

New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Festival

Frequently Asked Questions 2022

1) What is the NYSSMA Solo Festival?

The NYSSMA Solo Festival is an annual music event in which music students in grades 1-12 perform a piece of prepared music for evaluation by a professional music educator, including scales, sight reading and performance of a prepared solo selected from the official NYSSMA Manual (Levels 1-6). The adjudicator writes comments and gives a written rating on a NYSSMA evaluation form. Students receive their evaluation forms and grades from their school music teacher several weeks following the festival.

2) How do students benefit from participating in the NYSSMA Solo Festival?

Professional music educators offer helpful comments that address aspects of each student's individual performance. Additionally, NYSSMA is an opportunity for students to perform at their level of ability, alone and outside of regular school concerts. Although this is not a required activity, students will benefit from the additional challenge that the NYSSMA Solo Festival offers. It also allows your child's school music teacher to be able to nominate him or her for possible **NMEA All County** participation (The NYSSMA score is attached to the nomination form.) *Please note: A student must be enrolled in a daytime school sponsored ensemble 50 % of the time to be nominated for an All County ensemble.*

3) How do students register for the NYSSMA Solo Festival?

Students retrieve and return a NYSSMA application form with fees to their school's music teacher who will register your child for participation. All participation fees for the various NYSSMA Festivals must accompany the application form. Please make payments by check payable to Garden City High School. **Sorry - No cash allowed.** The deadline for students to register for the various NYSSMA Festivals is in **February** of each year. There are no fees or applications accepted after the deadline and no refunds are given once the form and fee are submitted for preferred appointment times.

4) Where and when is the Area 6 NYSSMA Solo Festival?

This year the host of our **Area 6 NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival levels 1-6** is **Mineola HS on May 20 and 21, 2022.** Prior to the festival, students will receive a Playing Permit which lists a specific day, time slot, and room assignment.

5) When and how long is the performance?

Each performance takes approximately 10 - 15 minutes. There is no flexibility with the assigned day and time. We recommend that students arrive 30 minutes before the performance time. If the student is late or absent, the performance time cannot be rescheduled.

6) Does the School District provide transportation to/from the festival site?

No, parents must be available to transport and accompany their child at the NYSSMA site.

7) How do students prepare for the NYSSMA Solo Festival?

The student's private music teacher will select a piece that is the appropriate level. The student will be expected to practice regularly.

8) What are the required materials for participation?

Parents must purchase two (2) original copies of music as instructed by the private or school music teacher. *All State Vocal* and *All State Instrumental* students are required to have an accompanist. Parents are responsible for arranging and paying for accompanists. All other levels of vocal solos may use an accompanist or a recorded accompaniment. If using recorded accompaniments, students are responsible for providing appropriate equipment for playing the recording. If using a live accompanist, the accompanist's full name must be indicated on the NYSSMA application form to avoid scheduling conflicts.

9) What is Piano NYSSMA?

Garden City School District does not provide piano instruction. However, your child's school music teachers are responsible for registering piano students for participation if the application and performance fee are returned to them before the February deadline. This year's NYSSMA Piano Festival will take place at **Molloy College on May 16 and 17, 2022**. Students registering for PIANO NYSSMA must work with a private teacher who is responsible for all aspects of preparation for and follow up after the adjudication date.

9) What is Classical Guitar NYSSMA?

If your child is studying classical guitar with a private teacher and wishes to perform at the **Classical Guitar NYSSMA Festival**, he/she will attend the festival at **Mattlin Middle School** (Plainview-Old Bethpage CSD) **on April 12 and 13, 2022**. Students must return their NYSSMA application form and participation fee to their school's music teacher before the February deadline. **Please Note: Jazz guitar NYSSMA auditions levels 1-6 will take place at the regular Solo/Ensemble Festival.**

10) What is All-State?

All State auditions are attended by 10th and 11th grade students who are interested in being considered for participation in the All-State Music Conference the following school year. This year, **All State, All State Jazz and Vocal Jazz** students will attend the same Area 6 NYSSMA Solo/Ensemble Festival hosted by **Mineola High School on May 20 and 21, 2022**. Students must be recommended by their school music teacher and fill out an additional All State NYSSMA Application form to participate in this category of adjudication. While even a score of 100% does not guarantee a seat in next year's All State Festival, participation does qualify the student for consideration. ***Please note: A student must be enrolled in a daytime school sponsored ensemble 50 % of the time to be nominated for an All State ensemble.***

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Creating art and performing music inspires our minds and strengthens our understanding of the world.

