

WSMA Festivals Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, January 14, 2020

Present

Jeff Behrens, Scott Bruer, Victoria Donahue (WSMA Program Director), Jean Enyeart, Sarah Hafenstein, Kendra Junk, Cynthia Kiepert, Jake Kulba, Brad Lebakken, Derek Machan, Kate MacRae, Theresa McKinley (WSMA Director of Technology Services), Linda Meier (WSMA Program Associate), Anne Proescholdt (WSMA Program Associate), Matthew Robisch, Erica Ruppert (WSMA Program Director), Laura Schram (WSMA Program Manager), Lee Stovall, Drew Wojciehowski, Jack Young

Absent

Lindsay Pytel

Facilitator

Erica Ruppert

1. Welcome and introductions
2. Proposed open class rule change to take effect in 2020-2021 school year
 - a. Eliminate open classes and cap ensembles at 30 members
 - b. In 2018-2019 school year, 66 ensembles exceeded 29 members
 - c. WSMA sent survey to member school teachers to assess impact
 - i. 35% response rate (254 responses)
 - ii. Majority of teachers report no impact, but it is suspected that mostly vocal teachers responded (if all teachers had responded, outcome might be different); however, WSMA received many impassioned responses against cap
 - b. Festivals committee seeks to consider:
 - i. Logistical needs of festival sites
 - ii. Stylistic integrity of events
 - iii. Quality of student experiences
 - c. Festivals committee wishes to communicate:
 - i. Change accompanies growth
 - ii. No intention of reducing student opportunities but rather working to improve what exists
 - iii. If other opportunities are necessary, teachers are responsible for finding them
 - d. Questioning rule change
 - i. Lack of locations for groups seeking to participate in WSMA Concert Festival instead
 - ii. District festival managers and teachers have made it work thus far; maybe teachers should be responsible for what they need (i.e. chairs, stands, etc.), but issues at state festivals would still remain

- iii. Teachers understandably want their groups to be inclusive and do not want to cut students who want to participate
 - iv. Other large ensemble opportunities outside of WSMA may be limited or out of reach
 - v. Change is hard
 - e. Other considerations
 - i. Better market ability to request attendance at any festival location
 - ii. Put new emphasis on WSMA Concert Festivals option and produce a map of concert festival locations throughout state to help teachers find festivals outside their conference
 - iii. Expand WSMA Concert Festivals to include large ensembles
 - iv. Refine festival manager communications, and remind festival managers to communicate with attending schools to ensure preemption of issues
 - f. Conclusions
 - i. No rule change will go into effect: teachers will set their own standards of expectation for this piece of their festival experience
 - ii. Need to communicate status of this discussion with WSMA member school teachers: this issue is about space and resources, especially at state festivals
 - iii. Festivals committee will explore other solutions to address festival space and resource needs, especially at state festivals
2. Vocal events and lists
- a. Jazz vocal events (show choir, vocal jazz ensemble and contemporary a cappella)
 - i. Selection committee requests clarification of whether two-part music should be included
 - ii. Festivals committee recommends including two-part music in lists for all class C jazz vocal events and voicings
 - b. Aria
 - i. Member school teacher suggests removal of ability to transpose class A aria
 - 1. Transposition lessens difficulty
 - 2. Composer intends performance in original key
 - ii. Festivals committee recommends continuation of minor third transposition allowance for all class A vocal solos
 - c. Vocal solos and accompaniment
 - i. Member school teacher suggests requiring that all vocal solos are accompanied (unless written to be sung a cappella) to remain true to composer's intent
 - ii. Festivals committee does not wish to create this rule from rare exceptions; a cappella singing increases event difficulty anyway
 - d. Vocal duet list revisions
 - i. It was suggested at June meeting to consider creating one vocal duet list by dropping SA and TB duet list numbers and using mixed duet event number (1882)

- ii. Festivals committee recommends maintaining structure of current lists to help teachers familiarize themselves with repertoire
 - e. Standard vocal repertoire lists
 - i. It was suggested at June meeting to create two additional vocal solo lists of standard repertoire: one for ST and one for AB with songs that can be sung by either voice
 - ii. Festivals committee recommends maintaining all four lists as they currently exist but also evaluating their consistency in art pieces from list-to-list with each review (vocal solos are up for review in 2020, so shore up can begin this year)
 - f. Unchanged/changing voice event
 - i. Member school teacher suggests adding class C selection list to unchanged/changing voice event that has selections with vocal range no greater than a fifth
 - 1. Jean Enyeart has repertoire suggestions especially helpful for middle school voices (e.g. books that display range for each limited-range piece)
 - 2. Festivals committee recommends adding class C selection list to unchanged/changing voice event
 - ii. Questions in response to removal of “boy’s” from event name
 - 1. Member school teachers asking:
 - a. If event now open to female and transitioning students
 - b. Whether event allows access to unlimited transpositions
 - 2. Festivals committee wishes to revise event name to “changing/transitioning voice” to include all students who need access
 - 3. Festivals committee will not limit class A transposition in changing/transitioning voice event at this time but will revisit topic at June meeting
3. Instrumental events and lists
 - a. Jazz ensemble events
 - i. Adjudicator asked if maximum number of performers is total of students playing in both pieces (e.g. 30 students play one piece, and five new students replace five performers for second piece; performer total is 35 students)
 - ii. Festivals committee maintains that it is responsibility of adjudicators to evaluate each performance and critique accordingly
 - b. New instrumental jazz rubric
 - i. Festivals committee approves new instrumental jazz rubric
 - c. B ♭ clarinet solo event
 - i. Member school music teacher asked if student could enter event on A clarinet
 - 1. Many of event’s selections are already available in B ♭ or A

2. Historically, A clarinet events have been registered in B ♭ clarinet solo event or miscellaneous woodwind solo event
 3. Festivals committee recommends that students who wish to play A clarinet register in miscellaneous woodwind solo event
- d. New event proposal: “freestyle string chamber ensemble”
- i. Member school teachers proposed new freestyle string chamber ensemble event at June meeting
 - ii. Music list selection committee has identified need for genre expansion of string literature
 - iii. 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
 - iv. Festivals committee suggests including “no percussion allowed; keyboard allowed only if chosen selection has a part for it”
 - v. Number of players to be determined
 - vi. Festivals committee asserts potential creation of umbrella event for all instrumentalists (i.e. event for chamber ensembles with any instrumentation)
 - vii. Festivals committee approves creation of new event with special committee to provide recommendations
 1. New event must require performance of two pieces
 2. New event will allow submission of permissions
 3. Relevant rubrics will be updated to be inclusive of all playing styles
4. Other
- a. Reminder: WSMA Concert Festivals and clinic experiences are distinct opportunities (see wsmamusic.org/concert-festivals/types) but both count toward WSMA Accreditation concert group requirement
 - b. Derek Machan and Matthew Robisch expressed appreciation for pride WSMA Accreditation has brought to their schools and school administrators
 - c. Theresa reported that WSMA & WMEA are forming diversity and inclusion committee and may call upon festivals committee to contribute and review festivals through that lens
 - d. Erica Ruppert will contact those whose festivals committee term is up for renewal
5. Next meeting: Tuesday, June 9, 2020 at 10:00 a.m. to 3:00 p.m.

Submitted by Anne Proescholdt