

Festivals Committee Meeting Minutes
January 17, 2023 10:00am - 3:00pm
[Wisconsin Center for Music Education](#)
[Zoom Link](#)

1. Welcome & introductions

2. Choir

- a. Should Class A Concert Choir selections should be performed in their original language?
 - i. Discussion:
 - 1. Many veteran teachers already requiring this
 - 2. Duets and Trios included, noted there may be more concerns or questions regarding these events
 - 3. Would keep requirement consistent across all lists,
 - 4. it was written in that language, with its own nuance of performance, authenticity of performance,
 - 5. Class A is equivalent to college prep
 - 6. Future consider for selection: take any songs that provide 2 languages, one being english, off the list
 - ii. Decision: Approved with same exception as Class A solos (English is the only option in the printed, matching edition)

3. Instrumental

- a. Cadenzas - looking for guidance on responses to playing something other than what's published in music
 - i. Discussion:
 - 1. Are student composed cadenza is ok?
 - a. If level of difficulty is equal. Cadenzas may be recreated as long as the difficulty of the piece is not compromised
 - b. Alternate edition cadenza? Usually harder than the one on the list
 - c. Concerns:
 - i. Do these require permission from WSMA?
 - ii. May not maintain level of difficulty or be stylistically appropriate
 - ii. Future guidance and options:
 - 1. Play the written cadenza
 - 2. A published cadenza from any edition is allowed, no permission needed. Must provide copy of cadenza for judge
 - 3. Student composed cadenzas need permission
- b. Significant demand for Class C Double duets on unlike instruments (ie. 2 clarinets, 2 trombones)
 - i. Discussion:

1. Opens doors for more opportunities:
2. Allows kids to perform in non-traditional sense
3. Families can perform together
4. Allows teachers to control situation
- ii. Decision - Approved, permissions and transferred allowed, Class C only
 1. WSMA needs to determine event number/registration option
 - a. Option 1: Alter event header for 9118 and 9119
 - i. This option will be more difficult to communicate in event header and more difficult to set up in online registration
 - b. Option 2: Create a new 9000s event number, mimic the language of current instrumental double duet events

4. DEIAB, Festivals & Music List (Discussion)

- a. Participating in a nationwide study of state music lists for diversity in composers
 - i. Anonymous study, we will receive a specific report for WI. This will be shared in the future with the Committee
 - ii. Bonus of participating is the provided resources for quality literature
- b. Committee agreed on definition of terms: Diversity, Equity, Inclusion, Access and Belonging
- c. Suggestion for WSMA Mission Statement
 - i. Put in active voice, not passive.
 - ii. WSMA is not in a position to change this right now.
- d. Summary and main discussion points:
 - i. Work, philosophy and decisions need to be transparent to avoid division on the topic
 1. Narrative should be controlled by what is best for all students
 2. Provide educational resources based on board's guidance and committee decisions, puts onus on teachers to make right choices
 - ii. Festival Music List selection committee should be the group with responsibility for these decisions with guidance from a WSMA given structure
 1. Suggestion: Separate the importance of musical composition from the ideas/values and history of composer
 2. Board does not currently have a belief statement, but may in the future
 - iii. Adjudicator Diversity should be addressed
 1. WSMA is working on this, could use suggestions and assistance for contacts and recruitment

5. Committee Structure and Duties

- a. Practice vs. WSMA Policy
 - i. [WSMA Policy structure outline](#) (what the policy currently reads)
 - ii. [WSMA Policy structure documents](#) (what the policies currently read)

1. Comments about committee operation with this structure
 - a. Having small groups within the committee did not have lots of representation from different departments
 - b. Small group discussions may have come to a conclusion, but then would have to discuss more when the whole group had new ideas
 - c. Not the most efficient
- iii. [Practiced structure](#) (what we are doing now)
 1. Current Committee favors this structure
 2. Continue to pursue representation from all areas of the state
 - a. Could use additional representation from Fox Valley area
 3. Agreed upon values, goals and purpose of committee
 - a. Serves an advisory role
 - b. Have equal viewpoints from all departments
 - c. Ambassadors to their colleagues for WSMA
- b. New considerations discussion:
 - i. Should there be term limits?
 1. Other committees and organization policies:
 - a. WMEA policy: 2 3-year terms in a row, then you have to take 1 term off
 - b. Honors Committee policy: 1 term then try to take a term off
 2. Most members are/have been happy to serve multiple terms (might be hard to get people to remove themselves)
 - ii. May be beneficial to have teachers with 3-4 years of experience
 1. Pros to term limits:
 - a. Adds new voices regularly
 2. Cons to term limits:
 - a. Need veterans to guide new teachers on the committee
 - b. Continued consistency is important. If a member takes a term off they may not come back,
 - c. Some items may take up to or longer than 3 years to fully develop, difficult for some to be fully involved in the development
 - iii. Should try to be involved in other committees i.e. Music Selection committee
 1. Music Selection could be a requirement
 2. Could require members to attend adjudicator workshop Newer teachers should be adjudicators
 - iv. Co-chairs?
 1. Policy and rule changes are developed by WSMA staff with no final checks by committee member(s) prior to submitting to WSMA Board.
 2. Check and balance could be: sharing a document with the whole group for a check

3. On paper, this is the only committee that “looks” like it is run by WSMA staff
4. Co-chair would be the “voice” of the committee, opposed to WSMA Executive Director and Program Director
 - a. Guarantees teacher voice
 - b. 1 co-chair from each department (choral, band, and orchestra)
 - c. New co-chair every year? Every term?
- v. Next Steps: WSMA draws up versions of policy changes
 1. Board wants update drafts by April (send to members before then)

6. Other

- a. Music List Selection
 - i. Review current process
 1. Note - More electronic submissions from publishers
 - ii. Room for improvements?
 1. It has been extremely difficult to find people for selections
 2. Can this work be done virtually?
 - a. Challenges to getting either digital or physical copies
 3. Travel to selection members who live far away
 4. Outsource song review to member schools
 5. Outsource to Music Education majors?
 6. Saturday meetings for more time
 7. Form to member schools: What is on the list that should be reviewed? Especially from the DEIAB scope
 - a. Time of the year for email to be sent is a consideration
- b. Keep POP music on the list?
 - i. Discussion
 1. Many teachers have lots of music that has been on the list
 2. Needs to be a balance due to limited libraries at smaller schools
 3. Needs to be made very clear on the list if something is POP. Put it higher on the listing, “some editions are POP”
 4. If something is not being performed, take it off the list
 - ii. Decision - YES
- c. Number of selections on each list
 - i. If the material is quality, keep it on the list. Since more music is electronic the cost of keeping a large library is no longer an issue
 - ii. Should Events be closed to permissions once they hit a certain number of pieces on the approved list?
 1. Some events would benefit from not being closed at 10 pieces.
Example: contemporary acapella
 2. Should the number be raised from 10?
- d. Misc instruments (accordion, bagpipes) - allowed as solos?
 - i. Discussion

1. Some schools have no access to outside performances, Solo & Ensemble is the only outlet
2. Are we serving these kids effectively? Lack of judges who are confident in that area
3. Gives a sense of accomplishment to the community as a whole
4. Unable to be submitted as a video due to copyright issues
5. Create an Ethnic Solo Category?
 - a. Bagpipes, accordion, ukelele, theremin
 - b. Create Instrument "neutral" rubric that covers general musicianship?
 - c. Would this affect consistency for Class A performances moving on to State?
- ii. Decision - Rules do need to be changed for inclusion of non-traditional instrument solos for 2023-2024
 1. Create rubric, event header
- e. 2023 spring updates
 - i. Continuing work on Festival App
 1. Request for having all resources in one place
 - a. Single Sign On
 - b. Will always have a couple places, but looking to streamline
 2. Kids using the separate Music List often to access list without a teacher
 - a. Some say it is too many steps
 - ii. Scheduled festivals
 1. 57 Concert
 2. 134 S&E
7. Next meetings:
 - a. June 6, 2023 @ 10am
 - i. Review the use of household items for percussion performances
 - b. January 9, 2024 @ 10am