

2016 WMEA High School All-State Honor Groups



Program overview

WMEA All-State high school honor groups include Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Wind Symphony, Symphony Orchestra, Chamber Orchestra, Symphonic Choir, Treble Choir, Jazz Band and Jazz Choir. The entire application and audition process is done online with a deadline of October 1st. Direct technical assistance for teachers is available throughout the process at hstech@wmea.org. **Wind Symphony Alert:** Please see the Wind Symphony audition materials for specific information as well as the 2016 list of eligible schools.

2016 WMEA All-State Honor Group Conductors

Concert Band—Lois Ferrari, Southwestern University, Georgetown, Texas/ **Wind Ensemble**—Harlan Parker, Peasbody Conservatory of Music/ **Wind Symphony**—Eric Hammer, University of the Pacific, Stickton/ **Symphonic Choir**—Elena Sharkova, Symphony Silicon Valley Chorale/ **Treble Choir**—Nicole Lamartine, University of Wyoming/ **Chamber Orchestra**—Mark Laycock, Wichita State University/ **Symphony Orchestra**—Brett Mitchell, The Cleveland Orchestra/ **Jazz Band**—Patty Darling, Lawrence University/ **Jazz Choir**—Ly Wilder, Indiana University.

Eligibility---Teacher

WMEA Honor Groups are organized expressly for students of classroom WMEA member educators only. Teachers must maintain current membership from the time of application through honor group performances. By using our online application/audition system, teachers attest that: 1. they are the WMEA member teacher of the applicant, and have the student under their direction in a performing group corresponding with the honor group for which the student is applying; 2. that a WMEA member teacher from the applicant's school was present at the time the audition recording was made. Refer to <http://www.wmea.org/Content/C56/AllStatePolicy.pdf?SecID=816> for complete policy guidelines.

Eligibility---Students

Students must be in grades 9-12, and regularly participating members in the school music performing group, offered for credit, corresponding with the honor group for which they are applying. Please refer to <http://www.wmea.org/Content/C56/AllStatePolicy.pdf?SecID=816> for complete eligibility definitions. Regular participation in that school music group must continue through the honor group performance. Students interested in applying in more than one category will need to submit a separate application, payment, and recorded audition for each area. By applying, all students, parents and teachers agree that if selected, students are required to attend all rehearsals and remain with their honor group at all times, from check-in through their concert.

Group assignments

Female singers chosen for All-State will be assigned by management to either Symphonic Choir or Treble Choir. Those selected in "winds and percussion" will be assigned to Concert Band, Wind Ensemble, Symphony Orchestra or Chamber Orchestra. Students selected using the Wind Symphony audition materials will be placed in Wind Symphony. Important: The only way to be considered for Wind Symphony is to audition on the Wind Symphony audition materials. Strings will be placed in Symphony Orchestra or Chamber Orchestra, although one or more string bassists may be placed in one of the bands. Students accepted on a jazz rhythm section instrument will be assigned to jazz band or jazz choir.

Expense

Application Fee:

\$20.00 due with application. All payments must be made by credit card (Mastercard or Visa only) and instructions are provided within the online application process. (Application fees are waived if your school is an Associate Member of WMEA.) Please note that if a student anticipates needing financial assistance to participate if ultimately selected, **application to access YME funds needs to be submitted by the audition close date of October 1.** See the **WMEA Young Musicians Excelling fund** page for complete information.

Participation Fee:

\$335.00 due as instructed after notification of acceptance. Participation fees cover all housing, meals and administrative costs. Payment of registration fees must be processed through the student's school. **Limited financial assistance is available from the WMEA Young Musicians Excelling fund. Please see the separate page detailing that process.**

Transportation

Each school, in cooperation and understanding of students' parents/guardians, are responsible for and need to arrange transportation to and from Yakima. Students are not permitted to drive to, from or during the honor group experience. Any transportation needed between check-in and concert will be provided by WMEA.

Critical Dates

Tuesday, September 1	Online application and audition window opens
Thursday, October 1	Online application and audition window closes (11:59 PM)
Tuesday, November 3	Notification of acceptance/registration information emailed to teachers
Friday, December 4	Postmark deadline for registration forms and all fees (\$10 late processing fee per student after this date). Alert: this date will not be extended due to potential inclement weather.
Monday, January 4	Mailing of music to teachers/schools <u>begins</u>
Wednesday, February 10	All-State Jazz group members arrive in Yakima, rehearsals begin
Friday, February 12	All-State Bands, Orchestras, Choirs arrive in Yakima, rehearsals begin
Friday, February 12	All-State Jazz Band and Jazz Choir perform
Sunday, February 14	All-State Bands, Orchestras and Choirs perform

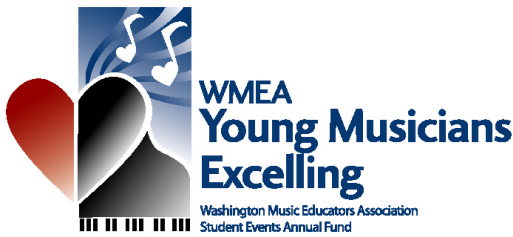
Audition/Application Checklist And Reminders for Teachers

- **Ensure your NAFME/WMEA membership is current and will remain current through February 2016.** Test your online access early and often. Teachers cannot access online application forms, nor submit applications/auditions unless membership is current. Warning—NAfME does not finalize membership until checks have cleared, credit cards approved or purchase orders paid by your school/district. Renewal can be done online (www.nafme.org), by phone (1-800-828-0229), or mail. We cannot extend application deadlines due to membership issues.
- **Distribute the “Student Application Worksheet” and audition materials to qualified students. The worksheet is provided for your use only--please do not mail to WMEA.**
- **Complete/submit the online application and upload recordings at www.wmea.org. Deadline is October 1.** Detailed instructions found online with the application/recording pages. Audition payments must be done online via credit card as part of the audition process. Audition fees are waived for WMEA Associate Member Schools.
- **If a student is applying for financial assistance through YME, postmark deadline of form is October 1.**

For additional information regarding the All-State Honor Group program, contact:

Bruce Gutgesell, WMEA Student Events Coordinator, 1-800-324-WMEA or bruceg@wmea.org

Technical questions should be directed to hstech@wmea.org.



WMEA High School All–State Financial Assistance

19707 64th Avenue West, Suite 101 • Lynnwood, WA 98036
 1-800-324-WMEA • 425-712-WMEA • 425-776-1795 (FAX)
 office@wmea.org • www.wmea.org

The **WMEA Young Musicians Excelling** fund is pleased to provide monies and services that provide assistance to Washington students of genuine limited financial means.

This year’s high school WMEA All-State participants’ cost is \$335 per student. For students who TRULY need financial assistance, please follow the steps below:

1. Print out a copy of this form.
2. Ask your music teacher how much your school will assist with costs, and then put that amount on line **B** below.
3. Complete the rest of this form to the best of your ability. **Be sure to fill in lines C, D and E.**
4. Have your parents and school music teacher sign the form and sign it yourself.
5. You or your school music teacher should send it to:

WMEA –YME Assistance Program
 19707 64th Avenue West, Suite 101
 Lynnwood, WA 98036

That request must be postmarked on or before **October 1, 2015**. If you are accepted in a WMEA All-State honor group, your teacher will be notified by e-mail or US mail of how much assistance you have been granted (it may not be all you ask, as the available funds must be distributed equitably). All requests are handled in confidence separately from the auditions and do not impact whether or not you are selected for honor groups.

THIS IS STRICTLY NEED-BASED ASSISTANCE FOR LOW-INCOME FAMILIES ONLY.
IT IS ESTABLISHED ON AN HONOR SYSTEM.
Please ask ONLY for assistance based on true need.
THIS IS NOT A “SCHOLARSHIP.”

Financial Assistance Application 2016 High School All–State Honor Groups

Student: _____

School/City: _____

Home Address: _____

City/State/Zip: _____

Phone: _____ E-Mail _____

A. Honor group participation fee:..... \$ **335.00**

B. Amount my school will pay (subtract):..... \$ _____

C. Balance due from me:..... \$ _____

D. Amount I can reasonably afford (subtract):..... \$ _____

E. Amount of assistance requested:..... \$

Please attempt to provide a portion of the cost yourself (line D).

Student Signature: _____

Date: _____

Parent Signature: _____

Date: _____

Our signatures attest this is a true financial need for support as requested.

School Music Teacher (Print) _____ E-mail _____

School Music Teacher Signature _____ Date: _____

My signature acknowledges this request for support as a reasonable need.

Forms missing one or more signatures will be returned for completion.

Student Application Worksheet

Students: Please provide all information asked for below, completely and accurately. Return this form to your teacher.

Teachers: Please use this information to assist you with the online application process. Do not mail to WMEA---this is intended for you to keep.
Teachers are reminded that a WMEA member music educator from the student's school must be present when the recording is made.

Name (last, first):

T-Shirt Size: (S, M, L, XL, XXL)

Gender: Male Female

Home Street Address:

Parent/Guardian Name:

Home City/State/Zip:

Grade in School: 9th 10th 11th 12th

Home Phone:

Instrument or Voice Category (ies) of Audition(s):

Parent email:

Required Parent Signature:

By signing this form, I grant permission for my daughter/son to audition for, and should they be selected, participate in a 2016 All-State group. I also understand that auditioning for this honor represents a commitment to participate, should she/he be assigned to an All-State group.

(parent signature) _____ (date)

RECORDING THE AUDITIONS ON A COMPUTER

If you encounter issues with the WMEA online audition site, please try using a different browser. That is often the solution. However, tech experts are ready to help. Simply email jrtech@wmea.org or hstech@wmea.org for guidance.

First, if you already have a digital recording system that works for you, keep using it. Just make sure that the resulting files are **.mp3** files.

If you've never created digital recordings with your computer, you should, at little cost, be able to create digital recordings and submit them online.

- **Procure a microphone with a 1/8" jack.** It may cost \$10-\$40 at any computer store (e.g. Radio Shack, Best Buy, Circuit City) or a music store that serves computer needs. Your building or district tech support may have extra microphones available for you to use at no cost to your budget.
- **Plug the mic into the mic jack on the computer.** It usually has a microphone icon next to it (often colored pink).
- **Open your audio recording program.**
 1. **Windows:** *Sound Recorder* is on all Windows machines—start/all programs/accessories/entertainment may be the path to find it on many machines. Note: Older versions of *Sound Recorder* may have a recording limit of 60 seconds per track. **Students will not be penalized if the recording shuts off after one minute.** Consider downloading and using the free audio-recording program, *Audacity* (see below for more information)
 2. **Mac:** The *iLife Suite*, included with all newer iMacs, includes *Garage Band*. Older Macs have *SoundTrack*.
- **Record each exercise.** Each exercise of the audition needs to be a separate file. We recommend including the audition- track number as a part of the file name. Save each exercise as a separate track with a title that makes sense to you (John Smith Tuba Track 1, John Smith Tuba, Track 2, etc.). Each student will have 2-5 files created, depending on the category.
- **Listen to each file** to make sure it recorded with good sound.
- **Save these files** in a logical location on the computer.
- Remember, **the resulting file must be in .mp3 format.** **Itunes is a great tool to convert various audio file formats to .mp3.** Download Itunes (a free program), import the audio and convert the files to .mp3.

Windows users, please note: As stated earlier, many versions of *Sound Recorder* may have a 60-second limit to recordings that might cut off recording before the end of an exercise. Please consider downloading and using *Audacity*, a free audio-recording program. It is free, easy to use, and will easily convert your files to the required .mp3 format.

- Go to <http://audacity.sourceforge.net>, follow the instructions and download Audacity.
- At the same location, follow the instructions to download the LAME MP3 Encoder.
- Launch Audacity and record a test (using the red "record icon" button).
- Under the "File" menu, select "Export as .MP3..."

Mac users, please note: *Audacity* is also available for Macs and gets good reviews.

Still need recording help? Remember your logical help resources: tech-savvy music teachers or other teachers in your building, building and district tech support, tech-savvy students (an especially good resource!) and other music educators in your region. And remember, we are providing technical support as well. Your tech expert's contact information is on your application page.