

Alabama Orchestra Association Operations Manual

Section 1. All-State Orchestra Festival. The purpose of the All-State Orchestra Festival is to recognize the achievements of student orchestral musicians throughout the state of Alabama, and to give all student orchestral musicians the opportunity to perform music of the highest caliber with nationally-recognized music educators, providing the best educational and musical experience possible.

- a) It is the duty of the President, with the assistance of the Executive Committee, to obtain guest conductors, of national recognition who are viewed as successful leaders in the field of music.
 - a. Conductors shall program their portion of the Festival with the advice and consent of the President
 - b. Use of rental music is prohibited due to cost and logistic difficulties with maintaining copyright protection.
- b) The All-State Orchestra Festival will be scheduled during the month of February, the time and place to be designated by the Executive Committee and voted on by the general membership. The Festival shall not, if at all possible, conflict with the events of the other divisions of AMEA.
- c) It shall consist of three orchestras: one full orchestra (Festival Orchestra) and two string orchestras (String Sinfonietta and Consort String Orchestra).
- d) The Executive Committee will determine the audition and registration fees. Audition and registration fees for the upcoming All-State Festival will be announced at least 5 months in advance of the Festival date.
- e) The AOA will award appropriate medals for participation in the Festival..
- f) A school music teacher, private studio instructor, or youth orchestra director that is in good standing with AMEA and MENC must sponsor students.
- g) The purpose of the auditions is to judge and select the student musicians who will participate in the Festival. Wind and percussion players for the Festival Orchestra will receive their exact seating assignment. String players for all three orchestras will receive an assignment to a specific string section (violin1, violin 2, viola, cello or bass) and play for seating auditions on the first day of the Festival. Auditions shall be held in each District during the month of October. All audition results need to be finalized and sent to the President. Each District Chair is responsible for time, place, and conduct of the District auditions. Detailed instructions for audition procedures are in the District Chairs Guide which will be updated annually by the Executive Committee and the Executive Director. The AOA President will secure judges for all auditions.
 - a. Students will be judged by number only, with no reference to the student's name, school, or teacher. The District Chair will keep a master list of student names, school or teacher names, and assigned numbers.
 - b. In the event that a student selected for an orchestra is not able to participate, the student's District Chair shall immediately notify the AOA President. The President will then fill the vacancy with an alternate determined during the audition process.
 - c. If a student drops out too late to call in an alternate; with the exception of health or family emergency; he/she will not be eligible to audition for the Festival the following year.
- h) Students participating in the Festival will abide by the following policies and procedures:
 - a. **Participation Policy:**
 - Students participating in the Alabama All State Orchestra Festival Must attend ALL REHEARSALS AND REQUIRED ACTIVITIES OF THE FESTIVAL.
 - If a student is unable to attend ALL activities of the Festival, it is his/her responsibility to immediately notify the appropriate District Chair so that an alternate may be given that place.

b. Behavior Polices:

- Students must act in an appropriate manner throughout the course of the festival weekend
 - Students will show respect to the conductor, sectional instructors, chaperones and other students in the festival including
 - Not talking or playing out of turn
 - No rough-housing or other physical acting out
 - Restrict your activities to the assigned portions of the building
 - Students will arrive on time for all rehearsals/sectionals
 - *Immediate dismissal from the festival will result for the following behaviors:*
 - Use of alcohol
 - Use of drugs
 - Inappropriate sexual behavior
- c. **Minimum age:** a student shall have reached the age of 10 years by September 1 of the current school year to audition for the All State Festival.
- i) A Festival Handbook shall be updated annually by the Executive Committee and the Executive Director and sent to students with their music
 - j) Financial Aid shall be made available to students who show need based on family income
 - Application and a copy of the IRS 1040 will be submitted to the Financial Aid Chair NLT the final day of auditions each October
 - The Financial Aid Chair will present applicants anonymously to the membership during the AMEA membership meeting for approval of specific Financial Aid amounts
 - The membership shall set a recommended total amount for the Financial Aid Fund from time to time

Section 2. District Festivals. The purpose of District Festivals is to promote the goals of AOA at the District level. District Festivals may not be held within 30 days of a statewide AOA event. Each District Chair, with the help and advice of the Executive Committee, is responsible for setting the time, place, and procedures for District Festivals.

- a. Fees for District Festivals shall be determined by the Executive Committee and the District Chair.
- b. The total proceeds for all District Festivals shall be sent to the AOA Executive Director. Each District Festival must be self-supporting. The AOA Executive Director is not authorized to pay any bills incurred with the operation of a District Festival until sufficient funds have been received from the District Chair.

Section 3. District Solo & Ensemble Festivals

. The District Chair will serve as coordinator for these events

- a. The District Solo & Ensemble Contest may be held on any Saturday in January, February, March, April, or May, provided that no statewide AOA activity is scheduled within 30 days of the district event. All participants must be registered at least ten days prior to the date of the Contest.
- b. Judges shall be compensated at current reimbursement rates.
- c. *The AOA Executive Director will pay judges' fees and expenses for mileage once sufficient funds have been received from the District Chair. The District Chair is responsible for forwarding all monies received immediately to the AOA Executive Director. The AOA Executive*

Director is not authorized to pay any bills incurred with the operation of a Solo & Ensemble Contest until sufficient funds have been received.

- c. A student may perform in no more than four events at a contest. No student may play more than one solo on the same instrument. The Executive Committee and the District Chair shall determine the entrance fee. Persons rating superior on a solo or in an ensemble will receive an appropriate medal. The District Chair will secure medals from the Executive Director in advance of the Contest, and see the medals are distributed to qualified students. It shall be the responsibility of each teacher to guide his/her students so that they make wise choices of literature. Solo & Ensemble judges will consider the appropriateness of the selection in the scoring process. No approved list of solos and ensembles will be required. The NAfME's Prescribed Music catalogs may be helpful in selecting materials. No memorization of solos or ensembles will be necessary. Adjudicators must be provided with scores that have numbered measures.

Section 4. A Composition Competition will be held annually in conjunction with the All State Orchestra Festival.

Alabama Orchestra Association Composition Competition

History

The Alabama Orchestra Association is a division of the Alabama Music Educators Association. The AOA works to further the cause of string and orchestral music in the state of Alabama. The primary event sponsored by the AOA is the annual Alabama All-State Orchestra Festival, which is held in February of each year. The All-State Orchestra Festival is a by-audition event for students throughout the state of Alabama. Each year over 200 students in three orchestras participate in a weekend of intensive music making with nationally recognized conductors and educators. The Festival includes a full symphony orchestra (The Festival Orchestra) and two string orchestras (The String Sinfonietta and the Consort String Orchestra).

Since 2000, the AOA has been active in the commissioning of new works of music for the All-State Orchestra Festival. Each year, one or more works has received its World Premiere Performance at the All-State Orchestra Festival. In addition, the composers have spent the weekend in residence at the All-State Orchestra Festival. Previous composers have included Stella Sung, Alan Moss, David Durant, James Grant, David Ott, James Woodward, Sandra Dackow, James Lee, Lanette Lind, Philip Wharton, Ryan Fraley, Sean Pallatroni and Robert J. Bradshaw.

In February of 2006, the membership of the Alabama Orchestra Association resolved to make the annual commissioning program into the Alabama Orchestra Association Composition Competition.

The Award -

The winning composer will receive a cash award of \$1,500. In addition, the winning composition will be performed at the next Alabama All-State Orchestra Festival. (i.e. For competition deadline October 1, 2012 the next Festival will be in February of 2013) The winning composer will also be awarded a residency at that Alabama All-State Orchestra Festival, which will include airfare from any point in the continental US, accommodations, transportation, and meals.

The winning composer will provide the following to the Alabama Orchestra Association:

- 3 copies of the score
- String parts for 20/20/10/12/4
- 1 copy of each woodwind, brass, and percussion part.
- Permission to make additional copies as needed for the premiere performance.

Requirements :

- The submitted composition must have been composed between the competition deadline date and January of the previous calendar year, and must not be published by a major concert or educational publishing house.(i.e for the October 1, 2012 competition deadline, the piece must have been composed between January, 2010 and October 2012)
- The submitted composition should not have received a previous public performance. The performance at the Alabama All-State Orchestra Festival should be the World Premiere Performance of the work.
- The composition should be for full orchestra. Orchestration should not exceed 3pic/2/2/2/4/3/3/1-timp+2/harp/strings.
- The composition should be an original work. Arrangements and transcriptions are ineligible.
- The duration of the composition should be no less than five minutes, and no greater than ten minutes.

Deadline:

All materials must be RECEIVED by October 1. Notification of the results of the competition will be made on December 1.

Application procedures :

- Submit the following:
 - Completed application form
 - Three copies of the complete score of the composition (no piano reductions)
 - Biographical information, including music studies, background, and experience
 - List of compositions to-date
 - A dvd or cd of the composition (optional, but recommended) [electronic simulations will be accepted]
- Only one composition per composer may be submitted.
- The score submitted must be legible, and must bear the composer's name.
- Recordings must bear the composer's name and the title of the work.
- Please include a self-addressed stamped envelope with sufficient postage if you wish to have your materials returned.
- \$25 entry fee, USD payable to Alabama Orchestra Association

Mail materials to the office address of the Alabama Orchestra Association

The President will assemble a committee to adjudicate the competition entries each year and select the piece to be premiered.