

NYSSMA Solo Festival

(New York State School Music Association)

NYSSMA.org

Who can participate: Any interested Orchestra students.

What is it: A chance to play for a NYSSMA adjudicator and receive helpful written comments with a rating.

When: Friday, 5/12 or Saturday, 5/13

Where: Queensbury High School, 409 Aviation Rd., Queensbury 12804

Why:

1. Feedback helps student advance on instrument
2. It is good to practice playing in public and for others
3. Preparing a solo very thoroughly is a good learning experience
4. Sometimes it is helpful to have a deadline to reach a goal you set for yourself
5. Receiving a rating is beneficial for students who are interested in All-County Orchestra, High School Suburban Council Orchestra or Area All-State
6. NYSSMA is an expected process for High School students considering a career in music
7. NYSSMA is good practice for controlling your nerves in front of a judge (applies to project presentations, auditions and public speaking!)

How to register for NYSSMA:

Return a completed **NYSSMA Registration Form** to Mrs. Reeves along with **payment**.
(Cash or check payment made to "Ballston Spa High School") **Due by Monday, March 6th**
Please place form and payment in an envelope with the student's name on it.

Levels: Students select a solo from 6 levels based on the student's playing ability. Each level has a list of solos to choose from, a set of scales to learn and requirements for sight reading. Students should consult Mrs. Reeves and/or a private teacher. Students can also perform a duet with a friend (same cost per duet)
Recommended levels:

6th grade: Level 1 or 2 **7th and 8th grade:** Level 2, 3 or 4 **High School:** Levels 3, 4, 5, 6

Cost: Level 1-4: \$16, Level 5-6: \$24, All-State Level 6: \$30

No Photocopies may be used on NYSSMA Day. Plan on purchasing the piece/book once a solo is selected so that you can write in notes, bowings, etc. Please purchase at least 1 month in advance. Mrs. Reeves will supply an original copy for the judge (you only need to purchase 1book). I will have a limited amount of books for students who need to borrow one, since I supply the judge copy for all students. NYSSMA has very specific edition/publisher requirements for each solo, please check with Mrs. Reeves before purchasing.

Where to purchase music: www.Sharmusic.com www.SWstrings.com
[John Keal Music](http://JohnKealMusic.com) (trip saver forms: school delivery)

If you have any questions, e-mail Mrs. Reeves at CReeves@bscsd.org

NYSSMA Registration Form

It is time to register for the NYSSMA Solo Festival! Ballston Spa will be attending the festival at Queensbury High School on May 12th and May 13th. Students should consult with Mrs. Reeves and/or a private teacher when determining what level to play for NYSSMA.

Students who sign up for the NYSSMA solo festival are expected to practice at home and with a private teacher or Mrs. Reeves during lessons or after school.

Please fill out the bottom of this form- it contains the information needed to register students for festival. Student registration will be sent to the festival once the form and payment are received. They will not allow me to register a student without payment.

Once students are registered and payment is sent, the NYSSMA festival fee is non-refundable.

Please place a **CASH** payment or a **CHECK** made out to "**Ballston Spa High School**" in an envelope or ziplock bag with your child's name on it.

Please return this form with payment by **Monday, March 6th**. **Payment is sent for all students together, so please be mindful of the deadline.** It is important to note any potential conflicts so that I may request the day and general time for your child's performance. There are as many as 3,000 students performing at the NYSSMA festival over the two days. I do not create the schedules, and therefore do not have the ability to change the day and time once the schedule is created.

Students need to purchase an original print of their solo so that they may have all the markings they need at the festival. No photocopies may be used on NYSSMA day. I will provide the 2nd original copy of the solo for the judge.

Sincerely,
Mrs. Reeves
(CReeves@bscsd.org)

Keep this portion so you have the dates and information.

Name _____ Instrument _____

Circle Your NYSSMA Level: **1(\$16)** **2(\$16)** **3(\$16)** **4(\$16)**
 5(\$24) **6(\$24)** **6 All-State(\$30)**

The adjudication time is approximately 15-20 minutes. A little extra time is needed to find your way, parking, checking in, warm up and tuning. Check off the days/times that will work in your schedule.

Friday, May 12th P.M. (5:00-8:30) _____

Saturday, May 13th A.M. (8:00-12:00) _____

Saturday, May 13th P.M. (12:00-4:00) _____

****Please notate a specific time if required because of other obligations.**

I understand that I am expected to attend lessons and practice my NYSSMA solo at home. I also understand that I will need an original copy (purchased, not a photo copy) of my solo.

Student Signature

Parent Signature