



NEMFA WEB NEWS-BULLETIN

New England Music Festival Association, Inc. August 2010 Vol. LXXIV, No. 3

News and Weblog of the New England Music Festival Association, Inc.

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President's Notes

August 16, 2010 in [President's Notes](#) (Edit)

Dear Colleagues,

As we approach another exciting year of activities for our New England Music Festival Association I find myself reflecting on this past year while at the same time planning for next year! In our business it is always interesting to note that regardless of what happens in any given year, we always have that opportunity to start fresh the next year with new ideas and new initiatives. And so it is with our Association!



Frank Whitcomb, NEMFA President

First, thanks to John Deeb and everything that his staff and school did to make this past festival an exciting and meaningful one for all the students and educators involved. Indeed hosting this festival takes a year to plan and countless hours of preparation on the part of many individuals. So thank you to Lewis S. Mills for such a great experience; we hope you will have us back soon.

Secondly, you must now know that Burlington High School in Burlington, Vermont will be hosting the 2011 Festival. We are happy to welcome the festival back to this area and we look forward to having you all here to experience our wonderful city. The host hotel is the Burlington Hilton, situated near the waterfront of Lake Champlain with spectacular views of the lake and the Adirondack Mountain range. The hotel is also right in our downtown area where you will find any number of fine restaurants, great entertainment and places of interest. Additionally you are so close to the school that your drive will be less than 5 minutes from the hotel; indeed you could walk there if you chose! At any rate, your stay should be a comfortable one, with all amenities being close by or actually in the hotel. The necessary information is already on the nemfa website if you choose to reserve your room early.

Our school auditorium is going through a two year renovation, and the first phase will be completed in September; therefore everything in the house from the curtain back will be completely new; lighting, seating, acoustical treatment, etc. The stage area will still be what we have now, but quite adequate for our needs. The performances will be in the Auditorium, where the Chorus will rehearse. The Band will be in our Gymnasium, and the Orchestra will rehearse in one of our two rehearsal halls.

So welcome to another exciting year of NEMFA activities. Our Solo & Ensemble Festivals will again be in December, starting with the Northern site in White River Junction, Vermont and then our second site in the south. We will continue to expand our Maine Solo & Ensemble Festival site as we work with the University of Southern Maine. Our conductors and programs are, simply put, outstanding for next year. I hope we all take this opportunity to encourage new members to join as we approach this, our 84th year! This is a truly worthwhile festival experience with a membership of truly professional music educators. I am proud to represent each of you as President!

Sincerely,

Frank Whitcomb

NEMFA President and Librarian

Secretary's Report

August 16, 2010 in [Secretary's Report \(Edit\)](#)

MINUTES OF THE EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING, BRATTLEBORO, VT JUNE 5, 2010



Donald L. Hermance, NEMFA Secretary

The meeting was called to order by President Frank Whitcomb at 10:09 am. Also present were: Bill Sittard, John Kuhner, Steffen Parker, Gail Reynolds, Laura Hilton, Tom Reynolds, Erica Howard and Rob Gattie.

The minutes of the previous meeting were read and approved.

Bill Sittard, Treasurer, submitted his financial report which was approved, after clarifying the percentage of receipts for the Concert Festival, and the Association's payment for student meals.

Erica Howard, Band Manager, reviewed the resume of James Miller, Band Conductor, and presented his several suggestions for the program, which were discussed as to length, content and cost. Mr. Miller was approved as the Band Conductor.

Gail Reynolds, Orchestra Manager, presented program options submitted by the Orchestra Conductor, and the first option was recommended. The placement of French horn players and the availability of a harpist were discussed.

Laura Hilton, Chorus Manager, offered several options for the choral program, and it was suggested that she check with the conductor about a slight change in one program, as well as the possibility of adding another number, in light of the fact that only the chorus will be performing in one of the concerts, allowing for more performance time.

Frank Whitcomb, Host Chairman, noted that the host high school is being renovated, except for the auditorium stage, and that all of the rehearsal rooms and hospitality room are in a common area. He advised that the Burlington Hilton hotel will be the Association headquarters, and is conveniently situated

close by the high school. Frank offered a tentative schedule for the Concert Festival activities.

Tom Reynolds, Website Manager, reported that the information regarding the southern Solo and Ensemble site is on the website, and plans to research for any members who are not utilizing the website for information. The use of Constant Contact was discussed, as was the schedule for upcoming Bulletins.

Steffen Parker presented to Rob Gattie a trophy given by the Vermont Music Educators Association in recognition for 25 years as piano accompanist.

The proposed site for the southern Solo and Ensemble Festival was discussed. Steffen Parker reported that the eastern site was evoking a positive response from southern Maine directors.

A problem involving a member's practice of submitting an inordinate number of students to the Solo and Ensemble Festival, accompanied by many time-consuming, last-minute changes was discussed at length. President Whitcomb and Steffen Parker agreed to assess the problem. The subject of music obtained from the Web for use at the Solo and Ensemble Festival was also discussed.

President Whitcomb recommended that a comprehensive list of all the rules regarding the Solo and Ensemble Festival be made available on the Association Website.

Sal Cicciarella asked for comments on his previously submitted report regarding the vocal "24 Art Songs" as it related to the Festival auditions.

President Whitcomb is looking for a host for the 2012 Concert Festival.

John Kuhner, Past President, requested that any nominations for Officers be forwarded to him.

Under Old Business, Gail Reynolds offered to finalize the dress code and enter it on the website.

Under New Business, Tom Reynolds proposed the use of Constant Contact by the Association.

Motion by Steffen Parker: That the sentence "I hereby grant the New England Music Festival Association permission the right to use, reproduce, and/or distribute photographs, video recordings, and sound recordings of my child, without compensation or approval rights" be included on the Association Student Contract. Motion passed unanimously.

President Whitcomb offered a suggestion that the Association provide a Concert Festival Manager to oversee the operation of the festival each year.

Motion by Tom Reynolds: That the Association create the position of Concert Festival Manager, said person to be a non-voting member of the Executive Board,

appointed by the President. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Rob Gattie: That the position of Concert Festival Manager be compensated by an annual stipend of \$1000. Motion passed unanimously.

President Whitcomb announced his appointment of Steffen Parker as Concert Festival Manager.

Gail Reynolds, offered a list of proposed orchestra conductors for the year 2012 and asked for comments and a preferential listing from the board.

Motion by Steffen Parker: That the fee for participation in the Solo and Ensemble Festival remain the same for the coming year. Motion passed unanimously.

Motion by Steffen Parker: That the Association donate \$500. to the Medfield Historical Society for use on the Lowell Mason House. Motion passed unanimously.

The meeting was adjourned at 12:57 pm.

Respectfully submitted,

Donald L. Hermance

Recording Secretary

Remember, NEMFA is now at 73
Beauchamp Terrace, Chicopee,
MA 01020!

August 16, 2010 in [Concert Festival, Officers, Solo/Ensemble, What's New \(Edit\)](#)

NEMFA Executive-Secretary-Treasurer Bill Sittard wants to remind everyone to check with school business offices to be certain that they have changed the NEMFA mailing address to: **"New England Music Festival Association, Inc., c/o William E. Sittard, Executive Secretary-Treasurer, 73 Beauchamp Terrace, Chicopee, Massachusetts 01020"**. Mail sent to his old Keith Street address has passed the expiration date with the Post Office and **WILL BE RETURNED** to the sender. Please check out the correct address in your schools to make certain that everything is sent where it belongs.

NEMFA String Seating Policy
(voted 9/12/2009)

August 16, 2010 in [Concert Festival \(Edit\)](#)

NEMFA STRING SEATING POLICY

(approved 9/12/2009)

EFFECTIVE for the 2010 CONCERT FESTIVAL

POLICY

String students' Solo & Ensemble Festival scores will be used for initial seating placement, but seating may be reassigned at the Festival.

*Students, sponsors and/or directors are responsible for acquainting themselves with this policy and preparing accordingly. **

FIRST CHAIR SELECTION POLICY & PROCEDURE:

Section leaders will be decided at the festival through an audition process. At the first rehearsal, all strings will be seated in score order within their assigned sections. The first chairs will be vacant. During the first rehearsal, players who wish to audition for first chair will submit their names to the Orchestra Manager. Auditions will be held as soon as possible, probably commencing during the first hour of rehearsal. Excerpts from the concert music will be used for the audition. First chairs will be announced after all auditions are complete. After the first chair is assigned, the section will fill in the remaining seats in score order.

In the event that no student(s) auditions for first chair, the seating based upon score will be used.

NON-FIRST CHAIR SEATING POLICY

Students may be moved within their section for any of the following reasons:

- Reseating resulting from the adjustment made to accommodate the student who wins first chair. Students may be reseated by chair or by stand (depending on divisi requirements).
- If a student is found to be noticeably less prepared than surrounding students, and demonstrates little progress within the first rehearsal, the student may be reseated further back in the section at the discretion of the Conductor and/or the NEMFA Orchestra Manager. This will be done without an audition.
- Absenteeism may result in students being reassigned further up either by chair or by stand (depending on divisi requirements).

** Students, directors, sponsors or parents may not dispute seating changes or request seating re-auditions. No student may request to audition for a higher seat within their section, other than first chair. There are no challenges.*

2010-2011 NEMFA Calendar

August 16, 2010 in [Calendar](#) | [1 comment](#) ([Edit](#))

***Note minor changes in calendar below:**

June 5, 2010 — Meeting, 10:00 A.M. Managers Must Present: Holiday Inn Express, Brattleboro, VT 1. Conductors to be hired 2. Programs finalized for ordering music

September 11, 2010 — Meeting, 10:00 A.M. at **Burlington High School 52 Institute Road, Burlington, VT 05408-2721,** Solo & Ensemble Festival Planning, Concert Festival Planning

October 29, 2010 — ELECTRONIC DEADLINE Solo & Ensemble Apps. Due to Steffen Parker. \$100.00 Late Fee per school/sponsor. After 11/5/10, no apps. accepted.

November 5, 2010 — POSTMARK DEADLINE Mail (Certified) Completed Hard Copy Invoice, Student List & Payment* to Bill Sittard. *Pymt. Includes: Dues & S&E Fees or School P.O. guaranteeing pymt.

December 4, 2010 — Solo & Ensemble Festival — Eastern Site University of Southern Maine, Gorham, ME

December 4, 2010 — Solo & Ensemble Festival — Northern Site, Hartford High School, White River Junction, VT, Robert E. Gattie, Site Host

December 10, 2010 — Meeting, 7:30 P.M. Homewood Suites (203.284.2600), 90 Miles Drive, Wallingford, CT 06492. Review Solo & Ensemble Festival and Concert Festival Procedures, Rules and Regulations

December 11, 2010 — Solo & Ensemble Festival — Southern Site, Cheshire High School (203.250.2534), 525 South Main Street, Cheshire, CT 06410. John L. Kuhner, Site Host

January 14, 2011 — Electronic Confirm. Deadline. Log in. Confirm participation of each student. Print out the Acceptance/Invoice Form. Amt. due auto adjusts.

January 21, 2011 — POSTMARK DEADLINE. Mail (Certified) Completed* Conc. Fest. Material to Bill Sittard & Include: 1. Pymt. of Fees or School P.O. guaranteeing payment. 2. Acceptance-Invoice Form. 3. Student Agreement/Health Forms. 4. Permission Forms. 5. Return unused music. \$100.00 Late Fee per school/sponsor. After 2/1/10 no forms accepted and student participation denied. *Incomplete forms incur \$10.00 Reprocessing Fee.

March 17-19, 2011 — Concert Festival, Burlington High School, 52 Institute Road, Burlington, VT 05408-2721 — Frank Whitcomb, Host

June 4, 2011 — Meeting, 10:00 A.M. Holiday Inn Express, Brattleboro, VT. Managers Must Present: 1. Conductors to be hired 2. Programs finalized for ordering music

NEMFA Revised Dress Code (note difference between Chorus & Band/Orchestra)

August 16, 2010 in [Concert Festival](#), [Solo/Ensemble](#) | [Leave a comment](#) ([Edit](#))

DRESS CODE for CHORUS – (June 6, 2009)

The dress code for the Concert Festival Chorus shall be:

Men

Dark suits (black preferred), dark dress shoes (black preferred), dark socks (black preferred), long solid tie (black preferred) and collared white shirt. No sport shoes. All concert dress should be in conservative good taste.

Women

White elbow length sleeved blouses (no bare midriffs), long (full length) solid black skirts or solid black dress pants*, black hose and black shoes. No sport shoes. All concert dress should be in conservative good taste. * No capri's or leggings. All pants and skirts should be tailored to the top of the shoe.

DRESS CODE for ORCHESTRA and BAND – (Revised, June, 2010)

The dress code for the Concert Festival Orchestra & Band shall be:

Men

Dark suit (black preferred), dark shoes, dark socks, four-in-hand tie, and collared white shirt. No sport shoes or sandals. Black tuxedos (with the above accessories) are also acceptable.

Women

Black sleeved top (no bare midriff, shoulders, or low neckline) and a solid bottom (below-the-knees black skirt or black dress pants), black hose and dark shoes. No sport shoes or sandals. Long (below-the-knees) black gowns/dresses (with the above accessories) are also acceptable. All concert dress shall be in conservative good taste.

Upcoming NEMFA Concert Festival Dates

August 16, 2010 in [Calendar](#) | [1 comment](#) ([Edit](#))

March 17-19, 2011
March 15-17, 2012

Notice to all NEMFA members- Please Read

September 10, 2009 in [Concert Festival](#), [What's New](#) | [1 comment](#) ([Edit](#))

Welcome to the **NEMFA Web News-Bulletin**! As this is written in a weblog format, you may respond to individual articles by typing in a comment wherever a link says "No Comments" or "1 (or more) Comments".

All words in BLUE function as **links**. Immediately beneath each title of each article, there is the **Date** when the article was posted (in gray), an **Article Category** (in Blue) that links you to other articles in the weblog with the same category, and a **Comments** link (in Blue). If you wish to post a comment to an article you have just read, simply click on this blue "Comments" link (it might also say "No Comments") and type whatever comments you feel are appropriate and relevant to what has been presented in the article. Please remember that the FIRST comments that you type in will not be post to the weblog right away until they have been authorized by the editor. After you have made your FIRST comments, you should be able to type in comments that post right away and may be seen by all readers.

There is more than one page to this weblog. Click on "**Previous Entries**", the BLUE link that is at the **BOTTOM** of the weblog. Then, you will see what is on the **second page**. Hitting "**Next Entries**" at the **BOTTOM** of the **second** page will bring you back here to **page one**.

This format will give you a chance to interact with the information presented...hopefully, it will stimulate some discussion among members. By the way, you can still print this Bulletin and get all of the articles that appear in the Right Column as a hard copy, just like you have always been able to. You'll notice that there is even a Poll in which you can participate at the bottom of the left column that gives you a vote in how long you have been with NEMFA. Please let me know what you think...good or bad.

Sincerely,
Thomas Reynolds, Editor

NEMFA Archives News

September 10, 2009 in [Archives](#) | [1 comment](#) ([Edit](#))

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

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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

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 or via snail mail at NEMFA News-Bulletin, PO Box 102, Templeton, MA 01468.

Cordially,

Thomas E. Reynolds

Editor, NEMFA News-Bulletin