

WSMA Festivals Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 8, 2019

Present

Jeff Behrens, Scott Bruer, Victoria Donahue (WSMA Program Director), Jean Enyeart, Kendra Junk, Cynthia Kiepert, Derek Machan, Kate MacRae, Theresa McKinley (WSMA Director of Technology Services), Linda Meier (WSMA Program Associate), Anne Proescholdt (WSMA Program Associate - Member Services), Lindsay Pytel, Matthew Robisch, Erica Ruppert (WSMA Program Director), Laura Schram (WSMA Program Manager), Jack Young

Absent

Steven Boyd, Jacob Kulba, James Thaldorf

Facilitator

Erica Ruppert

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Event 5311: marimba or xylophone solo
 - a. Some students want to perform one of each solo type but it is currently not allowed (fewer than five requests were made in 2017-2018 school year)
 - b. Festival committee suggestions
 - i. Create two separate lists for xylophone and marimba: for 2019-2020 school year, use current list for event 5311 to introduce new event number and limit to transfer only and no permission allowed
 - ii. Mallet list is up for review next year, so wait for new list to determine if repertoire should differ
 - iii. Theresa will create sample list split for June 2019 meeting to help decide whether list should split or allow transfers instead
3. Maximum number of performers in events/open class events
 - a. Capping open class events in particular may help festival managers with scheduling, room, and equipment needs
 - b. Examples of current ensemble size restrictions: regular ensembles have 12-24 students, open class ensembles require at least 25 students, and string choirs can have up to 28 students
 - c. In 2017-2018, 211 events were open class; of those, 56 were more than 30 members large; 14 ethnic ensembles were 28+ members
 - d. Concert group concert festivals and clinic experiences exist to accommodate groups inappropriately large for solo and ensemble setting
 - e. Festivals committee suggestions
 - i. Eliminate open class events option and create cap at 30 total student ensemble members across all events, but specific events could have lower caps as needed

- ii. Send one-year warning to teachers that this cap will take effect in 2020-2021 school year
 - iii. Recommend to teachers with ensembles more than 30 members large that they can split group into more than one ensemble, remind teachers that students can be in multiple show choirs, and suggest teachers look for other opportunities in their area in addition to solo and ensemble festivals
 - iv. WSMA should investigate the possibility of implementing targeted programming for large show and other choirs
- 4. Student solo and ensemble festivals introductions
 - a. Festivals committee maintains that no changes are necessary
 - b. Direct teachers to *Beyond Ratings* resources in MyCenter for sample lesson ideas
- 5. Length of vocal and instrumental solos
 - a. Instrumental solos often do not fit into performance time allotted, while vocal solos can be only two-to-three minutes, allowing for more adjudicator critique
 - b. Festivals committee suggests that selection committee makes cut recommendations for each new piece more than six minutes in length; for standard repertoire, WSMA staff could contact those with experience to make cut recommendations
- 6. Vocal music list
 - a. Selection committee: "We recommend that all Class A Vocal Solos be required to sing in the original language the selection was written in (unless the original language is already English). If the original language is not printed in the edition, the student may select to sing in either the original language or English." --Todd Jaeger, Greg Dennis, Peter Putz, Ben Westphal, Jean Enyeart
 - i. Festivals committee recommends applying this change to vocal solos in all classes and making approved languages clear for each piece
 - b. Possibility of creating four-part/three-part/two-part vocal list that is transferable across all concert festival events
 - i. Creates flexibility for groups with unbalanced voicing (e.g. middle school choirs tend to have more higher voices than lower)
 - ii. Festivals committee tables this topic for June 2019 meeting and requests more information from suggester
 - c. Festivals committee recommends combining solo and ensemble duet lists for 2021-2022 school year
- 7. New event proposal: mixed voice barbershop
 - a. Mixed voice barbershop has increased in popularity and reflects societal changes
 - b. This new event would allow transfers only (from other barbershop lists)
 - c. Remove gender from all barbershop events
 - i. Event 1414: change name to "SSAA Barbershop Quartet"
 - ii. Event 1424: change name to "TTBB Barbershop Quartet"
 - d. Festival committee approves new event proposal and name changes to events 1414 and 1424

8. Event 8318: creative electronic instrument ensemble
 - a. Intended for two-to-six players on synthesizer, computer, etc. but never registered
 - b. Look at reforming event 8318 to better fit needs and desires of students and their teachers
 - c. Alternate strings list is changing next year, so this issue may resolve itself
 - d. Festivals committee tables this topic for June 2019 meeting

9. Events 9118 & 9119: miscellaneous ensembles
 - a. Restrict to one per part for event 9118 (e.g. teachers double parts on trios, but six players is not a trio)
 - b. Allow doubling of parts up to 30 performers for event 9119
 - c. Add language to header regarding style of music
 - i. Many permission requests originate in 6000 events and many events are registered incorrectly through transfer
 - ii. Rules need clarification

10. WSMA Accreditation feedback
 - a. Administration do not understand it
 - i. Consider sending informational email to administration before award packet arrives
 - ii. Consider sending award packet to music department directly

11. Closed (no permission/transfer allowed) and open lists
 - a. Festivals committee supports closing lists with ten selections per event per class; begin closing qualifying lists with review rotation schedule

12. Other festivals committee member topics
 - a. Festivals committee wishes to express its enjoyment of and gratitude for cooperation and teamwork of its committee members
 - b. Introduction of Laurie Fellenz, new WSMA executive director as of July 2018

13. Festivals committee new member suggestions
 - a. Festivals committee suggests increasing diversity of committee members by enforcing term limits
 - b. Brainstorm of potential new committee members

14. Next year's meetings
 - a. Tuesday, June 11, 2019 at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - b. Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
 - c. Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Anne Proescholdt