



## 2021 Wind/Percussion Auditions Manual

This manual includes specific information about auditions for the NMEA All-State Band and Orchestra. (Please refer to the other manuals for information about auditions for the All-State Jazz Band and Chorus.)

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO AUDITION FOR THE 2021 ALL-STATE BAND AND ORCHESTRA?**

- Students must be chosen by their director and be declared eligible for auditions by their administration. No student will be eligible without the permission of the music director and administrator.
- All students **MUST** be currently participating in the music program of the school in which they are enrolled.
- Students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 who are enrolled in their school's band program may audition for band, jazz band or orchestra.
- Band or orchestra applicants who attend a school without a band, jazz band or orchestra may audition if they are currently enrolled in their school's vocal music program. If no music program exists in the school, their private music teacher may sponsor students. That teacher must be an active member of NMEA.
- Final determination of student eligibility is made by each school's music teacher and administration.
- No student is eligible if his/her director is not a current member of NMEA/NAfME and is not planning to attend the in-service conference/clinic.
- No student below ninth grade will be accepted in any All-State ensemble.
- Students may audition for multiple All-State ensembles but must prioritize their ensemble choice. A separate application and fee are required for **EACH** audition.
- Directors will verify, on the students' application, the eligibility of the student(s).

## CONTENT OF THE WINDS/PERCUSSION AUDITION:

The timeline for submitting audition live will be September 15 – September 25. No entries will be accepted before or after these dates.

- Auditions for all instruments will be live-recorded by the respective directors at their respective schools and live-recorded to the OPUS website ([audition.opusevent.com](http://audition.opusevent.com)). Each portion of the audition will be a separate track. There is a time limit for each section of the recording:
  - Scale etude: 2 minutes
  - Lyrical, Technical etudes: 3 minutes each
  - Excerpt: 3 minutes
  - Sight Reading: 45 seconds
- Only the director and the student are to be in the room at the time of the actual audition.
- All woodwind and brass applicants will be expected to know the scale etude found on the NMEA website. This does NOT need to be memorized. In addition, each student will be required to play 2 etudes as specified on the NMEA website, an excerpt from the All-State repertoire, and perform a short sight-reading exercise.

## Special Information for Percussion Auditions:

- The percussion audition will include portions on each of the three main instruments, snare, mallets, and timpani. In addition, students will need to perform and excerpt from the All-State repertoire on an auxiliary instrument.
- Please ensure that your school has timpani and mallet percussion instruments in the best working order possible.
- In the event that a school does not own equipment they may be permitted to partner with another school who does own quality percussion equipment.
- All students auditioning on timpani will be expected to tune the instruments without the use of tuning gauges. All tuning gauges will be removed or covered before the timpani audition begins. Directors are asked to make sure gauges are covered.
- Percussion students will not need to perform any rudiments.

## HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED?

All applications will be submitted through the OPUS website (OpusEvent.com).

Guidelines for submitting applications:

- Use only the website (audition.opusevent.com) for registration and live recording.
- Director's membership fee must be completed by accessing the NAFME website.
- It is the director's responsibility to check the accuracy of the information on this confirmation and correct any errors. Changes in a student's instrument made after the September 9 deadline will result in creating a new application.
- Applications will NOT be accepted if they are for instruments not considered part of the instrumentation of the respective All-State ensembles.

## AUDITION FEES AND DEADLINES:

- The fee for each audition is \$25.00. The only way to submit an application is through the website (audition.opusevent.com). Please pay for all of your students in one payment.
- The application deadline is September 6, 2021. All applications submitted after midnight on September 6, 2021 will incur a \$20.00 late fee. (That fee is in addition to the regular application fee.) Late applications will be accepted from September 7 until September 13, 2021. No applications will be accepted after September 13, 2021.
- Once a submission is complete there will be no changes allowed to the application. If a change in instrument is required, the applicant will need to submit a new application and pay the application fee again.

## NOTIFICATION OF AUDITION RESULTS:

Notification of acceptance into an All-State ensemble will be made via email. Directors of all students auditioning will be sent results two days prior to public release of results. Results are scheduled to be posted on Wednesday, October 18, 2021.

## HOUSING INFORMATION:

- Participating schools are responsible for their own housing. Rooms will be filled on a first come-first served basis. The official conference hotels for the NMEA In-service Conference/Clinic are:

- ✓ Embassy Suites Lincoln, 1040 P Street, (402) 474-1111
  - ✓ The Graduate, 141 North 9th Street, (402) 475-4011
  - ✓ The Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th Street (402) 474-7474
  - ✓ Courtyard by Marriott, 808 R Street (402) 904-5135
- November 1, 2021 is the deadline for reserving rooms at the special conference rates at the official conference hotels. The Cornhusker Hotel will not refund cancellations made after November 1.
  - Be sure to identify yourself as a music director attending the NMEA Conference when you make your reservations at Lincoln area hotels.

## DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The director of all students accepted for the All-State Band or Orchestra will receive a packet of forms to give to each student. This will be a PDF file that you receive by email. It should be printed and given to the student or forwarded to a parent's email address. Included in this packet will be a congratulatory letter, the order form for tickets to the All- State final concert, links to the order forms for All-State memorabilia (apparel, CDs, DVDs, plaques, photos, etc.), and the student's participation contract.
- The All-State Band music will be sent to you by the NMEA Band Chair. The All-State Orchestra music will be sent to you by the NMEA Orchestra Chair. Expect this music to arrive as an email attachment in PDF format, or in a Google Drive folder.
- All-State Student Contracts - Selection to prestigious All-State ensembles carries with it an implied level of maturity. Therefore, each student will be expected to complete and sign a participant's contract and medical release form indicating his/her agreement to fulfill all responsibilities. Contracts will be sent to directors by email at the time of notification of acceptance into All State ensembles. It is the director's responsibility to make sure that the student completes each contract and their parents, notarized and the HARD COPY returned to NMEA. **A HARD COPY of the contracts must be returned to the NMEA Auditions Chair by November 1st.** Emailing the contracts is not acceptable as the forms need to be notarized.
- All participating schools and their directors are responsible for the behavior and well- being of students selected for the All-State ensembles.
- It is the director's responsibility to notify the Ensemble Affairs Director if their all state students are part of a performing or a demonstration group.

# ALL-STATE BAND AND ORCHESTRA TENTATIVE REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

## **Wednesday, NOVEMBER 17<sup>TH</sup>**

3:00-4:15 P.M. – All-State Band chair placement auditions (wind instruments) (Westbrook Music Building – See Student Schedule for specific rooms)

3:00-4:15 P.M. – All-State Band percussion instrument sectional rehearsal (Westbrook 130)

3:00-4:15 P.M. – All-State Orchestra woodwind instrument sectional rehearsals (Westbrook Music Building 114)

3:00-4:15 P.M. – All-State Orchestra brass instrument sectional rehearsals (Westbrook Music Building 119)

3:00-4:15 P.M. – All-State Orchestra percussion instrument sectional rehearsal (Lied Commons)

All-State Band members will have required chair placement auditions on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. This is the only time chair placement auditions will take place. Percussionists selected for the All-State Band have a required sectional rehearsal at 3:00 p.m. Students who fail to complete a chair placement audition will be seated at the back of the section.

Wind and percussion students selected for All-State Orchestra will have a required sectional rehearsal on Wednesday, November 17<sup>th</sup> at 3:00 p.m. String students will have chair placement auditions and a sectional rehearsal at 3:00 p.m. This is the only time chair placement auditions will take place. Students who fail to complete a chair placement audition will be seated at the back of the section.

4:15-6:00 – Hotel check in and supper

6:00 -

6:30 – 9:00 P.M. – Rehearsal: All-State Band (Westbrook 132) and All-State Orchestra (Lied Center Stage)

## **Thursday, NOVEMBER 18<sup>TH</sup>**

8:00 – 10:00 A.M. – Rehearsal: All-State Band (Westbrook 132) and All-State Orchestra (Lied Center Stage)

1:00 – 3:30 P.M. – Rehearsal: All-State Band (Westbrook 132) and All-State Orchestra (Lied Center Stage)

6:00 – 8:00 P.M. – Rehearsal: All-State Band (Westbrook 132) and All-State Orchestra (Lied Center Stage)

## **Friday, NOVEMBER 19<sup>TH</sup>**

8:00 – 10:00 A.M. – Rehearsal: All-State Band (Westbrook 132) and All-State Orchestra (Lied Center Stage)

11:15-12:00 – All-State Orchestra Final Rehearsal – Lied Center Main Stage

12:30-1:15 p.m. – All-State Band Final Rehearsal – Lied Center Main Stage

7:30 P.M. – All-State Orchestra and Band Final Concert

(Any adjustments to this schedule will be announced during rehearsals. Check the NMEA website for a complete student schedule – [www.nmeanebraska.org](http://www.nmeanebraska.org).)

## NMEA ALL-STATE STUDENT REHEARSAL POLICY

Students participating in NMEA All-State ensembles are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled rehearsals and the final concert performance. Absences from any rehearsals because of an emergency reason will be considered on an individual basis to be determined by the respective clinic group chairman and the NMEA President.

Note: It is expected that all students actively participate in rehearsals. If a student cannot participate in a rehearsal due to illness it is considered a missed rehearsal.

Regardless if students stay in their own homes or a hotel, it is the director's responsibility to get their students to All-State rehearsals on time. NMEA will not be responsible for contacting any students absent from rehearsal.

### PLEASE BE AWARE THAT...

- Any student who is a member of an ensemble performing as an "NMEA Performance Group" during the conference/clinic may be excused from All-State rehearsal 30 minutes prior to the start of the performance. The student is expected to return to the All-State rehearsal immediately after the performance if the All-State rehearsal is still in progress.
- Any student who is a member of an ensemble performing as a demonstration group during the conference/clinic may be excused from All-State rehearsal 15 minutes prior to the start of the performance. The student is expected to return to the All-State rehearsal immediately after the performance if the All-State rehearsal is still in progress.

## GENERAL INSTRUCTIONS FOR THE DIRECTOR FOR WIND/PERCUSSION AUDITIONS

You will record your voice announcing each segment. The remainder of the recording will be the student's performance. Check after each audition segment to make sure the student was recorded.

1. Be sure your room is a quiet, well lighted environment for best audio and live recording.

2. Use the test function as many times necessary to determine audio quality. This may require you to change the distance between the recording device and the instrument. Please note that you CAN test for sightreading. You may need to change your set up for this portion of the recording, as students will need to see the screen of the recording computer. Another, perhaps preferable option would be to connect your computer to a projector for the sightreading exercise.
3. Record your student's audition. Each segment can be recorded only once, however there is no limit or control on the amount of time between recording one segment to the next.
4. Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on every portion of the application. You are now finished and can set up for the next audition. Note that for instruments that have an optional second instrument (piccolo, Eb clarinet, soprano saxophone), there may be one segment that is NOT complete, if your student chose not to try on the extra instrument.

## Wind Instruments Recording Procedure and Script

Please follow this script exactly!

### Wind Instrument Director's Script

Follow and announce the script exactly as follows. Do not identify your student by name or school.

1. Press RECORD on the Scale Etude portion. Tell the student to **"Play the All State Audition Scale Etude."** Stop the recording for the Scale Etude. **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**
2. Press RECORD on the Etude 1 portion. Tell the student to **"Play Etude 1."** The student plays etude number 1. Stop the recording for Etude 1. **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**
3. Press RECORD on the Etude 2 portion. Tell the student to **"Play Etude 2."** The student plays etude number 2. Stop the recording for Etude 2. **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

4. Press RECORD on the excerpt portion. Tell the student to **“Play the excerpt from the All-State music.”** The student plays the required excerpt. (Press STOP if this is the end of the audition.) **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

5. Press RECORD on the Sight Reading portion. Students will be given 30 seconds to study the music, a click track intro will begin and they will need to play the sight reading at that tempo. **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

Optional: The next part of the audition will be completed only by some students: Students who audition on flute have the option to complete an extra excerpt on piccolo. Students who audition on Bb Clarinet have the option to complete an extra excerpt on Eb Clarinet. Students who audition on Alto Sax have the option to complete an extra excerpt on Soprano Sax.

8. Press RECORD on the second excerpt portion. Tell the student to **“Play the additional excerpt (for the second instrument) from the All-State music.”** The student plays the additional excerpt on the second instrument. Press STOP to end the recording session. **Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

**You are now finished and can set up for the next audition.**

## Percussion Recording Procedure and Script

Please follow this script exactly!

Follow and announce the script exactly as follows. Do not identify your student by name or school:

1. Press RECORD on the Timpani etude portion. Tell the student to **“Play the Timpani Etude.”** The student plays the Etude. Stop the track for the Timpani portion. **Listen to enough of each recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

2. Press RECORD on the Snare Drum portion. Tell the student to **“Play the Snare Drum Etude.”** The student plays the Etude. Stop the track for the Snare Drum portion. **Listen to**



**enough of each recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

3. Press RECORD on the Mallet portion. Tell the student to **“Play the Mallet Etude.”** The student plays the Etude. Stop the track for the Mallet portion. **Listen to enough of each recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

4. Press RECORD on the excerpt portion. Tell the student to **“Play the excerpt from the All-State music.”** The student plays the required excerpt. (Press STOP if this is the end of the audition.) **Listen to enough of each recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

**5. You are now finished and can set up for the next audition.**

## Piano Recording Procedures and Script

To begin, you will record your voice reading the name of the instrument. The remainder of the recording will be the student’s performance. Please follow this script exactly! Do not pause the recording once it has started.

### Piano Director’s Script

Follow and announce the script exactly as follows. Do not identify your student by name or school:

1. Press RECORD on the Excerpt 1 Portion. Tell the student to **“Play the first piano excerpt from the All-State music.** The student plays the piano excerpt. Press STOP to end the recording segment. **Listen to enough of each recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

2. Press RECORD on the Excerpt 2 Portion. Tell the student to **“Play the second piano excerpt from the All-State music.** The student plays the piano excerpt. Press STOP to end the recording segment. **Listen to enough of each recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application.**

**3. You are now finished and can set up for the next audition.**