

# WSMA Festivals Committee Meeting Minutes

Monday, June 12, 2017

## Present

Jeff Behrens, Scott Bruer, Vickie Donahue (WSMA Program Director), Jean Enyeart, Shelley Hooper (WSMA Program Director), Cynthia Kiepert, Jacob Kulba, Derek Machan, Kate MacRae, Molly Malone, Linda Meier (WSMA Program Associate), Anne Proescholdt (WSMA Program Associate – Member Services), James Thaldorf

## Absent

Steven Boyd, Micki Carlson, Kim Graff, Kayla Stocco, Dawn Kranz, Theresa McKinley (WSMA Director of Technology Services), Matthew Robisch, Timothy Schaid (WSMA Executive Director), Kirk Yudes

## Facilitator

Shelley Hooper

1. Welcome and introductions
2. WSMA festival rules change: eligibility requirements
  - a. Due to WSMA accreditation, only one school eligibility requirement remains: “School must be a current member of WSMA (memberships run from July 1- June 30).”
  - b. Student eligibility requirements heading will now read “WSMA Member Participation Requirements” and subsume remaining school eligibility requirement
  - c. Festivals committee recommends that WSMA consider revising piano student eligibility comment to include or be replaced by “WSMA recommends that piano students participate in a school music ensemble.”
  - d. Festivals committee’s WSMA accreditation feedback
    - i. Clarify that ensemble trips, composers- and clinicians-in-residence, and other unique opportunities qualify for clinic experiences
    - ii. Place accreditation reminders and clarifications in various places (especially fall issue of *WSM* magazine) throughout 2017-2018 school year
3. New solo and ensemble event: contemporary a cappella
  - a. Rubric creation referenced elements (e.g. improvisation and diction) from vocal jazz ensemble and instrumental jazz ensemble events rubrics
  - b. Event header began as mixed vocal jazz ensemble event header
  - c. Event features
    - i. No physical movement required
    - ii. No contrasting selections required
      1. Current lack of published repertoire limits options

- iii. No conducting allowed (only special ensemble with this rule)
      - 1. Add (and reference madrigal event language): student performing in the ensemble may cue entrance and cutoff
    - iv. No accompaniment allowed
    - v. Repertoire limited to classes A and B
    - vi. Ensemble size may range from five to 24 singers
      - 1. Facilitates ease of future modifications and fosters educational value
      - 2. For reference, show choir event is open class while madrigal event is limited
    - vii. Festivals committee recommends that no permissions or transfers are allowed
      - 1. Inconsistency in arrangement difficulty across ensembles (e.g. SATB arrangement more or less challenging than TTBB arrangement)
      - 2. Facilitates ease of future modifications
    - viii. Amplification is permissible but not provided by festival managers
  - d. Stylistic interpretations differing from scores
    - i. WSMA staff will determine where to place contemporary a cappella and other events reminder: "Stylistic choices that differ from the score are permissible but not required."
- 4. New solo and ensemble events: creative jazz combo and jazz combo
  - a. Jazz improvisation combo (event 6448) is retired and replaced by two new events
    - i. Student-created introductions and codas constitute biggest difference between new events to create more options for teachers
    - ii. Festivals committee recommends that new events 6478 and 6468 named "creative jazz combo" and "jazz combo," respectively
  - b. Festivals committee recommends that swing requirement ("One of the numbers performed must be a swing tune; the other number must complete the contrasting style or tempo requirement.") is removed from creative jazz combo and retained in jazz combo
    - i. Students able to create their own introductions and codas should have had swing foundation already
- 5. Adjudicator recruitment, training, and registration processes revision
  - a. Demand for qualified and experienced adjudicators increases within context of outdated processes
  - b. WSMA proposals
    - i. Require three-year teaching minimum to increase likelihood of familiarity with WSMA and its festivals
    - ii. Remove unused mentorship process
  - c. Festivals committee ideas
    - i. Refine recruitment, registration, and training processes

1. Improve accuracy of major and minor instruments data collection by posting registration form online exclusively and require clarifying comments for each selection
  2. Consider offering adjudicator training at destination event(s) (e.g. Wisconsin State Music Conference, WCDA events, etc.)
  3. Address new teacher candidate pros and cons (i.e. varying experience, availability, excitement)
    - a. Require half festival day mentorship experience from master level adjudicators of interested first- and/or second-year teachers
    - b. Ask mentors to donate mileage reimbursement to trainees
6. Recording adjudicator comments
  - a. Parent email challenges rule that adjudicator comments may not be recorded
  - b. Festivals committee upholds rule
7. Regular and special ensembles co-op requests between schools
  - a. WSMA receives several requests each school year, especially from non-members
  - b. Festivals committee recommends changing rule to allow regular and special ensembles co-ops between schools
    - i. Require that one WSMA member school student participates
    - ii. Require signatures from both directors
    - iii. WSMA will revise special ensemble co-op request form to accommodate rule change for both regular and special co-op ensembles and add note to non-member informational materials
8. Exemplary soloist award process review
  - a. 2017 modifications to maintain integrity of “exemplary” distinction successful: nominations and selections decreased in number, and first rating-earners retained sense of pride
    - i. Adjudicators nominate (up to six) and select (up to two) students based on algorithm for each room
    - ii. Adjudicators no longer mark nominations on rubrics
    - iii. Nominations posted with official results
  - b. Festivals committee recommends extending award to ensembles and renaming it “exemplary performance award”
    - i. Process will remain relatively unchanged
    - ii. Soloist selections will likely decrease in number
  - c. WSMA will decide whether to extend showcase opportunity to exemplary ensembles
9. Music theater and other solo and ensemble events rubrics revisal
  - a. Festivals committee recommends that WSMA revise music theater rubric to deemphasize acting

- i. Separate physical from musical aspects
    - ii. Limit physical aspects to one category
    - iii. Move phrasing, dynamics, and tempo from “expression” category to “musicality” category
    - iv. Create intonation (under “vocal technique”) category
    - v. Edit score breakdowns to better suit rating designation columns
  - b. WSMA will consider developing formal rubrics review process
- 10. Festivals committee seats
  - a. Committee member term is three years but renewable indefinitely
  - b. Shelley will contact committee members whose term will soon expire to ask about intent
  - c. Help fill open seats by suggesting prospective committee members to Shelley
  - d. WSMA will consider other ways to solicit committee membership interest (e.g. via directory update form, cards placed at strategic locations such as conference booths, etc.)
- 11. Mileage reimbursement
  - a. Festivals committee members attending meetings should submit mileage for reimbursement via provided paper form or online
- 12. Next year’s meetings
  - a. Tuesday, January 9, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.
  - b. Tuesday, June 12, 2018 at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by Anne Proescholdt