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STATE VOCAL JAZZ FESTIVAL RULES & REGULATIONS

The New Jersey Association for Jazz Education is presenting an opportunity to participate in the official jazz festival sponsored by your state organization devoted solely to jazz education. The festival occurs over the course of one evening.

All choirs will compete in one round of performances, regardless of school size, held at Hopewell Valley Central High School and adjudicated by three professionals.

Following are the rules and regulations governing the festival as approved by the NJAJE State Board of Directors:

1. All jazz choirs from any high school (public or private) in the state are eligible to participate, provided their director is an active member of NJAJE. Festival membership is \$275 for the first choir; \$200 for a second choir.
2. Choirs will not be permitted to perform unless full payment or a school purchase order is received prior to the festival date.
3. The festival is open to the public with the admission price of \$10.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for Students/Senior Citizens.
4. As the festival approaches, choirs will be sent specific information regarding performance times, directions, etc., by the festival host. Performance times will be determined by a random drawing done by the host school.
5. On the day of the festival, all choirs are to arrive at the location by the start time of 5:00pm - NO EXCEPTIONS! The intent of this policy is to ensure that all choirs have an equal opportunity to an audience of peers. Directors should encourage their students to spend appropriate time listening to other ensembles.
6. There will be instructions from the Host Director as to location and storage of equipment, etc. Students are to sit in the Auditorium with their own school ensemble while the other choirs are performing.

7. Each choir will have a total of 20 minutes to perform - from first note of first selection to last note of last selection - inclusive of time between numbers. A penalty will be imposed for over time performances. The penalty is .5 for every minute over 20 minutes and every minute thereafter.
8. The program should be a minimum of 3 selections.
9. There are to be no duplications of singers between students from an "A" choir and a "B" choir from the same school.
10. There is a limit of two (2) choirs allowed to register from the same school. Additional choirs will be allowed to register after the deadline on a space-availability only. There is a limit of 10 total choirs allowed to register.
11. Three professional adjudicators will evaluate each performance, each utilizing a digital recorder, the official NJAJE score sheet, and clarifying rubrics to ensure consistency of scoring. Each choir will receive judges' comments stored on a flash drive recorder courtesy of NJAJE.
12. Awards to be presented are:
 - Outstanding Vocal Soloist (Four awards regardless of Voice part)
 - Outstanding Vocal Section (One each: Soprano, Alto, Tenor, Bass)
 - Outstanding Rhythm Section (One award)
 - Outstanding Instrumental Soloist (Two awards)

ATTENDANCE AND TIMING POLICY

The New Jersey State Jazz Festival is designed to allow students, educators, parents, and fans of jazz to learn from and appreciate the work of some of the best groups our state has to offer. Without hearing other groups perform, audience members will have no understanding of the talents of the selected awardees. There would be no sharing of musical knowledge, appreciation, or culture. With this in mind, the NJAJE Board of Directors **will enforce** the following policy regarding attendance by participating ensembles at our festival:

Report Time

All performing ensembles are required to check in with the NJAJE Master of Ceremonies 30 minutes prior to the start of the festival (4:30pm for a 5:00pm start). ***Check in time will be recorded in the score sheet.***

Penalty for Lateness

Groups checking in during the first half hour of performance (5:00-5:30pm) will be assessed a 1 point penalty from their overall score (out of 100 points). Groups checking in during the second half hour of performance (5:31-6:00pm) will be assessed a 2 point penalty from their overall score (out of 100 points). Groups arriving after the first hour of performances (6:01pm or later) will be disqualified and will not receive a performance score. Groups arriving after their scheduled performance time will not be permitted to perform.

Spirit of the Festival

All performing groups are entitled to a full audience. NJAJE encourages directors to limit their groups to no more than thirty (30) minutes in the cafeteria. With warm-up and performance times added in, this would allow each group to observe 2-3 other choirs during the evening. All participants need to share in the appreciation of the hard work and talents of other school performers, as well as being able to show appreciation for more than just their own school's performing group.

On Stage Warm Up

Even professional performers need to check the acoustics of the hall, adjust microphones, and tune on stage. Performing ensembles and their directors are certainly welcome to do this, but should limit this period on stage to three minutes after their initial set up.

Performance Timing

In order to standardize the amount of performance time for each ensemble, as well as to reasonably limit the length of the evening, NJAJE will enforce a .5 point penalty every one minute of performance time over 20 minutes. Timing of the performance will begin with the first note of the first selection and conclude with the last note of the last selection, inclusive of any non-performance or speaking time between selections. Directors are encouraged to time their programs, make all announcements prior to their group's performance, and should prepare students to transition between selections in the most efficient manner possible in order to avoid penalties.

Priority of the Festival

These are the official New Jersey State Jazz Choir Championships. Participating directors and members of ensembles should be aware that performance times are pre-drawn randomly. There will be no switching of performance times permitted. Those groups unable to meet the requirements of the festival will be replaced by the next qualified ensemble. Directors are encouraged to emphasize the nature of this commitment to students, parents, and administration alike. ***Travel times to festival locations should be over-estimated in order to ensure timeliness and avoidance of penalties.***

Policy for Appeal

Upon assessment of late arrival penalty, directors may appeal to the on-site NJAJE Master of Ceremonies in case of catastrophic event. ***Under no circumstances will other commitments be regarded as reason for appeal.***