

# WSMA Festivals Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, June 11, 2019

## Present

Jeff Behrens, Victoria Donahue (WSMA Program Director), Jean Enyeart, Sarah Hafenstein, Cynthia Kiepert, Jacob Kulba, Brad Lebakken, 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, Erica Ruppert (WSMA Program Director), Laura Schram (WSMA Program Manager), Lee Stovall, Drew Wojciehowski, Jack Young

## Absent

Scott Bruer, Kendra Junk, Matthew Robisch, James Thaldorf

## Facilitator

Erica Ruppert

1. Welcome and introductions
  - a. New committee members: Sarah Hafenstein, Brad Lebakken, Lee Stovall, Drew Wojciehowski
2. Instrumental breakout
  - a. Event 5311: marimba or xylophone solo
    - i. Some students want to perform one of each solo type but it is currently not allowed
    - ii. Festivals committee suggestion at last meeting: create two separate lists for xylophone and marimba by splitting marimba and xylophone list
    - iii. Festivals committee maintains that no changes are necessary, as no fundamental technique difference exists between marimba and xylophone
  - b. Event 8318: creative electronic instrument ensemble
    - i. No event registration for at least four years
    - ii. Few adjudicators comfortable critiquing
    - iii. Festivals committee recommends retiring event
  - c. Events 9118 & 9119: miscellaneous ensemble & miscellaneous special ensemble
    - i. Teachers submitting double duets and trios for permission
      1. Consider restricting event 9118 to one performer per part
      2. Festivals committee recommends restricting event 9118 to one performer per part except in Class C
      3. No change in number of performers needed for event 9119
  - d. New event proposal: “freestyle string chamber ensemble”
    - i. Music list selection committee has identified need for genre expansion of string literature
    - ii. Festivals committee suggests renaming proposed event to “alternative chamber ensemble - strings” to avoid alluding to any improvisation

- requirement and to allow potential similar event proposals for other instruments
    - iii. Festivals committee suggests including “no percussion allowed; keyboard allowed only if chosen selection has a part for it”
    - iv. Number of players to be determined
    - v. Festivals committee will continue to discuss at next meeting
  - e. Non-traditional instruments requested through permissions (e.g. bagpipe, accordion, etc.)
    - i. “Non-traditional” refers to instruments not typically taught in school music programs
    - ii. Hurdles to approval
      - 1. Ability to offer quality rubrics
      - 2. Ability to offer quality adjudication
    - iii. Festivals committee recommends denying permission requests for solos on instruments for which no rubric exists and allowing ensembles to include one player on a non-traditional instrument
    - iv. Ukulele is taught in some schools but no ukulele event exists
      - 1. Determine whether to register as guitar event or miscellaneous string event
      - 2. Festivals committee suggests registering as guitar event but needs to solicit feedback from ukulele players about whether use of guitar rubric is sufficient
  - f. Festivals committee approves proposed guitar rubrics for district and state festivals
  - g. Event 5859: steel drum band
    - i. Festivals committee approves suggested header verbiage: “A SPECIAL Ensemble. This special ensemble may be directed by an adult or student beating time from within the ensemble using traditional Steel Drum Band instruments (such as brake drum or ting), excluding drum set. The director does not count toward the maximum number of players.”
    - ii. Festivals committee suggests adding: “All members of the ensemble, excluding the director, count towards the maximum number of performers.”
  - b. Event 5918: miscellaneous percussion ensemble
    - i. Festivals committee suggests striking “music must use at least three different common and/or ethnic instruments” to allow percussion choirs and ensembles playing similar percussion instruments (e.g. differently-pitched bass drums)
  - c. Helping teachers cut music that exceeds allotted performance time
    - i. Festivals committee recommends adding language about suggested cuts noted in festival music list to festival rule V.B.1.b.
  - d. Instrumental concert festival music lists
    - i. Some pieces include instruments not typically found in ensemble type
    - ii. Festivals committee recommends

1. Stating that piano or percussion is optional unless otherwise marked; if done, it must be played by student on event 2020 (string orchestra) (applies to all classes)
  2. Adding note that no adults are allowed to perform and all performers must be enrolled students
  3. Striking rule 8 from orchestra and band lists headers: “Electronic substitutions for traditional instruments require written permission from WSMA.”
3. Vocal breakout (this section by Victoria Donahue)
- a. Follow-up from January:
    - i. Edit current vocal lists to create four/three/two part lists that are transferable across all Concert Festival List.
      1. There is concern that difficulty level is not similar between arrangements (SSAA/TTBB/SATB)
      2. Allows for more flexibility for ensembles with lack of voice balance between sections.
      3. Create an additional event number that allows for a mixture of voicings in the three selections/non-standard only, but still require a similar difficulty level. Permission only event.
        - a. Non-Standard Voicing Event
          - i. Ex. SATB piece with altos singing tenor line and all TB singing bass line. (SSAB)
        - b. Selection committee will work on this during the 2019-2020 school year and the new Event will become available for the 2020-2021 school year.
    4. Solo & Ensemble List Event Changes
      - a. Create one duet list for all duets.
        - i. Drop the SA and TB duet list number. Use 1882 mixed duet event number.
      - b. Create two additional vocal solo lists of standard repertoire. One for S/T and one for A/B with songs that can be sung by those voices.
        - i. Theresa will look into this and update us at the January meeting as to how this will work.
      - c. Create a class C list under unchanged/changed voice that are a range of a 5th.
        - i. Jean Enyeart will send a list of book titles that will work in this new category.
      - d. Remove “Boy’s” off of the Changed/Unchanged voice event (done, by TM).
    - ii. Class A Vocal Events must be sung in the original language in which the piece was written. If the original language is not printed in the edition, the student may select to sing in either the published language or the original language.
      1. Seeking board approval for 2019-2020 implementation

- a. APPROVED (with updated verbiage above)
  - 2. Only allow transposition of ½ step for Class A vocal solos on voice specific lists (includes music theater) -
    - a. Revisit in June 2020.
- iii. Barbershop Events
  - 1. New Event: 1434 (?) Non-Standard Voicing Barbershop Quartet
    - a. A Regular Ensemble. A regular ensemble may not be conducted.
    - b. Limited Transfer from other BBS lists. (No selection list provided.)
    - c. See Rule VI in the WSMA Festival Rules for information about permissions, transfers and student compositions.
    - d. For 4 mixed voices in Class A and Class B. Doubling parts for Class C barbershop quartets is allowed.
    - e. Class A and B vocal selections can be transposed up or down as much as a minor third into a key that best accommodates the tessitura of the voices. There are no transposition restrictions on Class C vocal ensembles.
    - f. Events 1414, 1424 and 1434 must be performed unaccompanied.
    - g. Add a note to visit the BHS website for extra guidance.
  - 2. Edit 1414 – Treble Barbershop Quartet
    - a. Change event name to SSAA Barbershop Quartet
  - 3. Edit 1424 – Barbershop Quartet
    - a. Change name to TTBB Barbershop Quartet
  - 4. Remove gender reference in header rule 3: For 4 TTBB voices....
  - 5. Seeking board approval for 2019-2020 implementation
    - a. APPROVED
- iv. Concert Choir - do selected pieces need to be the same voicing as the required piece?
  - 1. Update event titles to:
    - a. Mixed Choir = SATB/SAB/Divisi Choir
    - b. SSA/A Choir = SSAA/SSA/Divisi Choir
    - c. TTB/B Choir = TTBB/TTB/Divisi Choir
  - 2. Add new verbiage to header:
    - a. The SELECTED number(s) may be from any other source including the current WSMA List, but may not be selected from a lower class. The selected number(s) must use the same voicing(s) as specified in the event heading, and must be of the same class difficulty as the required number while providing a diverse and contrasting program. It is not necessary to send the selected number(s) to WSMA for permission.
  - 3. Add to Event 1030 Class M header:
    - a. Octave displacement to accommodate changing voices is allowed.
  - 4. Reorganize the pieces in Event 1030 into three lists (2-part, 3-part, 4-part)

- v. Music Theater Event Clarifications - Suggestions for additions - APPROVED
    - 1. Costumes are optional.
    - 2. Header Rule 6. The entire performance must be done in character. Acting and blocking should be appropriate for the scene and performance space. For clarification see rubric.
4. Additions to WSMA festival rules
- a. Festivals committee approves suggested code of conduct:
    - i. "A student-musician must follow their school's code of conduct on a year-round basis at all WSMA sanctioned events. Member school leadership, in consultation with the WSMA executive director, will determine consequences for violation of any of the provisions of its code of conduct, including any offenses for any unacceptable conduct contrary to the ideals, principles, and standards of the school and this Association."
  - b. Soliciting or recruiting at district or state festivals
    - i. At solo and ensemble festivals last spring, students approached by similar organization to participate in their event, pictures taken, inappropriate comments made in performance site following students' performances
      - 1. Festivals committee approves suggested rule, modifying "solicited" to "approached":
        - a. "During a festival, students, parents and/or staff shall not be solicited on school premises by teachers or others to subscribe or contribute to the funds of, to become members of, or to work for, or participate in any organization or event."
  - c. Items seeking approval at June board meeting
    - i. Maximum number of performers in all events
      - 1. Eliminate open class events option and create cap of 30 total performers across all events, but specific events could have lower caps as needed
      - 2. Implement for 2020-2021 school year
      - 3. Send one-year warning to affected teachers and recommend that they split groups exceeding size limit into multiple ensembles (students can perform in multiple ensembles under same event number)
  - d. How to handle variance in cadenzas and recitatives in solos
    - i. Festivals committee suggestions
      - 1. Students must perform written out cadenzas and recitatives if one or more options provided in music
      - 2. Students are not required to perform written out cadenzas and recitatives marked optional in music
      - 3. Students are not required to perform cadenzas and recitatives not written out in music

4. Students performing cadenzas or recitatives that deviate from what is written in adjudicators' copies should provide written versions to adjudicators
  - ii. Festivals committee recommends that music selection committee considers cadenzas and recitatives when choosing new pieces and suggested cuts
5. Appreciation expressed to festivals committee for service to WSMA
6. Next year's meetings:
  - a. Tuesday, January 14, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  - b. Tuesday, June 16, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.
  - c. Contact Erica or Victoria with ideas for agenda items

Submitted by Anne Proescholdt