year, a String Orchestra one year and Full Orchestra the following year, etc.

2011 Concert Hour Task Force Committee Members:
Randy Hall, Warren Olfert, James Popejoy

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