

Levittown Public Schools
Secondary School NYSSMA Information & Registration Form

Solo Festival: March 23-24, 2012 / Kellenberg

Classical Guitar: April 25-26, 2012 / Island Trees

All-State & All-State Jazz (instrumental & Vocal): May 11-12, 2012 / Massapequa

- NYSSMA Overview:
 - **Participating in the NYSSMA festival is an extracurricular activity designed to supplement and enhance the student's music education, not act as a substitute for it.**
 - NYSSMA (New York State School Music Association) hosts festivals each year to provide students with an opportunity to prepare a solo and/or ensemble composition for an evaluation by a professional adjudicator.
 - Participating in the NYSSMA Festival gives students a chance to challenge themselves as players and receive an objective critique of their performance.
 - The festival offers students the invaluable experience of having to present themselves in a one on one "interview" type environment.

- Commitment:
 - **While participating in the NYSSMA festival can be a rewarding experience, students and their parents/guardians should carefully consider the commitment involved in preparing a solo before registering.**
 - A substantial amount of time must be devoted to practicing over the course of the months preceding the festival.
 - Depending on the level of the music selected and the ability of the student, private instruction may be a helpful resource in order to successfully prepare for the evaluation.
 - NYSSMA Festivals take place over a two day period. **Students must be available both days.** NYSSMA will send your teacher the day and time no later than one week prior to the NYSSMA Festival.

- Music Selection:
 - It is strongly recommended that students who wish to participate in the NYSSMA festival select their music as soon as possible so they have sufficient time to find a vendor from which to purchase their sheet music.
 - Music may have to be ordered from a vendor and could take a considerable amount of time before students will receive it.
 - NYSSMA requires two **original** copies of the composition, (photocopies are not permitted) - one for the performer(s) and the other for the adjudicator. Downloaded solos are permissible providing a paid receipt is shown to the adjudicator.
 - Make sure your prepared solo appears in the current NYSSMA Manual (XXIX) by checking with your school music teacher or your private teacher.

- Fees (non-refundable):
 - The Levittown School District does not pay NYSSMA registration fees.
 - Payment **MUST** be made by check, payable to *LEVITTOWN PUBLIC SCHOOLS* (Cash will NOT be accepted). All payments are **non-refundable**.
 - If your child is planning on participating in any NYSSMA Festival, he/she must hand in the completed information form and payment by **January 30, 2012**. **No registrations will be accepted after this due date.**
 - **NYSSMA solo and ensemble fees:**
 - Levels 1-4 Instrumental/Vocal: \$14
 - Levels 1-4 Piano: \$19
 - Levels 5-6 Instrumental/Vocal: \$21
 - Levels 5-6 Piano: \$26
 - All-State: \$26
 - Please note that all NYSSMA vocalists and most All-State level evaluations require an accompaniment. The accompaniment can be a paid professional pianist (fees are relatively standard) or a recording (student must provide their own recording and play back equipment).

Preparation

- Solos are graded by difficulty from Level 1 (easiest) to Level 6 (most difficult). Choose your solo carefully with the help of your music teacher.
- Students are responsible for preparing solos outside of school time. Most soloists find that a private music teacher is the best way to prepare. Teachers will be available as time permits during the school day for extra help.
- Practice must be regular and consistent.
- Participating students will be given a "Playing Permit" containing a map to the site, date, time, and room designation. Take the completed "Playing Permit" to the festival registration desk at least twenty minutes before you are scheduled to play. After you are registered, go to the "warm-up room" and review your prepared solo.
- Go to the audition/evaluation room fifteen minutes before you are scheduled.

Audition/Evaluation

- Instrumentalists must have two original publications of your solo. Vocalist will need three copies if their piece is not memorized. Speak to your teacher for clarification.
- Each instrumental student will be required to learn scales based on NYSSMA level. Check with your teacher. All scales must be memorized.
- If your instrumental or vocal solo comes with a piano accompaniment (with the solo part on it), you can give the piano part to the adjudicator and avoid buying a second original.
- No photocopies or scanned reproductions are allowed under NYSSMA rules.
- Downloaded solos are permissible providing a paid receipt is shown to the adjudicator.
- A short sight-reading example (unfamiliar music) will be performed. Students will be given about one minute to look over the music before attempting to play it. Students should use this time to look at the time signature, the key signature, rhythms, dynamics, tempo, and phrasing.
- Solos are evaluated with several categories.
 - Tone - the quality of the sound produced
 - Intonation - playing in tune
 - Technique - the physical skill to accurately perform the music
 - Accuracy - accuracy of notes and fingerings, bowings, rhythms etc.
 - Interpretation - the musical qualities of dynamics, style, tempo, phrasing, and expression
 - Scales (Instrumentalists) - playing the prepared scales
 - Sight Reading - playing music you have never seen before with correct notes, rhythms, articulation and dynamics
- You will receive your graded evaluation from your music teacher approximately one week after the festival.

**NYSSMA Spring
Solo/Ensemble Festivals
Registration Form**

Due: Monday, January 30, 2012

Name: _____ Grade: _____ SOLO or ENSEMBLE (circle one)

Instrument/Voice Type: _____ NYSSMA Level of Solo/Ensemble: _____

School Music Teacher: _____

If you are performing with an ensemble, list the student(s) that are in your ensemble: _____

Accompanist Name (required for vocalists and All-State level evaluations): _____

Do you take private lessons? Yes _____ No _____

Private Instructor's Name: _____ Phone #: _____

By signing this form I am stating that I have read and understand the NYSSMA guidelines.

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____

THIS FORM AND CHECK MUST BE
SUBMITTED TO YOUR MUSIC TEACHER NO LATER THAN **MONDAY, JANUARY 30, 2012.**

A separate check and form is needed for each solo or ensemble.
All checks are to be made out to **Levittown Public Schools.**
Cash will not be accepted.