



# NEMFA NEWS-BULLETIN

*New England Music Festival Association, Inc.*

*September 2008*

*Vol. LXXIII, No. 1*

## PRESIDENT'S NOTES...

Dear New England Members,  
Colleagues, and Friends,



I hope that your summer vacations went well, and that you all found time for some rest, relaxation and family. Summers are always a mixed blessing for educators; on the one hand we need the time to relax, and yet for me, as soon as school is done, I am projecting ahead to the next school year and all the great things that might happen. New literature, new courses, new faces. This year was no exception for me; I spent several days in July in

Oklahoma City at an ACDA Leadership Training Seminar. I hope that many of our NEMFA Choral Directors are already planning on attending the ACDA National Convention in Oklahoma City on March 4-7, 2009. Additionally the MENC Eastern Division Conference will be in Providence, Rhode Island on March 12-14, 2009. All these opportunities give us the chance to interact with colleagues, learn about new initiatives, rub shoulders with leaders in our profession, research new literature and hear some of the best performing ensembles in the country.

The Executive Board for NEMFA has been spending time planning for the 2008 Solo & Ensemble Festivals and the 2009 Concert Festival. Lisa Larsen will be hosting the Concert Festival on March 19-21, 2009 at Coginchaug High School in Durham, Connecticut. We have just returned from our September Executive Board meeting there and got a tour of the facility, with Lisa graciously consenting to host the Saturday meeting. Plans are well under way and we anticipate an

exciting concert festival.

The host hotel will be the Inn at Middletown; if you have not stayed there before, you are in for a treat! They have wonderful accommodations, a terrific restaurant, and are located close to many fine downtown establishments, all a short and direct drive from the school.

Once again we have three very exciting conductors and programs for our performing groups! Rebecca Reames will be our Chorus Director, coming to us from the Crane School of Music in Potsdam, New York. The Chorus program looks very exciting and challenging, with some new compositions that are not familiar to me but look to be very masterful. The Band Director will be Glenn Adsit from the Hartt School of Music in Hartford, Connecticut. Glen has included in his program an exciting selection from Frank Ticheli and another beautiful piece by David Maslanka. The Orchestra Director will be Ronald Feldman; Mr. Feldman has selected a terrific program

for the orchestra that includes Beethoven, Dvorak and the very exciting "Cowboys Overture" of John Williams. I think we should be very proud of the guest conductors we are able to host in this festival and the masterful music that we bring to our students.

As I mentioned in my last letter to you, we all must take a leadership role in bringing new blood to our organization through new membership. This challenge is a serious one, and one that we all must share in. The festival does indeed speak for itself through the performances, the accomplished students that staff our performing groups and the quality of the literature that we have them perform. The quality of our two Solo and Ensemble Festivals is further proof of the excellent adjudication opportunities that we offer our students each year. But we as an organization must bring these experiences to a potential membership that exists but is not being enlightened by what we do. Many of us are actively engaged in this process, but all of us must participate to be successful. I hope these are not just words that I am writing that are not seen? I hope you are reading this and thinking of what you can do to help. The

future of this organization depends on continuing and new membership.

We will be seeing many of you soon at the Northern Solo & Ensemble Festival on December 6<sup>th</sup> and the Southern site on the 13<sup>th</sup>. We are looking for the number of students performing to increase. If you have any questions as we approach these two events, the first place you should go is the website. If you do not find your answers there, then contact the appropriate Executive Board member by e-mail or phone.

Our Executive Board continues to be here to serve you, the membership. I watch these individuals and see how much of their time and energy they put into this organization and am consistently impressed. This organization is unique and special. I do indeed view us as a closely-knit family that works together for the common education of the students that we all serve. We all take a collective pride in what we do and in the culminating event every year in March. I believe that the longevity of the people in our organization speaks to this feeling of success and camaraderie. I am proud to serve

as your President and proud to be part of this organization.

Most Sincerely,  
*Frank A. Whitcomb*  
President, NEMFA

**PLEASE NOTE NEW POLICY  
REGARDING ATTENDANCE:**

The Executive Board has adopted a new policy that addresses students who receive a qualifying score at the Solo & Ensemble Festival, are invited and accept the invitation to participate in the March Concert Festival, complete all the necessary paperwork, pay the Festival Fee, and then decide that they will not attend. We have felt for some time that there should be a policy that addresses this situation, and the policy below reflects this concern.

This policy will take effect as of this printing, and will affect students that do not attend the 2009 Concert Festival at Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham, Connecticut.

"ANY STUDENT WHO HAS BEEN ACCEPTED TO, AND REGISTERED FOR, A NEMFA CONCERT FESTIVAL AND FAILS TO ATTEND THAT FESTIVAL, SHALL BE DENIED PARTICIPATION IN ANY SUBSEQUENT CONCERT FESTIVAL AND SHALL FORFEIT ALL FEES DUE THERETO. APPEALS TO THIS POLICY, BASED ON MITIGATING CIRCUMSTANCES, MUST BE MADE IN WRITING TO THE EXECUTIVE BOARD BY DECEMBER 1ST."

**NEMFA NEWS BULLETIN**

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**SECRETARY'S REPORT...****MINUTES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD.****7 JUNE 2008. BOXBOROUGH,  
MA**

The meeting was called to order at 10:08 by President Frank Whitcomb. Also present were: Bob Frazier, Ed Owens, Rob Gattie, Steffen Parker, John Kuhner, Laura Hilton, Sal Cicciarella, Jay Wilson, Bill Sittard, and Tom Reynolds.

The minutes of the previous

meeting were read and approved.

The Treasurer's report was submitted and approved. Cash on hand was \$17,244.14. A problem with Bill Sittard's computers was explained and will be corrected.

Jay Wilson, Band Manager, presented a bio of the guest conductor for band, Glen Adsit, from the Hartt School of Music. Two proposed band programs were offered from which one was recommended by the Board.

Ed Owens, Orchestra Manager, presented three program proposals from the Orchestra Conductor, Ronald L. Feldman, with one being approved by the Board.

Laura Hilton, Chorus Manager, presented a bio of Rebecca R. Reames from the Crane School of Music, Laura's recommended candidate for Choral

Director, who was approved. Laura also offered two other candidates (Paul Head and Rolto Dilworth) as possibilities for future Concert Festivals. She also noted a need for a viola soloist in the chorus program.

The item of CD rehearsal tapes was discussed. Preparations for these were all set.

President Whitcomb reported that Tom Martin from Keene, NH, the intended Concert Festival Host for '09, had to withdraw the invitation from his schools for the festival due to unforeseen problems in his community. Fortunately, an offer from Lisa Larson from the Coginchaug Regional High School in Durham, CT was immediately forthcoming and accepted. Frank added that he is finalizing appointments of Deans, there

(continued on page 4)

being no apparent problems there.

Rob Gattie, Co-coordinator of the Solo and Ensemble Festival, reported that the Association is continuing its search for more interested communities in Maine for two more years, as per agreement. He also offered the use of his school's pianos and keyboards for the Festival, and Bill Sittard will purchase pedals for the keyboards, thus negating the need to transport the Association's keyboards to the northern site.

Steffen Parker, Co-coordinator of the Solo and Ensemble Festival, questioned whether it would be advisable to postpone the electronic application deadline for the festival from the 1st of November to the 5th.

The current costs for the use of buildings at the southern sites was discussed. Also discussed was the practicality of using color-coded medical forms, and the issue of confidentiality of placing medical information online.

The proposed downsizing of the vocal listings was discussed, as was the suggestion of using adjudicators for this process. Sal Ciccirella offered to do this task for vocal ensembles.

The suggestion of assigning code numbers for all pieces was made.

The problem inherent in the substituting of student names by directors at the festival was considered. It was agreed that changes would be allowed only at the registration desk, and not in the adjudication rooms.

Suggestions were made to Laura about the most economical means of arranging members of

the Concert Chorus by height for performing purposes.

After some discussion it was agreed that re-auditioning for first chairs in the string sections at the Concert Festival would be only for the four students with the highest scores.

Tom Reynolds, Archivist, intends to provide for the Board's visit to the Association Music Library. Also, in light of the current national economic status, recalled the Association's difficult Financial situation in 1952 that was addressed and surmounted.

His suggestion that the Concert Festival dress code be made available on the website was approved-

Under old business, the revision of the medical form was discussed, and it was decided that these should be collected by Bill Sittard before being disseminated to authorized persons.

It was agreed that the cost of sending copies of the Bulletin to prospective members is to be borne by the Association

Motion by Don Hermance: That future September Executive Board meetings be held in the community to be the Host for that year, in order to allow for the observation of the site, its capabilities and amenities. Motion passed unanimously.

Under new business: Tom Reynolds gave an update on the medical status of member Dianne Rebelo.

Bob Frazier read a letter from Dave Kaplan, a participant in the Association at its inception in 1927. Dave mentioned his

appreciation for a complimentary copy of Tom's recent publication on the history of the Association, and also expressed his admiration for its continuing success during the subsequent years.

Motion by Bill Sittard: That the Association adopt the policy for the use of the New England Music Festival Library as printed under the title: "New England Music Festival Libraries" as submitted by Tom Reynolds. Motion passed unanimously.

President Whitcomb appointed John Kuhner, Immediate Past President, to prepare a slate of nominations of officers to be submitted to the Board at the December meeting.

The current rules regarding adjudication of ensembles was discussed.

President Whitcomb recommended that the Association revive the custom of singing the Doxology at the receptions during the Concert Festival. He also requested the appearance of names of the Executive Board members on the Concert Festival programs.

Motion by Steffen Parker: That the fees for soloists at the Solo and Ensemble Festival be raised by \$2. across the board. Motion passed unanimously.

Tom Reynolds received permission to publish the summer Bulletin on August 25 rather than at the beginning of September.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:58 PM.

Respectfully submitted,

*Donald L Hermance*  
Recording Secretary



## YOUR OFFICERS of the New England Music Festival Association:



*Frank A. Whitcomb –  
President and Music Librarian*



*Sal Ciciarella –  
President-Elect*



*William E. Sittard  
Executive Secretary-Treasurer*



*Donald L. Hermance –  
Recording Secretary*



*Robert E. Gattie –  
Solo & Ensemble Co-Coordinator*



*Steffen Parker –  
Solo & Ensemble Co-Coordinator*



*Thomas E. Reynolds  
Bulletin & Web Page Editor*



*John L. Kuhner, Jr. –  
Immediate Past-President*



*Jacob W. Wilson, III –  
Band Manager*



*Laura Hilton –  
Chorus Manager*



*Edward Owens –  
Orchestra Manager*

**MINUTES OF THE  
EXECUTIVE BOARD.  
6 SEPTEMBER 2008.  
DURHAM, CT**

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Whitcomb at 10:12 am. Also present were: John Kuhner, Ed Owens, Tom Reynolds, Sal Ciciarella, Steffen Parker, Laura Hilton, Jay Wilson, Bill Sittard and Lisa Larsen.

The minutes of the previous meeting were approved as read. The Treasurer's report was approved as submitted.

Jay Wilson, Band Manager, offered bio information on the Band Conductor, and since Jay is resigning his position, remarked that he has enjoyed working with the Board for the past five years. Suggestions for a replacement candidate would be appreciated.

Ed Owens, also resigning as Orchestra Manager, was thanked for his good work.

Laura Hilton, Chorus Manager, asked for opinions on the length of the proposed chorus program, and, in light of the decision to have two concerts (one for the instrumental programs and one for the choral) asked for input as to the desired length of the choral program. Since length was no longer a consideration, it was decided to ask the Conductor for an opinion in this matter. Laura reported that the chorus accompanist is all set for recording rehearsal tapes.

A discussion ensued which concerned the prices of concert tickets, possible guest choral performances for the Concert Chorus either during the long wait before the concert, or during the

concert-Lisa Larsen, Festival Host, received approval for ticket prices of ten dollars per concert-She offered a proposed Concert Festival schedule for comment.

The meeting was temporarily interrupted with a walking tour of the Coginchaug High School concert facilities, which were deemed thoroughly adequate.

The meeting resumed with a discussion on how best to recognize the recent passing of member Dianne Rebelo.

President Whitcomb recommended the inclusion of the names of all Association adjudicators in the concert program.

Tom Reynolds, Archivist and Website Coordinator, reported that the September Bulletin was read to go, and that the archives were now well organized. He plans to place archives information on the website. He also reported that very recently the website system "collapsed" after being attacked by a robot virus. It is currently 96% updated.

President Whitcomb announced that Frank May has agreed to continue as Dean of Boys, and that he is working on a candidate for Dean of Girls.

Steffen Parker, Co-coordinator of the Solo and Ensemble Festival, reported that he is working on a coding system for the audition lists. He noted that there is currently no host community for the Eastern site. Steffen remarked that the registration system is working well and that Rob Gattie is working on the list of adjudicators.

A discussion centered around the possibility of York, Maine as a possible Eastern Solo/Ensemble site.

John Kuhner, Immediate Past President, proposed advertising the Association on the Home School network. Motion by Steffen Parker: That the Association approve a sum of up to \$500 for the cost of advertising on the Home School publication, with any monies not needed for this action to be used to advertise on the Maine Music Educators Association publication.

The problems inherent in setting Concert Festivals dates in March of 2010 were discussed, particularly as they involve the scheduling of school testing programs.

Under Old Business, the cost of meals and music for the Concert Festival were discussed.

Under New Business, Tom Reynolds proposed the creation of a standard press release for promoting the Association.

The idea of the future inclusion of a jazz band and/or jazz choir at future Concert Festivals was broached, but will be discussed at a future meeting-

The meeting was adjourned at 12:35pm.

Respectfully submitted,

*Donald L Hermance*

Recording Secretary

**EDITOR'S NOTE...**

]

Here we are at the beginning of a new school year already!

You might remember that at the beginning of June I was working on the NEMFA archives collection that is being stored at the Harvard, Massachusetts Public Library. Old programs back to 1937 with more years ever since are being filed along with old Bulletins.

The collection, known as the John R. Hansen Memorial Archives of the New England Music Festival Association, has been organized by member of the staff of the Harvard Public Library. Programs and Bulletins are stored chronologically in boxes in a climate-controlled historical room in the Harvard Public Library. The hours of operation of the Harvard Public Library, Route 111, Harvard, Massachusetts 01451 are as follows:

Library Hours

Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, Thursday  
10:00 - 9:00

|  |              |
|--|--------------|
| Friday                                     | Saturday     |
| 10:00 - 5:00                               | 10:00 - 4:00 |
| (Sat. 10:00 - 2:00 in June, July & August) |              |

Sunday closed

Directions to the Harvard Public Library

From Route 2, take Exit 38 (Rts. 110/111) toward Harvard Common. Continue through the red blinking light on 111S. Past the school zone, take a right onto Pond Rd. The Library is on the right with parking available in front of the entrance to the building.

From Route 495, take Exit 28 (Rte. 111) and go toward Harvard. Continue on Route 111 toward the center of Harvard. Upon entering the school zone, take a left onto Pond Road. The Library is on the right with parking available in front of the entrance to the building.

I am still in search of any printed materials regarding any NEMFA concerts or related activities from 1928 to 1939, although I would welcome other materials that you, our membership, might come up with that you would deem to be worthy of saving in our archives.

As of 1 September 2008, the following Concert Festival Programs are not in our possession in the archives at the Harvard Public Library: 1928-1935, 1937, 1939, 1940, and 1941. The following Major Organizations Festival programs are not in our possession as well: 1939, 1940, 1941, 1952, 1953, 1954, 1955, 1956 and 1957.

Additionally, I would welcome the donation of any recordings of past NEMFA concerts. Right now, our collection only includes concerts from the late 1990's to the present.

Another area that we have very little on records is that of old photographs. Certainly, photographs tell a million stories about our past festivals, as well as providing some insight into the

daily life going on around those festivals at the time the photographs were taken.

The NEMFA Heritage Book published in 2007 will be updated with current officers and festival locations added as a short addenda to the present book. I am presently working on these addenda and hope to have it completed shortly.

If you haven't yet seen the NEMFA Heritage Book, there are still plenty available. Remember, that each book is only \$10.00 each and may be obtained by sending a check of \$10.00 (payable to "NEMFA") plus \$2.50 shipping and handling to the following address:

New England Music Festival  
Heritage Book  
PO Box 102  
Templeton, Massachusetts 01468

As with the previous 2008 Bulletin, this Edition of the NEMFA News-Bulletin is based upon a format used in the 1940's and 1950's. As always, I hope that you will make suggestions about future issues. For that matter, if you would like to submit an article for this Bulletin regarding NEMFA-related or music education-related topics, please feel free to send it to me via e-mail at [treynold@worldpath.net](mailto:treynold@worldpath.net) or via snail mail at NEMFA News-Bulletin, PO Box 102, Templeton, MA 01468.

Cordially,

*Thomas E. Reynolds*

Editor, NEMFA News-Bulletin

# 2008 - 2009 NEMFA CALENDAR

|                   |  |  |
|-------------------|--|--|
| September 6, 2008 | Meeting, 10:00 A.M.<br>Coginchaug Regional High School, Durham, CT   | Solo & Ensemble Festival Planning<br>Concert Festival Planning   |
| October 31, 2008  | ELECTRONIC DEADLINE<br>\$100.00 Late Fee per school/sponsor<br>After 11/7/08, no apps. Accepted  | Solo & Ensemble Apps. Due to<br>Steffen Parker   |
| November 7, 2008  | POSTMARK DEADLINE  | Mail (Certified) Completed<br>Hard Copy Invoice, Student List<br>& Payment* to Bill Sittard. *Pymt.<br>Includes: Dues & S&E Fees or School<br>P.O. guaranteeing pymt.  |
| December 6, 2008  | Solo & Ensemble Festival<br>Cony High School<br>Augusta, ME  | Eastern Site<br>Site Host  |
| December 6, 2008  | Solo & Ensemble Festival<br>Hartford High School<br>White River Junction, VT   | Northern Site<br>Robert E. Gattie, Site Host   |
| December 12, 2008 | Meeting, 7:30 P.M.<br>Hilton Garden Inn (860.659.1025)<br>85 Glastonbury Boulevard<br>Glastonbury, CT 06033  | Review Solo & Ensemble Festival<br>and Concert Festival Procedures,<br>Rules and Regulations   |
| December 13, 2008 | Solo & Ensemble Festival<br>Smith Middle School (860.652.7040)<br>216 Addison Road<br>Glastonbury, CT 06033  | Southern Site<br>Patricia Lignelli, Site Host  |
| January 16, 2009  | <b>Electronic Confirm. Deadline</b>  | Log in. Confirm participation of each<br>student. Print out the Acceptance/<br>Invoice Form. Amt. due auto adjusts.  |
| January 23, 2009  | POSTMARK DEADLINE<br>\$100.00 Late Fee per school/sponsor<br>After 2/1/09 no forms accepted<br>student participation denied.<br>*Incomplete forms incur \$10.00<br>Reprocessing Fee. | Mail (Certified) Completed*<br>Conc. Fest. Material to Bill Sittard<br>& Include:<br>1. Pymt. of Fees or School P.O.<br>guaranteeing payment<br>2. Acceptance-Invoice Form<br>3. Student Agreement/Health Forms<br>4. Permission Forms<br>5. Return unused music |
| March 19-21, 2009 | Concert Festival<br>Lisa Larsen, Host  | Coginchaug Regional High School<br>Durham, CT  |
| June 6, 2009      | Meeting, 10:00 A.M.<br>Holiday Inn, Boxborough, MA   | Managers Must Present:<br>1. Conductors to be hired<br>2. Programs finalized for ordering music  |



## NEMFA CONCERT FESTIVAL DATES FOR FOUR YEARS:

March 19-21, 2009

March 18-20, 2010

March 17-19, 2011

March 15-17, 2012

## LOOKING BACK IN HISTORY

Quoted from:

NEMFA NEWS-BULLETIN  
Vol. 17, No. 2, January, 1953:

### America's First School

Band By Clifton Albee

*Clifton Albee, better known as "Cliff", is Director of Recreation at the Farm and Trade School on Thompson's Island. His work includes a great deal of music. Since 1923, he has helped with the band. His work in music has been with some of the best teachers available. He has served as adjudicator at festivals and has done some composing. His Farm and Trade School Band March has been played by the massed bands at sectional school music festivals. A new book entitled "Great Bands of America," gives this school band a fine build up with special credit to Frank Warren. Major Frank L. Warren is well known to all members of the New England Music Festival Association. Since 1923 he has come to the Farm and Trade School every Friday night to conduct a 2 hour rehearsal. Quoting from Clifton Albee's letter to the editor, he said, "At times you may see my name as director of the band, as my head master calls me, but in all fairness to a grand gentleman, Frank L. Warren is the band master, and will be until he can no longer hike to the band room."---Editor.*

Out in Boston Harbor, on Thompson's Island, thirty-five youthful musicians are engaged in what is to them a delightful avocation. Similarly, thousands of youngsters in every state in the Union are thus engaged. The growth of music in the schools has been tremendous, and educators everywhere realize the value of music as a social and educational asset. The first school band in this country was organized at The Farm and Trades School, and the story of this band is of great interest.

Thompson's Island, famed as the location of the school, has been the scene of many pioneering activities in the educational field. Important among these is the school band. It was in 1857, ninety years ago, that this band came into being. The thrill of making music by the use of tissue-covered combs plus the assistance of three fiddles and a huge bass-fiddle struck joy to the hearts of the boys. Shortly a cornopean. Saxhorn, and small drum were added.

This strange combination of instruments must have resulted in some unusual tonal qualities. Yet, a year later a concert was given at the school, and the trustees decided to venture into the field of music a little more deeply. They rented a set of band instruments and engaged Alonzo Draper as instructor. The young musicians were jubilant beyond words!

Mr. John R. Morse, principal at the school was the first band director, assisted by Alonzo Draper as instructor. Mr. Draper had the job of writing the band parts, as band music was not easily procurable in those days. The titles were of a general nature, "Gavotte", "Quickstep", and the like.

The day of days came in 1859 when the band paraded through the streets of Boston, and the boys were invited to visit various places where the city executives greeted them. To say that the boys' music was warmly received is to put it mildly; they created a sensation. The trustees of the school then and there decided that the band would be a permanent fixture. The rented set of instruments was returned and a completely new set purchased. Burnished gold never glistened more brightly, and never were the instruments used without the players first donning a pair of white gloves.

Remember that this took place in 1859, and at the outbreak of the Civil War, Director Morse, with fifteen former members of the band enlisted in the Union forces as musicians.

Following the close of the Civil War the famous National Peace Jubilee took place in Boston. Patrick S. Gilmore, perhaps the most famous of the earlier bandmasters, was conductor. The Thompson's Island boys participated in the event and were part of the famed 1,000 piece Jubilee orchestra.

The band had grown to be a source of great pride and joy to everyone connected with the school. Mr. Morse returned from the war shortly after its

close and continued with his work as director. New and finer instruments were purchased, and the used ones assigned to beginners. Everywhere enthusiasm ran high, and the permanency of the band, as an educational and social asset, was never questioned.

Thus was the beginning of this pioneer school band. Its sponsors had no conception of the tremendous growth of the school band movement that was to follow.

The band has had but four directors in its 95 years' history. John R. Morse held the post for 50 years. He was succeeded by Harold E. Brenton, a member of the Boston Symphony Orchestra and a former Farm and Trades School bandsman, hence one of Mr. Morse's pupils. Howard B. Ellis, another graduate of the school, succeeded Mr. Brenton. A fine musician, he held the directorship for twelve years.

The present band director, Frank L. Warren, began his duties in 1923. He is well known in Boston music circles. Although he retired from most of his business duties two years ago he continues on as director of this school band. He also is a member and director of other local groups, particularly Masonic units. He is a past president of the United States Army and Navy Bandsmen's Ass'n.

Several pages could be written on activities of the band to bring a complete history up-to-date. This paper is written specifically to tell how the band was organized in 1857 and the important steps in its progress until it was assured a permanent place in the curriculum of the Farm and Trades School.

Although the band has contributed members to outstanding musical organizations such as the Boston Symphony Orchestra, Sousa's Band, Victor Herbert Orchestra, etc., the purpose of the training is to give the boys a worthwhile activity that they may cultivate as a pleasant lifetime hobby. The vast majority continue their music careers in high schools and colleges, and many join community orchestras and bands upon reaching a mature age.

A word about the Farm and Trades School itself will be of interest. The school was organized in 1814 and secured beautiful Thompson's Island for its campus in 1832, moving there from its Boston home in that year. It provides a well-rounded education from grade 6 through grade 10. It is a private school and William M. Meacham has been headmaster since 1926.

**NEW ENGLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION, INC.**  
**SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL**  
**DRESS CODE**

*The following reminder for all students planning on participating in the 2008-2009 Solo and Ensemble Festivals held on December 6, 2008 in White River Junction, VT and Augusta, ME and on December 13, 2008 in Glastonbury, CT:*

Students performing at the Solo & Ensemble Festival are expected to observe the following dress code:

**GENTLEMEN:**

- Dress Slacks with Shirt and Tie

**OR**

- Suit or Jacket/Sport Coat with Shirt and Tie (or Turtleneck)

**OR**

- School Uniform
- NO Jeans or athletic shoes are allowed
- All Attire Should Be Neat

**LADIES:**

- Dress

**OR**

- Blouse and Skirt

**OR**

- Dress Slacks and Blouse

**OR**

- School Uniform
- NO Jeans or athletic shoes are allowed
- All Attire Should Be Neat

This dress code was adopted by the NEMFA Executive Board at the September 12, 1992 General Meeting. Previously, the Executive Board at the Annual Meeting of June 4, 1988, adopted the following resolution: ***Does the Performer conform to the dress code?***, followed by two check-off boxes marked "Yes" and "No". In the event of a "No" indication by the adjudicator, a penalty of 5 points (out of 100)\* would be subtracted from the total score.

***The determination of the adjudicator on this requirement is FINAL. Do not risk not being selected for the Concert Festival by not following the dress code. Make sure you are dressed accordingly.***

\*\*\*\*\*

**To Students and their Supervisors:**

**You may go online now to [www.nemfa.org](http://www.nemfa.org) to select appropriate solos and small ensembles for the coming NEMFA Solo and Ensemble Festivals to be held in December, 2008! Remember to not repeat any solos or ensembles that you have played at any past NEMFA Solo and Ensemble Festivals!**

## **FOR MUSIC SUPERVISORS, TEACHERS AND STUDENTS WHO ARE NEW TO THE NEW ENGLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION, INC.:**

Welcome aboard! You have decided to be a part of a vibrant organization that is New England's oldest continuously operating music festival. We think that you will enjoy working with the members of NEMFA, a closely-knit group of music educators from across New England who are committed to providing quality music experiences for their students. The NEMFA invites all interested music educators from Maine, New Hampshire, Vermont, Massachusetts, Rhode Island and Connecticut to participate in the annual Solo and Ensemble Festivals and the annual Concert Festival. Go to our website, [www.nemfa.org](http://www.nemfa.org), select "First time at NEMFA.org?", and you will find the following information about our festival. And, if you are already a member, please feel free to pass this information along to a colleague who is not yet a member. The NEMFA festival becomes stronger every time we add new people from new communities to our membership!

### **Welcome to NEMFA.org**

If this is your first time to our website, the following should help guide you to the information you need.

#### **1. What is NEMFA?**

What is the New England Music Festival Association, Inc. and how does it work? Our Policies page includes our constitution, by-laws, Solo/Ensemble and Concert Festival rules and regulations, Music Library regulations, and more.

[Click here to view our Policies page](#)

#### **2. What is the Solo/Ensemble Festival?**

The Solo/Ensemble Festival page has a great deal of information regarding these annual events. Remember, that if you wish to be considered to be a member of the NEMFA Concert Festival, you MUST perform a solo or ensemble at one of our three Solo and Ensemble Festivals. This page includes general information as well as links to other parts of the site that relate to the festival. You can also get all Solo/Ensemble Festival documents and forms on this page. Each student applicant is \$10.

[Click here to go to the S/E Festival Page](#)

#### **3. Solo/Ensemble Adjudication Lists**

To view our Solo/Ensemble Festival adjudication lists either by browsing by a specific instrument, voice, composer or title, or to perform an advanced search, try our Solo/Ensemble Repertoire search page.

[Click here to go to search page](#)

#### **4. How do I find the Calendar of Events and other Deadlines?**

The Events page lists all of the scheduled events. On this page you will see all of the upcoming events, and may also view a printable version of the calendar that you can keep for when you're not online. Please also note that the next three events will always be displayed right on our home page, and you can always get the latest printable version of our calendar both on the home page and the Events page.

[Click here to go to the Events Page](#)

#### **5. How do I contact Executive Board members if I have a question?**

All of the officers of the New England Music Festival Association, Inc. are listed on our Officers page. There you can find each officers contact information. If your question is not urgent, we request that you use e-mail to contact our officers.

[Click here to go to our Officers page](#)

#### **6. What is the Concert Festival?**

The Concert Festival page has a great deal of information regarding these annual events. This page includes general information as well as links to other parts of the site that relate to the festival. You can also get all Concert Festival documents and forms on this page.

[Click here to go to the Concert Festival Page](#)

## TO ALL NEW ENGLAND MUSIC EDUCATORS – OUR NEW “BLOG”

Got something to say? This fall, visit our new NEMFA Blog called “**Fortissimo**” at **nemfa.blogspot.com** to write to us directly and, of course, check out our website at [www.nemfa.org](http://www.nemfa.org) for up to date information!

**P.S. Hope you had a great summer! Let’s all work together to make this year the best ever for NEMFA! Also, please remember that Bill Sittard’s address is now 73 Beauchamp Terrace, Chicopee, Mass. 01020. HAVE A GREAT START TO YOUR SCHOOL YEAR!**

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**SEPTEMBER, 2008**

**NEMFA NEWS-BULLETIN**

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**NEW ENGLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION, INC.  
PO BOX 102  
TEMPLETON, MASSACHUSETTS 01468**

**TO:**