

Minutes of the IHSA Music Advisory Committee Meeting May 11, 2015

The Illinois High School Association Music Advisory Committee met at the IHSA office in Bloomington on Monday, May 11, 2015. Committee members present were: IHSA Division 1 – Dr. Sandra Leconte, Music Director, Chicago (Curie); IHSA Division 3 – Nathan Schilling, Principal, Beecher; IHSA Division 4 - Emily Bressler, Music Director, Savanna (West Carroll); IHSA Division 5 – Ben Luginbuhl, Music Director, Normal (Community); IHSA Division 6 – Judy Steers, Music Director, Warsaw; IHSA Division 7 – Melissa Gustafson-Hinds, Music Director, O’Fallon. Ben Stewart, MusicWire; Paul Kimpton, IHSA Music Liaison; and Darcy Nendza, ILMEA Representative were also in attendance. IHSA Division 2 – Dr. Steven Hamlin, Activities Director, Waukegan was unable to attend. Assistant Executive Director Shaunda Brown conducted the meeting.

TERMS AND CONDITIONS RECOMMENDATIONS

SOLO/ENSEMBLE

1. Item III. D. 2 High School Students Eligible:

Recommendation:

To represent a school in the statewide music contests, students must conform to the IHSA Activities By-laws found in the IHSA Handbook and on page 2 of this Rules Book. Students shall be entered based on enrollment in a music course and/or the recommendation of the music director.

Rationale:

Clarifies the students who are eligible for the state series.

Approved

2. Item III. E. 2. D. 1 Limitation on Entries

Recommendation:

A student shall not participate in more than a total of nine (9) solo and ensemble events combined, and not more than three (3) of these may be either band, orchestra or vocal. (Choirs and madrigal groups are not considered as ensembles for this purpose.)

Rationale:

Will allow students to participate in ensembles and solos in all three areas which they may currently participate. Students that are in both Band and Orchestra are currently being restricted to only three events. Students that are in Band/Choir or Orchestra/Choir are allowed to enter six events. The current rule penalized students who choose not to participate in choir events but participate in both band and orchestra.

Approved

3. Item VIII. A. 10 Music Solo/Ensemble Contest Rules

Recommendation:

All piano soloists entered by a participating school must be enrolled in one of the school's music courses and/or be recommended by the music director. Piano soloists will be required to play three of the following scales: Concert G, D, A, E, B or F, two octaves, with both hands. Piano solos may not be accompanied. Piano solos are not required to be memorized.

Rationale:

Clarifies those students who are eligible for the state series.

Approved

4. Item VIII. A. 3 Approved Solo Events

Recommendation:

Add Alto Flute and Bass Flute to solo events.

Rationale:

We had several requests for these events this year and all the other instruments have the full range of instruments, including Clarinet and Saxophone.

Approved

ORGANIZATIONAL

1. Item III. D. 2 High School Students Eligible:

Recommendation:

To represent a school in the statewide music contests, students must conform to the IHSA Activities By-laws found in the IHSA Handbook and on page 2 of this Rules Book. Students shall be entered based on enrollment in a music course and/or the recommendation of the music director.

Rationale:

Clarify those students who are eligible for the state series.

Approved

2. Item VIII. B. 3 Music Organization Contest Rules

Recommendation:

Each chorus shall perform at least two (2) selections with a minimum performance time of seven (7) minutes and a maximum time of twelve (12) minutes.

Rationale:

This will increase the likelihood students would perform and be exposed to longer more complex pieces.

Approved

3. Item VII. B. 4. b Show Choirs/Jazz Choirs:

Recommendation:

It is recommended that two (2) selections of varying styles be performed with a minimum performance time of seven (7) minutes and a maximum performance time of twelve (12) minutes. Jazz Choirs must include one “swing-style” (unequal division of the beat) selection in their program.

Rationale: Provides directors and students with a guide to length of their performances, no time limits existed prior for these events.

Approved

4. Item VII. B. 5. d Jazz Band/Jazz Combos:

Recommendation:

One “swing-style” (unequal division of the beat) number must be included in each Jazz Band’s performance. Jazz Combos must include at least one “swingstyle” selection in their program. It is recommended that two (2) selections of varying styles be performed. There is no other limitation or requirement in respect to the selections to be performed.

Rationale: Encourages performers to perform a variety of music selections to increase the student’s exposure to additional literature.

Approved

Administrative Recommendations

1. Recommendation:

It is recommended to implement an optional IHSA culminating Advancement State Final for Solo and Ensemble Contest. Advancement would be based on performances at Regional Level Contest. *Approved 3-2 (Division: 3,1,6 approved and Division: 4,7 were opposed)*

Rationale: This will provide additional opportunities for students to compete at a higher level. A culminating state final would establish a true state champion.

Died for Lack of Motion

2. Recommendation:

To establish state advancement categories as presented in document created by Paul Kimpton.

Rationale: Establishes the categories in which students would participate in during the Culminating Advancement State Final.

Died for Lack of Motion

3. Recommendation:

Music difficulty ratings will only be used during the IHSA State Final Advancement.

Rationale: Graded literature will be utilized to help rate difficulty of pieces played by students in the “state final advancement contest” in order to rank student performances.

Died for Lack of Motion

4. Recommendation:

A State Series Repertoire List will be a suggested list for those not participating in the IHSA State Final Advancement contest and will be a required list of those participating in the State Final Advancement contest.

Rationale: Students will be performing quality literature that has been approved by directors across the state.

Died for Lack of Motion

5. Recommendation:

To increase the host stipend from \$200 dollars to \$500, for two managers, when listed, and \$300 for one manager.

Rationale: Solo and Ensemble host work on their contest for weeks prior to it taking place. They not only work 8-12 hours on the day of the contest, but work countless hours prior to the contest; assigning rooms, hiring judges, entering data, communicating with attending schools, training student workers and volunteers, setting up raisers, etc. The stipend should better reflect the amount of time spent on preparing for and hosting the event.

Died for Lack of Motion

DISCUSSION ITEMS:

1. Ben Stewart reviewed & updated the committee regarding the music entry process and managers program in MusicWire.
2. The committee discussed accepting payments for entries, rating adjudicators, and piloting a scoring program for adjudicators to utilize for scores and comments in Musicwire. Ben Stewart will be consulted as to the feasibility of these matters through the use of MusicWire.
3. The committee discussed sight reading for Organizational Contest. We will investigate how other states utilize sight reading and will revisit this topic next year.
4. The committee discussed comments given by judges and the manner in which judges determine ratings. Contest host should review this information with judges as well as the mission of the IHSA during the judges meeting. This information will be added to the Manual for Managers.
5. The committee discussed having a “Certified Official” at each site to verify scores. This discussion was tabled with no action.
6. The committee discussed a possible deadline for host to enter scores into MusicWire on contest day. This discussion was tabled with no action.

7. The committee discussed conflicts of interest for judges. The following information will be added to the Manual for Managers, "Make every effort to avoid all conflicts of interest, including judges that are faculty at a school that is participating in the contest."
8. The committee discussed host making an attempt to evenly distribute students from the same school across different judges when completing assignments. This information will be added to the Manual for Managers.
9. The committee discussed each event's time window being expanded to allow a short amount of face-to-face clinic time with each entry. The committee noted face-to-face clinic time is currently discouraged and not a part of the IHSA contest.
10. The committee discussed if instrumentalists should be allowed to double, just as vocal ensembles are allowed to have double duets/double trios/double quartets. The committee noted doubling instrumentalist would not be staying true to the intent of the composer.
11. The committee discussed simplifying the types of events Comments only, non-Sweeps and Sweep stakes and State advancement. This topic was tabled with no action.
12. The committee discussed sight reading for Solo and Ensemble contest. The committee noted sight reading should only be for those students participating in the State Final Advancement contest.
13. The committee discussed the use of scales during contest. This discussion was tabled with no action.
14. The committee discussed the appropriateness of adding Gospel Choir as part of our Choirs in Organizational Contest. This discussion was tabled with no action.
15. The committee discussed the suggested/required music list. It will be a working document, where pieces can be submitted by directors for approval/addition.
16. Students wishing to compete with comments only or sweepstakes will not be required to select music from the required performance list.
17. The committee discussed allowing 10 minutes for solo & ensemble performances to alleviate scheduling difficulties. It was recommended that host schedule 10 minutes for solo and ensemble performances when possible.
18. The board adopted the resolution presented by Dr. Sandra Leconte to honor the musical contributions of James Taylor, former IHSA Music Advisory Board Member and Chicago Public Schools Teacher who passed away recently after a long illness. He faithfully participated in IHSA Vocal Music Contests earning Superior Ratings with his Harlan High School Choral Students.
19. The committee discussed hosting requirements for a new host. This discussion was tabled with no action.
20. The committee discussed items that should be covered in the November managers meeting. Topics included scheduling, hiring of judges, judges meeting, and volunteers to pilot the MusicWire initiatives.
21. The committee received an ILMEA update from ILMEA representative, Darcy Nendza.
22. Sandra Leconte was awarded with the NFHS Outstanding Music Educator Award.
23. One member of the music advisory committee was commended for her years of service: Division 4: Emily Bressler, Music Director, Savanna (West Carroll).