

# **WSMA Festivals Committee Meeting Minutes**

Tuesday, June 1, 2021

## **Present**

Jeff Behrens, Scott Bruer, Victoria Donahue (WSMA Program Director), Jean Enyeart, Sarah Hafenstein, Cynthia Kiepert, Brad Lebakken, Derek Machan, Kate MacRae, Theresa McKinley (WSMA Director of Technology Services), Linda Meier (WSMA Program Associate), Anne Proescholdt (WSMA Program Associate), Lindsay Pytel, Erica Ruppert (WSMA Program Director), Laura Schram (WSMA Program Manager), Jack Young

## **Absent**

Kendra Junk, Jake Kulba, Matthew Robisch, Lee Stovall, Drew Wojciehowski

## **Facilitator**

Erica Ruppert

1. Welcome
2. Items from last meeting
  - a. New string event proposal
    - i. Confirm name
      1. Suggestions
        - a. Alternative Chamber String Ensemble
        - b. Contemporary Chamber String Ensemble
      2. Festivals committee recommends “Contemporary String Ensemble”
        - a. “Alternative” is confusing
        - b. “Chamber” is unnecessary
        - c. Name allows for creation of similar events
    - ii. Confirm rhythmic accompaniment options
      1. Festivals committee recommends that, to keep consistent with other events, adults may cover only keyboard parts
    - iii. Confirm required number of parts and student players
      1. Festivals committee recommends requiring two or more parts and that each part is represented; no more than four players on each part
      2. Festivals committee recommends allowing up to 15 students, including rhythm section (potential adult on keyboard not included)
  - b. New jazz solo transcription event
    - i. To clarify, Bill Dennee suggested this event; WSMA will share festivals committee’s thoughts from last meeting with him
    - ii. Bill Dennee, Dave Dunning, Matt Buchman will meet this summer to discuss; contact Erica if interested in joining them
    - iii. Topic will appear on next meeting’s agenda

### 3. New items

- a. WSMA Festival Music List class guidelines
  - i. WSMA would like to provide document to assist teachers in choosing appropriate class for permission and student composition submissions
    - 1. Submissions often fall between two classes, so guidelines are needed to ascertain piece difficulty
    - 2. Festivals committee suggests contacting publishers for their grade level guidelines for inspiration
  - ii. WSMA's draft document
    - 1. Initial reaction of festivals committee is positive
      - a. Easy to follow
      - b. Helpful to have instrumental and vocal range examples
    - 2. WSMA requests that festivals committee continues to review and share feedback
    - 3. WSMA will post this living document before 2021-2022 school year begins
- b. Proposed reassignment of 6000s events
  - i. WSMA suggests reassigning "jazz" event numbers to their respective instrument and voice lists (e.g., show choir, vocal jazz, and contemporary a cappella would move to 1000s events list and be renumbered)
    - 1. Likely more helpful with navigating Google Sheet format
    - 2. New Jersey's school music association rents WSMA Festival Music List, so any major changes should be made ASAP to lessen potential confusion
    - 3. Festivals committee suggests discussing possibility of overhauling event numbers in one major revision at next meeting; could announce project as early as spring 2022

### 4. WSMA Accreditation

- a. Membership survey results reveal mixed perceptions of value
- b. WSMA may form specific accreditation committee in future
- c. WSMA would like suggestions to:
  - i. Better educate membership of value and/or to increase value
  - ii. Update and/or change qualifying criteria (i.e., school vs. department/other tracks, broadening to count participation outside WSMA programming)
    - 1. Festivals committee reaffirms intent to exemplify best teaching practices by requiring entire school to qualify (though willing to consider awarding departmental or other "badges" as a subcomponent)
  - iii. Update and/or change process
    - 1. Festivals committee feedback and ideas
      - a. Requirement of participation from each available concert group can be difficult
      - b. Organizing concert festivals and/or clinic experiences needs to be easier

- c. Financial commitments can be mysterious; consider sharing concert festival costs up front
- d. Critical listening aspect can be fulfilled in ways that do not require multiple groups to share physical space (e.g., YouTube and virtual meetings)
- e. Drop minimum number of schools to form concert festival or require minimum number of concert groups instead
- f. Employ better marketing strategies, including more publicity on schools' behalf
- g. Incentivize with financial breaks, like awarding grants or providing discounts on membership dues or registration fees
- h. Offer state concert festival option, though scheduling could be challenging
- i. Offer virtual concert festival option
- j. WSMA could organize and host concert festivals at colleges, allowing schools simply to attend
- k. Removing barriers from access to concert festivals in general is key

5. Next meetings

- a. Tuesday, January 11, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.
- b. Tuesday, June 7, 2022 at 10:00 a.m.

Submitted by Anne Proescholdt