

All-County Band and Orchestra Auditions for 2021 Ensembles

Planning the Elementary All-County Auditions has become increasingly challenging due to the difficulties faced in securing space and personnel. In order to maintain a firm, fair, consistent process that ensures equal opportunity for all students to audition, Elementary and Intermediate Band and Junior and Intermediate All-County Orchestra selections will be made by NYSSMA score beginning with the 2020 Spring Evaluation Festivals. **Separate Auditions for the Elementary All-County Orchestra (Grades 4 and 5) will continue to be held in the Fall of 2020.** Listed below please find the grade levels of the various instrumental All-County ensembles:

Band

- Elementary All-County Band - Grades 4, 5 and 6 at the time of the performance
- Intermediate All-County Band - Grades 7, 8 and 9 at the time of the performance

Orchestra

- Elementary All-County Orchestra - Grades 4 and 5 at the time of the audition and the performance
- Junior All-County Orchestra - Grades 6 and 7 at the time of the performance
- Intermediate All-County Orchestra - Grades 8 and 9 at the time of the performance

Auditions for the 2021 All-County ensembles with the exception of the Elementary All-County Orchestra will take place in the spring of 2020. This is the school year prior to the All-County Festival. In order to be considered for selection, students in the following grades should perform a solo from the NYSSMA Manual on the following levels for the corresponding All-County Ensemble.

| Strings | | |
|--|--|--|
| 2019-2020 Students currently in these grades | Should perform a solo from the NYSSMA Manual on... | For selection during the 2020-2021 school year in... |
| Grades 5 & 6 | Level 3 or 4 | Junior All-County Orchestra |
| Grades 7 & 8 | Level 4 or 5 | Intermediate All-County Orchestra |

| Woodwinds, Brass, and Percussion | | |
|--|--|--|
| 2019-2020 Students currently in these grades | Should perform a solo from the NYSSMA Manual on... | For selection during the 2020-2021 school year in... |
| Grades 3, 4, and 5 | Will be determined by instrument and grade level in school | Elementary All-County Band |
| Grades 6, 7 and 8 | Level 4 or 5 | Intermediate All-County Band |

As a tool to aid in the transition to using NYSSMA solos for All-County selection, WCSMA will soon open a forum in which members can share suggestions and recommendations about pieces within the NYSSMA Manual that may be helpful. Small committees of instrument-specific teachers will create a short list of suggested pieces, including commentary about each piece. After that, the forum will open widely for perusal and participation by all WCSMA members. All pieces within the prescribed NYSSMA levels will be accepted for auditions, so one desired outcome of the forum is to expand the initial list of pieces using member input. Ultimately, the forum should become a robust repository of information from which teachers can make meaningful recommendations to their students when selecting NYSSMA Solos--especially in the teacher's secondary or tertiary instrumental family. Please consider contributing your expertise and experience where appropriate in the forum and be sure to browse the other instrument areas for suggestions and recommendations.