



## **District 5 Solo and Ensemble Performance Evaluation** **Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023** **Milton High School**

Solo and Ensemble Performance Evaluation is an adjudicated event for students to learn chamber music or a solo in order to earn numerical ratings and receive written comments from a certified judge. This is valuable learning opportunity as well as a lot of fun to prepare. Milton High School will host GMEA District 5 Solo and Ensemble Performance Evaluation again this year. This is a convenient location for Northwestern Middle School students!

Performing chamber music is the fastest way to improve your musical skills. When you play with only one person on a part, or with piano accompaniment, you have no one to depend on but yourself. Each member of a small ensemble is crucial to the performance of the group. Learning solo music is a great opportunity to develop advanced technique.

All Northwestern MS Orchestra students are allowed to perform in ONE DUET ONLY. Any combination of orchestra instruments/grade levels is possible but students should try to match skill level. Students who take private lessons may also choose to play a solo, but solos must be performed with piano accompaniment (the accompaniment can be live, on CD, or from SmartMusic) unless it is solo Bach. Soloists are responsible for their own accompaniment on the performance day and must have original music for the judge- no copies (SmartMusic is sometimes an exception). Soloists must have their piece approved by Mrs. Champion at least one month before the event.

There are many requirements for music selection, so I will help each student choose appropriate music and prepare the performance. At the event in April, a judge will rate the performance and make comments and suggestions for improvement. Participants will be recognized with a certificate and a pin at the Orchestra Spring Concert and Awards Ceremony, and the most advanced and highest scoring groups may be selected to perform on the spring concert.

This event requires extra practice with your partner outside of orchestra class. I can help students choose music and practice before school at 8:05 a.m. daily. No orchestra class time will be used for preparation unless we happen to have extra time, so please do not ask to miss orchestra rehearsal for ensemble or solo practice. If you commit to play with a partner, you must follow through by coming to all scheduled practices and making sure you have a ride to the event. Students who prepare adequately will find this a rewarding learning experience. Students who are not prepared might feel stressed and unable to performance successfully at the event.

Exact performance times will be assigned a couple of weeks before the event. They are generally in the late morning through lunch time. The event will take each group up to an hour to complete. You should not have any conflicts during the entire morning and early afternoon of April 22<sup>nd</sup> in order to participate in the event. If your child or family is involved in Saturday activities in spring and a conflict may arise before this event, please do not sign up to participate.

Students will not have access to NMS on the day of the event. Students must wear their *complete* orchestra uniform for this performance. Parents/family are welcome to come into the performance room as long as there is space and the judge allows. We will meet downstairs in the fine arts area at Milton HS.

**The cost for this event is \$12.00 for a solo and/or \$6.00 for each person in a duet.** The OSP item is \$6. If you are in one duet, just pay \$6. If you are playing a solo, you must put two \$6 items in your cart to pay \$12. One solo plus one duet is \$18 (three items in cart). The website is [OSP Online Payments](#). Your payment and permission form are due by Friday, February 3<sup>rd</sup> at the end of your orchestra class.

Please contact me at any time with questions.

Mrs. Champion

[ChampionE@fultonschools.org](mailto:ChampionE@fultonschools.org)



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**Student Name:** \_\_\_\_\_

I will play a duet and my partner's name is \_\_\_\_\_.

I will play a solo. My private teacher is \_\_\_\_\_.

**Parent Info:** My child has my permission to participate in the GMEA District Five Solo and Ensemble Performance Evaluation on Saturday, April 22<sup>nd</sup>, 2023. I understand that my child...

- ♪ must wear their ***complete and correct orchestra uniform (NO JEANS)***
- ♪ ***must secure their instrument from NMS the day before***
- ♪ must learn their music and practice with their partner so they are prepared for the event.
- ♪ I *have paid* the \$6 for the duet and/or \$12 for the solo on OSP and I understand no refunds will be issued for any reason (please make payment before your child returns this form).
- ♪ I have read the entire letter of details about this event.
- ♪ I understand the attendance expectation after I commit my child to this event and a partner.

Parent/Guardian Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

**RATING SYSTEM**

Superior (I): Outstanding performance. Worthy of distinction of being recognized as among the very best.

Excellent (II): Unusually good performance in many respects, but not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects. A performance of distinctive quality.

Good (III): A good performance, but not one that is outstanding. Shows accomplishment and marked promise but lacks one or more essential qualities.

Fair (IV): A performance that shows some obvious weaknesses, generally weak and uncertain.

Poor (V): A performance which reveals much room for improvement. The students reveal almost a complete lack of preparedness and understanding.