

MEMO

ASAA / FIRST NATIONAL BANK ALASKA 2017 STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE MUSIC FESTIVAL

May 12-13, 2017

Hosted by the University of Alaska Anchorage

As of January 28, 2017

TO: High School Music Directors and Teachers, Principals, Activity Principals

FROM: Cam Bohman, Festival Chairman, ASAA Music Coordinator
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DATE: January 28, 2017

Enclosed please find all necessary information to include your students in the **2017 ASAA/First National Bank Alaska State Solo & Ensemble Music Festival**. Please read it carefully and meet all requirements and deadlines. Identical and additional information may be found in the 2016-2017 Music Handbook on-line at:

<http://asaa.org/activities/music/music-forms-and-handbook>.

1. **LOCATION, DATES and TIMES:**

STATE SOLO / ENSEMBLE MUSIC FESTIVAL AUDITIONS:

University of Alaska Anchorage, Fine Arts Building

Day One: Friday, May 12, 2017:

9:00 AM to 8:00 PM

REGISTRATION BEGINS at 8:00 AM in the Main Lobby

Day Three: Saturday, May 13, 2017:

8:00 AM to 3:00 PM

REGISTRATION BEGINS at 8:00 AM in the Main Lobby

* **Participants need to be available for all days for scheduling** as some instruments will only be adjudicated on one of the two days of the festival. The larger instrument / vocal requests will be available on more than one day of the festival. A General Schedule can be found on the ASAA website, in the Music Handbook on page 83-84, and at the end of this memo.

COMMAND PERFORMANCE:

Day One: Friday, May 12, 2017: 6:30 – 9:30 PM (approximately)

East Anchorage High School Auditorium

Day Two: Saturday, May 13, 2017: 5:30 PM to 8:30 PM (Approximately)

East Anchorage High School Auditorium

Tickets: FREE to all festival participants and all seniors. Adults \$10, Students 7-12 \$5. Available at the door or at the Information Desk during the festival

2. **MEMORABILIA:** T-shirts and program memorabilia will be available at the festival and at the concert.
3. **TRAVEL, HOUSING and CAR RENTAL:** Each school is responsible for their own transportation to the festival and housing at the festival. Please consider ASAA's corporate partners when making your travel and housing arrangements in Anchorage. Alaska Airlines, The Lakefront Anchorage, Hampton Inn, TownePlace Suites. Links to all these sponsors can be found on the ASAA web-site at www.asaa.org.

2017 SOLO & ENSEMBLE MUSIC FESTIVAL RULES and REGULATIONS

MISSION

The existence of the ASAA/First National Bank Alaska Solo & Ensemble Festival enables outstanding high school musicians to perform as soloists or in small ensembles. The festival promotes the highest standards of musicianship. The goal of this activity is to foster and inspire technical achievement, aesthetic understanding and critical listening skills. Essential to this process are students who are willing to grow; music educators who can clearly visualize, interpret, and teach musicianship; and adjudicators who can provide thoughtful, accurate, and educationally sound reactions. The result is a vital interaction that remains one of the more exciting, enjoyable, and worthwhile events in high school music activities.

FESTIVAL LOGISTICS

A. SEASON 2016-2017

Seasonal activity without limitation

B. ELIGIBILITY

Participants must meet all ASAA eligibility requirements. Participant names must be included on the Master Eligibility List sent to ASAA. No physical exam is required for participation.

1. Students must be eligible according to their own region and individual school's rules and regulations.
2. Students must be enrolled in grades 9-12.

3. Students **must be enrolled in their school's music program** Music programs shall include any music activity offered by the school that has a **performance objective**, or, any music class that has a **performance objective** for which the school awards credit, whether or not that class is conducted at the school. ASAA may waive the requirement for students enrolled in alternative schools or in the event that the individual school does not offer a band, choir or orchestra program. See the ADDENDUM SECTION of the Music handbook for examples of situations in which eligibility exceptions would be granted.

C. 2017 ASAA/FIRST NATIONAL BANK ALASKA ALL-STATE SOLO & ENSEMBLE MUSIC FESTIVAL

1. **DATE:** **May 12-13, 2017**

2. **SITE:** University of Alaska Anchorage (UAA)
Fine Arts Building
Performance Site: East Anchorage High School

3. **SELECTION:** Students or ensembles must have received a "superior" or "I" rating at their respective regional, district or local solo and ensemble music event.

a. If **a regional or qualifying music festival is not available to the student**, the applicant may submit to ASAA an on-line

audition, by 11:55 p.m. Friday, March 31, 2017.

b. If **a regional or qualifying music festival is available to the student, but the student is unable to participate** due to extenuating circumstances, or their category is not available at their regional or qualifying music festival, the applicant may submit to ASAA an on-line audition by 11:55 p.m. Friday, March 31, 2017.

1) The on-line audition must be accompanied by the following information to be sent to: ASAA

Attention: Cam Bohman
4048 Laurel Street Suite 203
Anchorage, AK, 99508

* The **Special Need for Audition Form** found on pg 94 of the 2016-17 Music Handbook.

* **Letters** from the student's school music director AND the regional or qualifying music festival chairman petitioning the cause for why this exception should be allowed.

* A copy of the **music** to be performed on the audition. (The music needs to be labeled with school and student identification and with the measures numbered.)

All entries submitted in this manner will be handled on an individual, case-by-case basis. **The decision of the adjudicator will be final.**

2) The audition will be adjudicated and the applicant will be notified by **April 14th** as to whether or not they qualify for the state music festival. The cost of \$10 will be added to the applicant's fee.

3) Music directors with students wishing to use this audition method will need to identify themselves to ASAA so that the music directors can be provided with an audition password to use and upload the audition on the ASAA Audition website by March 10th.

Complete and send in to ASAA the **ON-LINE INTENT FORM** and specify in the school blank that you will need a Special Audition Password. i.e.:

School Name: Alad HS – Need SE Password
Passwords will be available from
March 1 to March 31.

4) Students will need to provide the following information:

- Name
- School
- Grade in school
- Instrument or Voice Part
- Title of Selection
- Composer
- Accompanist, if any

5) Recording instructions:

- Play or sing your audition selection
- On-line auditions must be in a **MP3 format only**
- **Noise:** there is to be no extraneous noise. Auditions that are difficult to understand are subject to disqualification. Be certain of recording quality and strive for an acoustically dry (no echo) recording.
- **One recording:** The audition should be recorded in "one take" – without electronic enhancement or splicing.

6) More detailed instructions for submitting an SE On-Line Audition can be found in the Music Handbook: PROCEDURE for the ON-LINE SPECIAL AUDITION.

D. RULES

1. ACCOMPANISTS: Directors are encouraged to limit the number of events a pianist may accompany in order to aid in the overall scheduling of the festival.

2. ADJUDICATION FORM: Application forms for solo and ensemble events at the state level must include a copy of the same adjudication form which was completed at the regional level, showing the Superior or "1" rating received. Applications will not be considered unless this form is included.

NFHS Music Adjudication Forms will be furnished by ASAA at the festival. The same rating sheet should be used at the regional, district and local levels. Copies are available upon request and are included in the Music Handbook

3. ADJUDICATOR SCORES: Students will receive (a) an "I", (b) "C" for comments only, or (c) a combination of "I" and comments. The adjudicators will not give a numerical score on the adjudication rating sheets.

4. APPLICATION DEADLINE: All regions are to complete their regional or qualifying Solo & Ensemble festivals by **April 23rd**. (Refer to the ASAA web site for a list of the specific deadline dates for applications from each festival.)

5. APPLICATION FORMS: Directors are to submit their applications online at www.asaa.org, under Music: Forms.

* **SOLO APPLICATION** – for all solo entries

* **ENSEMBLE APPLICATION** – for all ensemble entries involving students from one school

* **EXHIBITION APPLICATION** – for all ensemble entries involving students from **more than one school**

6. ARRANGEMENTS and TRANSCRIPTIONS of ORIGINAL WORKS and/or the use of NEWLY COMPOSED WORKS by STUDENTS or DIRECTORS:

a. Arrangements, transcriptions and original works need to go through a "copy right" process to be used at state festivals. Authorization for an arrangement or transcription of an original composition needs to accompany the copy that is given to the adjudicator at the festival.

b. If music is purchased from off of the internet and downloaded and thus "copied", a copy of the invoice for the purchase of that music needs to be included with the music given the adjudicator.

7. AUDITION SECTIONS: A section is comprised of 25 or fewer entries and the number of sections is determined from the statistics gathered at each festival.

a. For the 2017 Solo & Ensemble Music Festival, the following sections will be available for adjudication:

- 1) **3-4 sections** of Vocal Solo
- 2) **2 sections** of High String
- 3) **2-3 sections** Musical Theatre Solo
- 4) **One section** of

Baritone/Euphonium, Brass Ensemble, Cello, Clarinet, Double Reed, Flute, French Horn,

Guitar, Harp, Instrumental Jazz Solo, Instrumental Jazz Ensemble, Vocal Jazz Solo, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, Music Theatre Ensemble, Percussion Solo, Percussion Ensemble, Piano, Saxophone, Show Choir Ensemble, Large Vocal Ensemble, Small Vocal Ensemble, String Bass, String Ensemble, Trombone, Trumpet, Tuba, Woodwind Ensemble, World Instrument Ensemble, World Instrument Solo.

b. Those adjudications that require only one section need to occur on the same day.

c. Those adjudications requiring two or more sections of adjudications will be spread over the days of the festival.

d. Where sections occur on more than one day, ASAA's priority is that those schools with greater traveling distances be given first consideration for scheduling on the additional days of the festival. "Greater traveling distances" would apply to those in REGIONS I, II, V and VI.

8. DISQUALIFICATIONS: A soloist or ensemble can be disqualified if:

a. The adjudicator does not have a PUBLISHED COPY of the MUSIC to be performed.

b. The measures of that music are not numbered. Wherever possible, number each measure.

9. DRESS CODE: Students are asked to wear their school music uniform when performing. If a school does not have a school music uniform, then student dress should be clean, in good repair, modest, professional and appropriate for a concert performance. (See the Music Handbook for further details.)

10. ENSEMBLES NUMBERS: An ensemble performance is intended to be self-directed by the participants and is independent from a musical director.

a. The number of students participating in a **string ensemble, brass ensemble or woodwind ensemble** will be limited to eight (8).

b. The number of students participating in a **hand bell, steel drum, percussion or vocal ensemble** will be limited to sixteen(16)., c. The number of students participating in a **jazz band** will be limited to twenty (20).

d. A **small vocal ensemble** will consist of 2 to 4 performers.

e. A **large vocal ensemble** will consist of 5 to 16 performers.

11. ENTRIES PER STUDENT — "RULE OF 4": Students may perform in no more than four (4) events with the following restrictions.

a. **LIKE ENSEMBLES:** There can be no duplication of personnel in like ensembles, i.e., two clarinet duets, two large men's ensembles, etc.

b. **NON-RELATED EVENTS:** Students may enter in more than one (1) solo event on a different instrument (or voice and instrument) providing that they are not related. Related instruments are defined as: alto, tenor, and baritone saxophone; A, Bb, Eb, soprano clarinet; marimba, xylophone; flute, piccolo; etc.

c. **QUALITY:** When advising students, directors should consider the quality of performance and the preparation time required for development of that quality.

12. ENTRY FEES: There is an entry fee of \$10 per participant regardless of the number of events entered by a student. There are no refunds. Accompanists are not required to pay entrance fees.

Fees do not need to accompany the applications. ASAA will invoice all schools at the conclusion of the festival.

If a director **WITHDRAWS** a student or event before the "drop dead date" of **Monday, May 8, 2017**, there will be NO FEE charged for the withdrawn student or event.

Schools will be charged the \$10 per-student festival if:

a) a student is a **NO SHOW** for the event in which they were originally submitted for adjudication; or

b) the director does not give **timely notice** that a student will not be participating in the festival.

The following additional fees will be assessed if applicable:

– \$10 fee for each audition submitted per section a. or b. above.

– \$25 fee for the use of a Festival Accompanist, which includes one rehearsal, the adjudication, and a Command Performance, if applicable.

If a festival accompanist is needed for more rehearsal time, the school is responsible for making these arrangements with the festival accompanist and paying an additional \$25 fee for each half hour of time.

13. EXHIBITION ENTRIES: Entries composed of students attending different schools are allowed. Such entries should be entered using the on-line ENHIBITION ENSEMBLE APPLICATION.

14. FESTIVAL FOCUS: The focus of the State Solo & Ensemble Festival will be on the adjudication process for the student – a thoughtful accurate and educationally sound interaction between adjudicator and student. Students should be encouraged to take advantage of the opportunity to listen to others' performances during the festival.

15. JAZZ/SWING, SHOW & MUSICAL

THEATER: Vocal and instrumental music of the jazz/swing, show choir & musical theater idiom will have their own judging categories. Be sure that vocal ensembles are entered in the right category as their audition is adjudicated according to their vocal category.

16. MUSICAL SELECTIONS: It is recommended, and it is in the best interest of all, that soloists and ensembles perform the same musical selection at the state festival that was performed at the regional, district or local festival.

Given teacher recommendation, a student may select another piece for the state festival; however, the student is required to enter the state festival in the same category in which they received a Superior Rating at the regional event. Students cannot change instrument or voice categories.

Alaska does not have a required state music list for choosing music selections.

Directors are cautioned to direct entries into the Jazz/Swing, Show or Musical Theater category if they are better suited, verses entry in the more traditional, classical categories at this festival. "Pop music is discouraged at the state level.

17. ORIGINAL MUSIC: Each soloist or ensemble will furnish one published copy of the music to be performed for the adjudicator's use. Ensembles are to present a score of the ensemble rather than original music for each individual part. For a soloist, an original copy of the instrument part is preferred over an orchestral or band score or piano transcription, which may or may not indicate the solo part.

Do not mail the music with the application; bring it to the festival and give it to the adjudicator. Please number each measure in the music.

18. PRE-RECORDED ACCOMPANIMENTS: Although sympathy is rendered to smaller schools and schools with financial difficulties, a life accompanist is still preferred and required at the state level of competition. Festival accompaniments are available for a fee if needed. However, Qualifying and Region Music Festivals are entitled to set their own rules and regulations regarding pre-recorded accompaniments.

19. SCHEDULE: A tentative, general schedule of the vocal and instrumental adjudication schedule is as follows. A final, specific schedule cannot be announced until after all the applications are received and processed. Students need to be available for all days of the adjudication process as some instruments will only occur on one day while others will appear on both days.

FRIDAY: (tentative as of 1/28/17)

Baritone/Euphonium
Cello
Clarinet
Double Reed
Flute
French Horn
Guitar
High String
Music Theatre Vocal Solo
Percussion Solo
Percussion Ensemble
Piano
Saxophone
String Bass
Trombone
Trumpet
Tuba
Vocal Small Ensemble (2-4)

Vocal Large Ensemble (5-16)
Vocal Solo

SATURDAY: (tentative as of 1/28/17)

Brass Ensemble
Harp
High String
Jazz Instrumental Solo
Jazz Instrumental Ensemble
Jazz Vocal Solo
Jazz Vocal Ensemble
Musical Theatre Vocal Ensemble
Musical Theatre Vocal Solo
Show Choir
String Ensemble
Vocal Small ensemble (2-4)
Vocal Large Ensemble (5-16)
Vocal Solo
Woodwind Ensemble
World Instrument Ensemble
World Instrument Solo

20. STUDENT FESTIVAL SUPERVISION:

Music directors are responsible for the supervision of students at all times while the participants are at the festival and must ensure that students are appropriately involved in festival activities.

Students cannot participate at the state music festival without their festival badge which must be given to the students by their school music director or their authorized representative.

The **student's supervisor must be present** for the student's adjudication and if nominated, their Command Performance presentation.

21. SUBSTITUTIONS: Through illness, eligibility or other extenuating circumstance, an ensemble member may be substituted in a qualifying regional ensemble as long as not over 25% of an ensemble is changed. i.e., no one from a qualifying duet or trio could be substituted, but one member of a qualifying quartet could be substituted if needed to participate at state.

22. TIME LIMITS: Performances **shall not exceed six (6) minutes.** Cuts may be needed to accomplish this, i.e., no repeats, not all movements, etc.

This includes the performance at the Command Performance Concert.

E. CATEGORY NOTES:

1. GUITAR: Clarification of the guitar category for the state level:

- Guitar students perform on a classical" (Spanish model) or steel string acoustic guitar, the one most appropriate to their piece (no electronics)
- Technical guidelines apply to either instrument: efficient left-hand movement and fingering, alternating rest and free strokes with the right hand, tone control
- Music is standard treble staff notation only (no tablature) i.e. students are demonstrating that they read music.
- Almost any style of music written especially for the guitar is welcomed—period literature (Renaissance, Baroque, Classical, etc.), Latin American guitar composers, flamenco, folk themes and solo standards.

2. JAZZ: VOCAL: is characterized by spontaneity and creative expression. Improvisation is a key element of jazz whether it be a full blown scat solo, spontaneous solos or personalizing a tune rhythmically, melodically or harmonically. Rote memorization of a Jazz or Doo Wop genre arrangement but lacking the elements of creativity, spontaneity and improvisation keeps it from truly being jazz.

3. MUSICAL THEATER: the following conditions apply and will be appropriate:

- **Music Selections** from all shows considered to be in the "Broadway Musical Theater category" will qualify as appropriate, however, the thematic material needs to be appropriate to shows that could and would be produced at the high school level. On your application, indicate the musical selection and the musical theater show from which it came. i.e. "Oh, What a Beautiful Morning" from 'Oklahoma'.

• **Choreography and Stage Movement** will be adjudicated in addition to what is considered to be normal "stage presence" in addition to all musical considerations. Such categories include: showmanship/staging, movement / choreographic creativity, choreographic appropriateness / involvement, continuity of performance, etc.

HOWEVER, this is a Music Festival and as such the music aspect is to be given the greater weight of the adjudicator's score.

- **Costumes and Hand Props** may be used where appropriate.
 - a. Anything that is not worn by the actor is considered a prop.
 - b. Props must be able to be carried on and off the stage (and ultimately "managed" onstage) by a single actor.
 - c. Any use of weapon-like props in the audition must be approved 15 days prior to the performance. (I.e.: guns, swords, daggers, spears, etc.) Failure to do so will be deemed a liability concern and will immediately disqualify the audition.
 - d. No SET PIECES are allowed.

• **Accompaniment:** The primary accompaniment shall be piano with no use of prerecorded CDs and/or instrumental tracks.

4. SHOW / SWING CHOIR: If movement and choreography are involved in a choral ensemble, the ensemble should be entered in the SHOW CHOIR category. Show Choir implies movement. All members of a show choir need to sing and move versus having an ensemble where some people sing and other people dance.

A SWING CHOIR ensemble, where members do not move, would fit better in the VOCAL JAZZ category.

5. VOCAL MUSIC: Each has their own specific criteria on which a group would be adjudicated.

a. Vocal solos have three categories to choose from:

- Traditional / Classical
- Jazz
- Musical Theater

b. Vocal ensembles four directions to choose from:

- Traditional / Classical Vocal Ensemble
- Jazz Choir Vocal Ensemble
- Musical Theater Ensemble
- Show Choir Vocal Ensemble

The **Traditional / Classical category** is characterized by what is considered standard choral/vocal music. This includes art songs, madrigals, arias, and traditional sacred works.

Spirituals, folk songs, and multicultural pieces also fall within this category.

If your selection does not clearly fit into one of the above categories, please discuss the choice with a Regional Festival Chairperson before entering the event or choose a different song. Pop music and movie music are inappropriate.

6. WORLD INSTRUMENT

CATEGORY:

Instruments and selections in the world instrument category should consist of world instruments and not classical instruments performing a cultural or a world music selection. World instruments that were correctly placed in this category have been: Celtic harps, taiko drums, steels drums, bagpipes, alpine horn, Indian flute, fiddle, ukulele, etc.

A string quartet performing an Irish tune would be correctly placed in the String Ensemble category and not the world instrument category.

F. COMMAND PERFORMANCE: The purpose of the Command Performance is to showcase and recognize superior performers who have demonstrated the highest levels of vocal and instrumental talent, musicianship, technique and presentation.

1. Each adjudicator is asked to submit and prioritize three nominations of outstanding performances that they have heard during their section. They may also nominate only one or two individuals or groups — or none, if they feel that no entry fits the definition of a Command Performance nomination.

NOTE: Since not all the adjudicators hear every student, their selection of "Command Performance" nominees represents the best from among the performances they heard and judged, not from among the entire festival.

Most importantly, these nominees were selected as worthy of further recognition. It would be a very encouraging follow-up if all the nominees might be recognized in some manner in their home schools, i.e., introduced at their next concert, or be invited to perform their selection at the next concert.

2. The Festival Coordinator will contact the music director of the first nomination from each adjudicator. If that nomination is available, they

will perform in the "Command Performance". If that participant is not available, the Festival Coordinator will continue on to the second or third adjudication nomination as needed.

3. Directors will be contacted directly by the ASAA Music Festival Chairman, and asked to notify their student(s) involved in a Command Performance Nomination. Students, through their directors, must accept or decline their COMMAND PERFORMANCE invitation by notifying the administration table within the time limit given when the Festival Chairman contacts the student's director.

4. As soon as a Command Performance candidate has been confirmed, an announcement will be posted in the Command Performance Notification area of the festival. This will occur as each session of adjudications is completed.

5. Students performing as part of the COMMAND PERFORMANCE must be in the performance facility's Auditorium ninety minutes prior to the concert for performance orientation, performance order and pictures. Directors need to ensure that all equipment needed by their performer(s) makes it way to the stage at the auditorium.

6. If a student is chosen for more than one COMMAND PERFORMANCE, they will be limited to appear in no more than two COMMAND PERFORMANCES; preferably, one solo or small ensemble and one large ensemble versus one solo and one small ensemble.

7. All Friday's Command Performance selections will perform on Friday evening at East Anchorage HS unless their adjudication section is not completed by 6:00 PM. All uncompleted Friday Command Performance selections and all Saturday Command Performance selections will perform on Saturday evening at East Anchorage HS.

G. AWARDS

1. Each participant will receive a **Participant Certificate**.

2. Each participant receiving a Superior Rating will receive a **Superior Performance Pin** and a **Certificate**.

3. An Outstanding Performer's Certificate and letter of commendation will be given to those students by ASAA who are nominated by the adjudicators for Command Performance consideration to be used for their personal resumes and/or portfolios.

3. ACADEMIC AWARD for highest school GPA. *(School must have a minimum of ten (10) musicians to be eligible for the Academic Award.)*

4. The Solo & Ensemble Festival will close with a **Command Performance** by selected students nominated by the judges.

H. TIMELINE

* **March 1, 2017 (Monday)** by 5:00 PM
-- Qualifying Music Festival
Applications due if needed

* **March 10, 2017 (Friday)** by 5:00 PM
— Special Need On-Line applications due.

* **March 31, 2017 (Friday)** by 11:55 PM
– Special Need On-Line auditions

continued next page

* **Regional SE Festival applications due as follows for 2017:**

REGION 1 – April 26th
REGION 2 (Aurora MF) – April 26th
REGION 3 NORTH – April 17th
REGION 3 KODIAK – April 17th
REGION 3 SOUTH BAND – April 7th
REGION 3 SOUTH CHOIR – TBD
REGION 4 – March 31st
REGION 5 – April 17th
REGION 6 – April 7th

* **April 14, 2017 (Friday):** Notification of status of applicants with special needs on-line auditions

• **April 28, 2017 (Friday)** for all state festival participants:

— Academic Award form
— Code of Conduct
— Music Supervision form
— TAD Policy requirement completed
— Master Eligibility due into ASAA

* **May 1, 2017 (Monday):** Notification of festival scheduling to all schools involved

* **May 8, 2017 (Monday)**
– Drop Dead Date for student withdrawal from the festival

• **May 12, 2017:** (Friday)
— Adjudications at UAA, Anchorage
– Command Performance Concert at East Anchorage HS: 7:00 PM (approximate time)

* **May 13, 2017:** (Saturday)
– Adjudications at UAA, Anchorage
– Command Performance Concert at East Anchorage HS: 6:30 PM (approximate time)