



Music Department

COLD SPRING HARBOR CENTRAL SCHOOL DISTRICT

NYSSMA Solo Festival Information

The New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) sponsors festivals throughout the state each spring in which students have the opportunity to perform solos for an impartial adjudication.

Judges listen to each student perform:

1. Memorized Major Scales

- a. **Level 1 and 2**, required to know from memory three major scales, all three will be asked
- b. **Level 3 and 4**, required to know from memory seven major scales, three will be asked
- c. **Level 5, Level 6 and All State**, required to know from memory all 15 major scales, three will be asked

2. Memorized Rudiments (*Snare Drum only*)

- a. **Level 1 and 2**, required to know from memory the following: Long Roll played closed, Five Stroke Roll, Nine Stroke Roll, Flam, Flam Tap, Drag (Ruff, Half Drag), Single Paradiddle, three will be asked
- b. **Level 3 and 4**, required to know from memory the following: Long Roll (starting open, increase tempo, close roll, decrease tempo, finish open), Five Stroke Roll, Nine Stroke Roll, Flam, Flam Tap, Drug (Ruff, Half Drag), Single Paradiddle, Seven Stroke Roll, 13 Stroke Roll, 17 Stroke Roll, Single Drag Tap (Single Drag), Single Ratamacue, Lesson 25, Flam Accent (Flam Accent No. 1), Flamacue, Flam Paradiddle, Double Paradiddle, three will be asked
- c. **Level 5, Level 6 and All State**, required to know from memory the following: Long Roll (starting open, increase tempo, close roll, decrease tempo, finish open), Five Stroke Roll, Nine Stroke Roll, Flam, Flam Tap, Drug (Ruff, Half Drag), Single Paradiddle, Seven Stroke Roll, 13 Stroke Roll, 17 Stroke Roll, Single Drag Tap (Single Drag), Single Ratamacue, Lesson 25, Flam Accent (Flam Accent No. 1), Flamacue, Flam Paradiddle, Double Paradiddle, Six Stroke Roll, 10 Stroke Roll, 11 Stroke Roll, 15 Stroke Roll, Single Stroke Four (Four Stroke Ruff), Double Drag Tap (Double Drag), Double Ratamacue, Triple Ratamacue, Drag Paradiddle No. 1, Drag Paradiddle No. 2, Flam Paradiddlediddle, three will be asked

3. A graded selection from the current NYSSMA manual, (Edition 31, Effective July 1, 2015)

4. Eight measures of music that is unknown to the student. This is what musicians call *Sight Reading*



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5. **Improvisation (Jazz NYSSMA auditions only)** Students, along with their teacher must choose the appropriate improvisation from the current NYSSMA manual, page 9-3, (Edition 30, Effective July 1, 2012) according to the level of their solo.

Level 1-4 solos are scheduled for ten-minute time slots. All percussion, Level 5, Level 6 and All State auditions last for fifteen minutes. Students receive a written evaluation with comments on their performance, and a grade.

Level 1 – 4 soloists are rated on a scale from 5 – 28, as follows:

OUTSTANDING	(26 – 28)
EXCELLENT	(21 – 25)
GOOD	(13 – 20)
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	(5 – 12)
COMMENTS ONLY	(NO NUMERICAL GRADE)

Level 5, Level 6 and All State soloists are rated on a scale from 60 – 100, as follows:

A +	(97 – 100)	C +	(77 – 79)	
A	(93 – 96)	C	(73 – 76)	
A -	(90 – 92)	C -	(70 – 72)	E (59 and below)
B +	(87 – 89)	D +	(67 – 69)	
B	(83 – 86)	D	(63 – 66)	
B -	(80 – 82)	D -	(60 – 62)	

COMMENTS ONLY (NO NUMERICAL GRADE)

Student musicians are evaluated in areas such as *tone, intonation, technique, pitch* and *rhythmic accuracy, musical interpretation, sight reading*, and areas particular to their instrument. In the case of a serious problem with the performance or an infraction of festival rules, a student may not receive a grade. Levels of difficulty range as follows:

LEVEL 1 – Very Easy – Recommended for beginning soloists

LEVEL 2 – Easy – Recommended for soloists of limited experience

LEVEL 3 – Moderately Easy – Recommended for soloists of intermediate ability

LEVEL 4 – Moderately Difficult – Recommended for soloists of advancing ability

LEVEL 5 – Difficult – Recommended for soloists of experience and proficiency

LEVEL 6 and ALL STATE – Very Difficult – Recommended for the most advanced soloists



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NYSSMA solo festival grades provide a standard that is used for acceptance into All-County Festivals as well as Long Island String Festival Association (LISFA), performing ensembles and music camps. NYSSMA grades should be included in college applications and recommendations. The NYSSMA festivals also serve as audition sites for the various All-State ensembles: orchestras, bands and vocal groups.

*** Drum set solos are considered Jazz NYSSMA Solos and are auditioned by a certified jazz adjudicator. There are very specific instructions listed in the NYSSMA manual for percussionists who wish to play a drum set solo. Students should speak with their school music teacher and guarantee that their private drum teacher is aware of these rules.**

materials and make arrangements for transportation to and from the festival location.

The student's choice of solo must be selected from the current NYSSMA Manual (Edition 30, Effective July 1, 2012) and the level of the selection should be appropriate to the student's level of ability. **PHOTOCOPIES OF THE SOLO ARE NOT PERMITTED**. Original versions of the music must be provided by the student for him/herself, the adjudicator and, when necessary, the accompanist. Music and/or accompaniment recordings purchased from a local music store should be ordered well in advance of the festival date to ensure availability. **If the student is using any prerecorded material, he/she should bring the necessary playback equipment to the festival site.** The student should secure accompanists for All-State or vocal auditions as early as possible to guarantee ample time for preparation.

Please share the following dates and locations for this year's NYSSMA Festivals with your child's private teacher:

INSTRUMENT(S)	CLASSICAL PIANO *	* <i>Information regarding scale and sight reading regulations and specific requirements for piano is available in the NYSSMA manual through your child's school music teacher. Students should speak with their school music teacher and guarantee that their private piano teacher is aware of these rules.</i>
LEVEL	1 – 6	
DATE	March 10 & 11, 2017	
LOCATION	Jericho High School	
INSTRUMENT(S)	ORCHESTRA and BAND INSTRUMENTALISTS and VOCALISTS JAZZ MUSIC ONLY	
LEVEL	ALL STATE	
DATE	April 28 & 29, 2017	
LOCATION	Farmingdale High School	
INSTRUMENT(S)	ORCHESTRA and BAND INSTRUMENTALISTS and VOCALISTS CLASSICAL and JAZZ MUSIC	
LEVEL	1 – 4	
DATE	May 5 & 6, 2017	
LOCATION	Lloyd Harbor School	



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INSTRUMENT(S)	ORCHESTRA and BAND INSTRUMENTALISTS and VOCALISTS CLASSICAL and JAZZ MUSIC, CLASSICAL ALL STATE
LEVEL	5 – 6, ALL STATE (Classical Only)
DATE	May 12 & 13, 2017
LOCATION	Syosset High School
INSTRUMENT(S)	CLASSICAL GUITAR
LEVEL	1 – 6
DATE	May 23 & 24, 2017
LOCATION	Salk Middle School

If your child elects to participate, please determine your availability. As the number of students participating countywide increases, **it becomes difficult to honor individual requests.**

The NYSSMA Solo experience can be a wonderful tool for motivating young music students. It gives them the opportunity to strive for excellence, requires a mature sense of responsibility, and encourages discipline and commitment.

If you have any questions, please feel free to contact your child's music teacher.