

WSMA Festivals Committee Meeting Minutes

Tuesday, April 20, 2021

Present

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

Absent

Brad Lebakken

Facilitator

Erica Ruppert

1. Welcome and introductions
 - a. WSMA Virtual Solo & Ensemble Festival largest of its kind in USA
2. Items tabled from last meeting
 - a. Instrumental events
 - i. New event proposal: Alternative Chamber Ensemble - Strings
 1. WSMA Festival Music List repertoire work to occur in 2021-2022 school year for debut in 2022-2023 school year
 2. Event name avoids alluding to any improvisation requirement and allows potential similar event proposals for other instruments
 3. May inspire creation of umbrella event for all instrumentalists (i.e. event for chamber ensembles with any instrumentation), “Alternative Chamber Ensemble”
 - a. Festivals committee suggests employing header verbiage similar to that of event 6329 (alternative string) and these parameters:
 - i. Percussion, keyboard, and electronic instruments allowed only if chosen selection includes respective parts
 - ii. Festival host will not provide percussion, keyboard, or electronic equipment
 - iii. For ensembles up to 15 players
 - iv. All parts must be covered; parts can be doubled

- v. Performance of only one piece required (to simplify instrumentation needs and accommodate time constraints)
- vi. Permission submissions allowed
- vii. Provide selection lists for classes A and B; consider developing class C list from permissions submitted in future
- viii. Revise relevant rubrics to accommodate all playing styles; consider using alternative strings event rubric as model

b. Vocal events

- i. Festivals committee confirms naming convention and formatting of choir event titles, as per this example:

Concert Festivals - Choir
Event 1000 - Mixed Choir
SATB/SAB/Divisi Choir

- ii. Event 1231
 - 1. Previously named “changing/unchanged voice” but recently renamed to “changing/transitioning voice”
 - 2. Festivals committee confirms that event is now open to female and transitioning students
 - a. Concern about teachers taking advantage of this allowance under false pretenses
 - i. Festivals committee maintains that WSMA must continue to trust teachers to be professionals who act in students’ best interest and suggests including statement on this topic in WSMA Festival Music List
 - 3. Festivals committee wishes to proceed with creation of class C selection list and will consult Jean Enyeart for repertoire suggestions

3. New items

- a. Comments only
 - i. Significant number of teachers contacted WSMA this school year wondering what to do for students who prepared selection not appearing on current WSMA Festival Music List (probably due to unique

circumstances of this school year and new registration process via festival app; preset options brought outdated selections to teachers' attention)

1. Festivals committee supports allowing teachers in this position to register students for comments only performance
 2. Festivals committee suggests creating list of selections retiring from next WSMA Festival Music List to share with WSMA member school music teachers and professional music teacher organizations
 3. Festivals committee suggests revisiting this topic after observing what happens in school year with more normalcy
- ii. WSMA proposes creating comments only selection number to each event or adding comments only class in order to:
1. Flag selections not on current WSMA Festival Music List
 2. Allow exceptional students to performance of music at a higher level of difficulty than offered by WSMA Festival Music List
 3. Allow students preparing for college music auditions to perform audition selection if not on current WSMA Festival Music List
 4. Accommodate teachers who disagree philosophically with ratings
- iii. Festivals committee does not wish to make changes to comments only processes
1. Teachers are permitted to register students for comments only performances proactively
 2. WSMA is backed by strong tradition of deep thinking to back program structure
 3. Benefits of change would not justify complications to logistics
 4. Realistically, WSMA cannot be all things to all people; teachers can seek other opportunities for ratings-less performance feedback
- b. Eligibility rules
- i. To emphasize that student participation eligibility is ultimately determined and enforced by schools and not WSMA, festivals committee approves these changes to student participation eligibility rules:
 1. Participation in school music is no longer limited to concert group rehearsal during normal school hours
 - a. Accommodates students who play instruments not well-suited for band, choir, and orchestra
 - b. Accommodates students who have demanding class schedules that do not allow for band, choir, or orchestra
 2. Remove requirement to submit written waiver to WSMA

- c. Continuing to offer virtual festival option
 - i. Festivals committee would like WSMA to offer virtual festival option for schools unable to attend in person in 2021-2022 school year and possibly beyond
 - ii. Festivals committee thoughts about other potential future virtual festival offerings:
 - 1. Consider offering two festival cycles per year (e.g., virtual in fall and in-person in spring and/or flipped)
 - a. Possibly require that participation in virtual festival is dependent on participation at in-person festival
 - b. Decide whether adjudicator feedback from virtual festival should be comment-only
 - 2. Provide virtual festival training to teachers and adjudicators to alleviate stress
 - 3. Weigh equity issues both helped and posed by virtual festivals
 - 4. Recognize what is lost by not performing in-person and question philosophical goals (what we hope to promote as musicians) with virtual option
 - 5. Value opportunity to meet several needs by offering virtual participation as precursor to in-person festival
 - 6. Think about offering virtual state festival option to students who have scheduling conflicts with in-person date
 - d. Communications
 - i. Festivals committee would like WSMA to continue sending weekly festival update emails in 2021-2022 school year
5. Upcoming policy work
 - a. Festivals cancellation policy
 - i. WSMA will revise festivals cancellation policy to cover cancellations for reasons beyond anyone's control (more than just inclement weather), including details on how finances will be handled
 - b. Festival music list
 - i. WSMA board will create strategic plan to address diversity, equity, and inclusion (DEI) concerns
6. Other
 - a. Vocal list reorganization and review schedules

- i. Festivals committee approves waiting until 2022-2023 to reorganize event 1030 (middle school choir) class M selections into three lists (i.e., two-part, three-part, and four-part)
 - ii. Festivals committee approves waiting until 2022-2023 to create two additional vocal solo lists of standard repertoire (one for ST and one for AB, to be sung by either voice)
 - iii. Festivals committee approves delaying evaluation of consistency in art pieces between all four vocal solo lists with each review for two years (though shore-up can begin in 2021-2022 school year)
 - b. Appealing rule infraction decisions
 - i. No formal appeal process exists
 - 1. Asking festival manager to communicate with adjudicator has been precedent set at in-person festivals
 - 2. WSMA team members are acting “festival managers” for virtual festivals and address concerns case-by-case
 - 3. Teachers are encouraged to submit official adjudicator feedback forms
- 7. WSMA requests that festival committee reviews virtual festival information document summarizing this year’s program with statistics and other facts (email Erica Ruppert with questions)
- 8. Next meetings
 - a. Tuesday, June 1, 2021 at 10:00 a.m. (virtual)
 - b. Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by Anne Proescholdt