



**N.M.E.A.** NASSAU MUSIC  
EDUCATORS  
ASSOCIATION

## **All-County & Peak Nomination and Selection Guidelines**

1. All nominations for All-County and PEAK MUST be completed online at [www.nassaumusic.org](http://www.nassaumusic.org). The online system will not accept nominations after the deadline of October 1, 2025
  - a. All-County/PEAK deadline 10/1/24, nominations will close at 12:01 am on 10/2/25..
  - b. All-County Student agreement forms must be postmarked to the chair people by 11/24/25.
2. Follow all online prompts very carefully. Please remember to upload each student's current year's NYSSMA sheet(s) as you complete their nominations. No material needs to be printed and mailed to the chairperson for the nomination process.
3. Student nominations will be accepted from NMEA Members ONLY.
4. Nominations for All-County must be submitted from the student's performance group teacher. If there is no performance group for that instrument/voice the nomination must come from an active NMEA member from their home district. The teacher must be directly employed by the district.
5. A student MUST be a participating member of his or her corresponding school music organization at the time of the nomination and at the time of the performance. Participation is defined as a minimum of 50% attendance and practice at in-school rehearsals where such rehearsals are offered and at concert performances with this same school organization.
6. For PEAK nominations the registration must come from the student's classroom music teacher. The maximum number of students per teacher is seven.
7. There are no substitutions and no refunds.
8. Please be sure to double-check the spelling of students' names. Students' names will be printed in the program exactly as they are entered into the database.
9. Members may submit one nomination form per division per building in which you teach. Major ensemble teachers of multiple grade levels are guaranteed representation in only one division.
  - i.e.: Teaching grades 5-6 will have representation in Division 1 Or 2, but not necessarily both.
  - Teaching grades 6-7 will have representation in Division 2 Or 3, but not necessarily both.
  - Teaching grades 9-12 will have representation in Division 4 Or 5, but not necessarily both.
10. Final ensemble selections are at the discretion of the selection committee and chairperson on the day of selections.



## **All-County & Peak Nomination and Selection Guidelines**

### **Chorus**

#### **Division 1**

- The first three students will be taken from each application. A maximum of NINE students per building can be chosen.
- The remaining openings will be filled with remaining applicants based on teachers' rank/comments.
- Consideration will be given to students with NYSSMA® grades.
- Parts will be assigned by the NMEA chairperson according to district.

#### **Division 2**

- The first two students will be taken from each application. A maximum of NINE students per building can be chosen.
- The remaining openings will be filled to balance the part voicing.
- Consideration will be given to students with NYSSMA® grades.

#### **Division 3 & 4**

- List students in the order in which you feel they deserve to be selected into an All-County ensemble. Use the NMEA Ranking order unless you feel that a student is more deserving than the NYSSMA® score (or non-NYSSMA® score). Please fill in supporting commentary to explain.
- If students of like voice parts are selected based on Teacher Rank over NMEA Rank, it is the responsibility of the nominating teacher to support that decision with students/parents. Teachers are advised to recommend more than one student and represent a variety of voice parts. Every teacher who is a member of NMEA will have representation in an All-County organization, but not necessarily his/her first-choice student.

#### **Division 5**

- All-National and All-State participants and alternates will be accepted automatically; however, their names must be submitted. Please state in the comments if All-State or Alternate.
- List students in the order in which you feel they deserve to be selected into an All-County ensemble. Use the NMEA Ranking order unless you feel that a student is more deserving than the NYSSMA® score (or non-NYSSMA® score). Please fill in supporting commentary to explain.
- If students of like voice parts are selected based on Teacher Rank over NMEA Rank, it is the responsibility of the nominating teacher to support that decision with students/parents.
- Teachers are advised to recommend more than one student and represent a variety of voice parts. Every teacher who is a member of NMEA will have representation in an All-County organization, but not necessarily his/her first-choice student.
- Selection for Mixed or Treble Chorus will be based on district and will rotate each year.

# **Band**

## **Divisions 1 & 2**

- List students in the order in which you feel they deserve to be selected into an All-County ensemble. Use the NMEA Ranking order unless you feel that a student is more deserving than the NYSSMA® score (or non-NYSSMA® score). Please fill in supporting commentary to explain.
- If students of like instruments are selected based on Teacher Rank over NMEA Rank, it is the responsibility of the nominating teacher to support that decision with students/parents.
- Teachers are advised to recommend more than one student and represent a variety of instruments. Every teacher who is a member of NMEA will have representation in an All-County organization, but not necessarily his/her first-choice student.
- If a student is nominated on an instrument that does not match the instrument on the NYSSMA® sheet, the score may not be accepted. If the student had not participated in NYSSMA® on that instrument please elaborate in the comment section.
- Teachers MUST recommend at least two names and represent a variety of instruments for consideration.
- PERCUSSIONISTS AND ALTO SAXOPHONISTS CANNOT BE THE ONLY INSTRUMENTS LISTED FOR THESE NOMINATED STUDENTS.
- NYSSMA® Jazz solo forms will not be accepted for any application.
- Every teacher who is a member of NMEA will have representation in an All-County organization, but not necessarily his/her first-choice student.

Members may submit one nomination form per division per building in which you teach. Major ensemble teachers of multiple grade levels are guaranteed representation in only one division. (i.e.: Teaching grades 5-6 will have representation in Division 1 OR 2, but not necessarily both. Teaching grades 6-7 will have representation in Division 2 OR 3, but not necessarily both.)

- Students selected into Jazz Band may constitute teacher representation.

## **Divisions 3, 4 & 5**

- All-National and All-State participants and alternates will be accepted automatically; however, their names still must be submitted.
- List students in the order in which you feel they deserve to be selected into an All-County ensemble. Use the NMEA Ranking order unless you feel that a student is more deserving than the NYSSMA® score (or non-NYSSMA® score). Please fill in supporting commentary to explain.
- If students of like instruments are selected based on Teacher Rank over NMEA Rank, it is the responsibility of the nominating teacher to support that decision with students/parents.
- Teachers are advised to recommend more than one student and represent a variety of instruments. Every teacher who is a member of NMEA will have representation in an All-County organization, but not necessarily his/her first-choice student.
- If a student is nominated on an instrument that does not match the instrument on the NYSSMA® sheet, the score may not be accepted. If the student had not participated in NYSSMA® on that instrument, please elaborate in the comment section.
- Teachers MUST submit at least two names and represent a variety of instruments for consideration.
- FLUTISTS, PERCUSSIONISTS AND ALTO SAXOPHONISTS CANNOT BE YOUR ONLY NOMINATION.
- NYSSMA® Jazz solo forms will not be accepted for any application.
- Every teacher who is a member of NMEA will have representation in an All-County organization, but not necessarily his/her first-choice student.
- Members may submit one nomination form per division per building in which you teach. Major ensemble teachers of multiple grade levels are guaranteed representation in only one division. (i.e.: Teaching grades 9-12 will have representation in Division 4 OR 5, but not necessarily both. Teaching grades 6-8 will have representation in Division 2 OR 3, but not necessarily both.)

# **Orchestra**

## **All Divisions**

- All-National and All-State participants and alternates will be accepted automatically. However, their names still must be submitted.
- List students in the order in which you feel they deserve to be selected into an All-County ensemble. Use the NMEA Ranking order unless you feel that a student is more deserving than the NYSSMA® score (or non-NYSSMA® score). Please fill in supporting commentary to explain.
- If students of like instruments are selected based on Teacher Rank over NMEA Rank, it is the responsibility of the nominating teacher to support that decision with students/parents.
- Teachers are advised to recommend more than one student and represent a variety of instruments. Every teacher who is a member of NMEA will have representation in an All-County organization, but not necessarily his/her first-choice student.
- If a student is nominated on an instrument that does not match the instrument on the NYSSMA® sheet, the score may not be accepted. If the student had not participated in NYSSMA® on that instrument, please elaborate in the comment section.
- Teachers MUST submit at least two names and represent a variety of instruments for consideration.
- NYSSMA® Jazz solo forms will not be accepted for any application.=
- Harp students will be considered for selection based on the instrumentation needs of the selected program.
- Members may submit one nomination form per division per building in which you teach. Major ensemble teachers of multiple grade levels are guaranteed representation in only one division. (i.e.: Teaching grades 9-12 will have representation in Division 4 OR 5, but not necessarily both. Teaching grades 6-8 will have representation in Division 2 OR 3, but not necessarily both. Teaching grades 5-6 will have representation in Division 1 OR 2, but not necessarily both.)
- Division 1 & 2 Only: Students selected into Jazz Band may constitute teacher representation.
- Division 5 Only: Selection for Symphony or String Orchestra will be based on district and will rotate each year.

## **BAND, ORCHESTRA, CHORUS AND JAZZ SELECTIONS**

Please be aware of the level of music played and choose students that will be able to perform at that level comfortably. We want every student to have a positive musical experience.

Division 1: equivalent to a NYSSMA® Majors level 1

Division 2: equivalent to a NYSSMA® Majors level 2/3

Division 3: equivalent to a NYSSMA® Majors level 3/ 4

Division 4: equivalent to a NYSSMA® Majors level 5/6

Division 5: equivalent to a NYSSMA® Majors level 6



## NMEA RANKING

*In an effort to encourage students to participate in the NYSSMA® Solo Evaluation Festival on the appropriate grade level, and to strive for excellence, the following guidelines will be used for All-County selections.*

### **NMEA RANKING**

1.	AS 6A+ 100	15.	All 6A 94	30.	4E 25	45.	3E 21
2.	AS 6A+ 99	16.	All 6A 93	31.	4E 24	46.	2E 25
3.	Non-AS 6A+ 100	17.	5A 96	32.	3O 28	47.	2E 24
4.	Non-AS 6A+ 99	18.	5A 95	33.	3O 27	48.	1O 28
5.	AS 6A+ 98	19.	All 6A- 92	34.	3O 26	49.	1O 27
6.	AS 6A+ 97	20.	All 6A- 91	35.	4E 23	50.	1O 26
7.	Non-AS 6A+ 98	21.	All 6A-90	36.	4E 22	51.	2E 23
8.	Non-AS 6A+ 97	22.	5A 94	37.	4E 21	52.	2E 22
9.	5A+ 100	23.	5A 93	38.	3E 25	53.	2E 21
10.	5A+ 99	24.	4O 28	39.	3E 24	54.	1E 25
11.	All 6A 96	25.	4O 27	40.	2O 28	55.	1E 24
12.	All 6A 95	26.	4O 26	41.	2O 27	56.	1E 23
13.	5A+ 98	27.	5A- 92	42.	2O 26	57.	1E 22
14.	5A+ 97	28.	5A- 91	43.	3E 23	58.	1E 21
		29.	5A- 90	44.	3E 22		



# Jazz Selection Guidelines

## AUDITIONS

Only students whose names are submitted through the online program will receive an audition date and time. You will receive an email when audition times are available for your students. **THERE ARE NO AUTOMATICS FOR ANY JAZZ GROUP.** No walk-ins will be permitted to audition. All Jazz candidates **MUST** audition. Students may participate in only one All-County performing group. Auditioning for jazz assumes that this is the student's first choice and that, if accepted, their name would be withdrawn from consideration for any other All-County group.

## INSTRUMENTAL JAZZ REQUIREMENTS:

\*\*\*\*PLEASE NOTE DIVISION 1-2 REQUIREMENTS ARE DIFFERENT FROM DIVISION 3-5\*\*\*\*

1. **DIVISION 1-2** applicants are permitted to audition with an **excerpt of a jazz NYSSMA solo or an excerpt of music that demonstrates that the student can play in the swing style.** Students are **not** permitted to play along with a recording for this portion of the audition. Students will sight-read as well.
2. **DIVISION 3-5** applicants are required to perform a solo selected from the Jazz solo section of the current NYSSMA manual and sight-read in the Jazz idiom. Students are **not** permitted to play along with a recording for this portion of the audition.
3. Improvisation is not graded, therefore not required, but is strongly recommended. Students may improvise on the Concert Bb Blues (CD track #7) or concert F Blues (CD track #8) from Volume 1 of Jamey Aebersold's "Jazz: How to Play and Improvise". Students are not required to bring this to the audition. The judges will have this CD selection at the audition. Students also have the option to solo on a selection from the Jazz section of the NYSSMA manual that is level appropriate. If they choose that option, they must bring the audio track, as well as a device on which to play it. (ie. CD and CD player, MP3 device and speakers).
4. Students recommended for Jazz may also be placed on any other All County application. If accepted to a Jazz group, his/her name will be removed from any other group he/she was nominated for.
5. A drum set, amplifier, and patch cords will be provided at the audition site. Drummers must bring their own sticks.

## **VOCAL JAZZ REQUIREMENTS:**

1. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to be in the **DIVISION 4-5** group.
2. Students will choose an audition song from the Jazz section of the NYSSMA manual. The song should be sung through twice, with embellishment on the repeat. The embellishment could be a scat style or singing the words again with stylistic interpretation.
3. Students will be asked to sight-read a short diatonic example.
  - Swinging of eighth notes is encouraged, as per the NYSSMA All-State Vocal Jazz guidelines.
4. Students should provide their own accompaniment CD and an original copy of the music for the judge.
5. Optional blues improvisation may be performed to Jamey Aebersold's "Nothin' But Blues" Vol. 2 (CD track #5 or CD track #9).

## **JAZZ DRUM SET REQUIREMENTS:**

1. **Demonstrate several measures of groove (time) in each of the following styles:**
  - Jazz - Swing time** (several tempos selected by the adjudicator)
  - Rock Time** (one tempo selected by the adjudicator, may play a funk beat or rock beat)
  - Latin Time** (one tempo selected by the adjudicator, may play a samba, bossa nova, mambo, etc.)
  - Ballad Time** with brushes (swing tempo selected by the adjudicator)

This demonstration will assess the student's minimum level of competency with the requirements of typical Jazz Ensemble literature. \*\*

*\*\*Note, sometimes not all of the audition grooves listed above are used in any one All County Jazz Concert, however this is still the best way of ascertaining the players' level of competency with the basic requirements of the drummers function. The students, particularly Division I, may not show great competence with all of the required styles - however the student that shows the **most** competency with **most** of the styles will be **most** likely to serve the group well.*

2. **Time and Fill:** The adjudicator sets a tempo and calls a style (one style): Jazz (Swing), Rock, or Latin. The student performs four (4) measures of time and two (2) measure fills in that style. The Time and Fill process repeats a number of times to be determined by the adjudicator (at least two times). This demonstrates the players' ability to count time during both the four-measure groove phrase, and the two measure solo phrase, and to switch from groove to solo accurately, as well as the ability to "fill" *appropriately* in the style of the piece.
3. **Demonstrate performance of a current manual listed Jazz NYSSMA Solo for drum set** (Except Division 1-2, please see above regarding the excerpt). The higher the NYSSMA level, the more competency displayed.
4. **Demonstrate the ability to sight read,** material and tempo to be provided by the adjudicator.

