

SCBDA Solo and Ensemble Frequently Asked Questions

Is there a required music list for SE events?

There is not a required music list for students to choose from. Directors are encouraged to help their students with the selection process and communicate with them (and their private teachers, if applicable) to help them select music that best fits them and their ensemble. Adjudicators will take into consideration the number of years a student has been playing when listening to their musical selections.

Per the SCBDA Handbook any piece of music performed at Solo and Ensemble Performance Assessment must generally be recognized to be an integral composition (arrangement or original), written for the instrument upon which it is to be executed and performed in its entirety. Exception: woodwind choir, brass choir, percussion ensembles larger than a quintet, and mallet instruments (xylophone, marimba, bells, chimes). Performers may play single movements of multiple movement compositions.

Do you have to have piano accompaniment for your events?

According to the SCBDA Handbook, "all solos written with piano accompaniment must be played with that accompaniment." Accompaniments that are written for ensembles may be used, but are not required.

Directions for coding accompanists:

Accompanist codes are for director use to inform the site chairman for scheduling purposes. You can create your own code for each accompanist (ex. Mr. Smith is "A", Mrs. Russell is "B", Ms. Watson is "C", etc.) and code your events accordingly so the system will not schedule the same accompanist at the same time.

Always code portable speakers/CD players/Bluetooth speakers/etc. as "CD".

Will each site have pianos available for accompanists?

Each site will have a certain number of rooms that are designated as piano rooms. You'll need to be sure that during the registration process you indicate which students have live accompanists needing pianos so that they are placed into the correct room. You do this by selecting accompanist codes (letters of the alphabet on the registration page on bandlink) when you register.

What if I can't find an accompanist?

Many collections of solos come with CDs and mp3s that you can download and play over a bluetooth speaker or CD player. Be sure that your student performers have quality speakers/players that allow the adjudicator to easily hear the accompaniment while the student performs. Lastly, keep in mind that students should know how to operate their sound equipment prior to their adjudicated performance.

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Does percussion have to have piano accompaniment?

Most percussion literature is written without piano accompaniment. Some pieces include it as an optional aide; however, it is not expected for a percussion student to perform a piece of music with piano accompaniment unless it was written as a required accompaniment for that work/composition.

What types of events are permissible at solo and ensemble?

Solos, Small Ensembles (2-6 musicians), and Large Ensembles (woodwind, brass, percussion and chamber ensembles with 7 to 24 members) are the typical performing groups. If you have questions about a specific type of ensemble or type of music that you and your students are considering, please email the state chairman for clarification



Are photocopies allowed at SE events?

Photocopies are not permissible at our events unless you have EXPLICIT permission from the publisher to do so (this may be granted by some publishers when a piece is either on back order/out of stock). Some musical collections and publishers will allow pieces to be freely copied as long as they are being performed for festivals, contests, and competitions. Even in such cases, you must still obtain permission from the publisher by contacting them. Be sure you attach copies of this (email, letter, etc) to a copyright compliance form so that EACH ONE of your events has it on file for the adjudicator and site chair.

How many originals should you have?

Each performer (regardless of ensemble type) should have their own original copy of the music they are performing. Additionally, you must also provide one original copy of the music for the adjudicator in the room. This original copy should allow the adjudicator the ability to see all of the parts being performed (if they adjudicator's original copy is written in a different key or written for a different band instrument that is fine - the judge will be able to transpose). The adjudicator's copy should have each measure numbered individually for their reference.

Do directors have to be present at the event?

Directors must be present at the event in order to receive scores and certificates for their students and events. Directors must also be present at the event to chaperone and supervise students during their duration of performances. If for some reason you are unable to be present at ANY time in which you have students performing, your site chair must be notified and a designated chaperone must be on site to supervise your student.

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A “Chaperone Contact Information” sheet is available on bandlink under the SE Resources page and will also be emailed to you by your site chairman prior to the event.

Can students perform in multiple events at SE?

According to the SCBDA Handbook “in order for a student to play in more than two events, the third event must be a large ensemble (7-24 players). Three events is the limit, and one of the three events must be a large ensemble.”

Can students perform on more than one instrument at SE?

According to the SCBDA Handbook “no student may play more than one solo on the same instrument. He may play solos on different instruments”.

Will there be WIFI at my SE site?

The SCBDA can not guarantee that all sites will have accessible wifi. This depends on the internet policies of the school district that your site is a part of. The best protocol is to be sure your students have already downloaded and have easy access to any materials prior to arrival at your site.

What is the music theory test?

The SCBDA offers a music theory test at three different levels for students to assess their music theory skills and terminology. There is a Junior, Clinic, and Senior level of this test. Each level corresponds to the Master Theory Books (published by Kjos Music Company). Please consult the SCBDA Handbook for more information regarding the theory test.