

Orchestra, band, and chorus students have the opportunity to participate in this year's Solo and Ensemble Festival to be held Saturday, February 18, 2017 at our very own Gregory Middle School. Learning a solo or an ensemble and performing for a judge is an important step on the road to musical independence. Many students have already expressed an interest in participating, and it is now time to sign up and make the commitment to this outstanding learning opportunity. Although this is not a required music department activity, **we would like to encourage students to participate** at an appropriate level of their musical development.

### **What is solo and ensemble festival?**

On February 18<sup>th</sup>, students who choose to participate will perform the solo or ensemble for an adjudicator who will provide a written evaluation of the performance. This evaluation includes suggestions for musical improvement and is an excellent opportunity for each student to improve as a musician. The judge will also provide a rating. When the student is well prepared, this is always a positive learning experience. **This is not a competitive situation, but an opportunity for musical growth for students at any ability level.** Families and friends are invited to attend the performance.

### **How does each student prepare?**

The student does the majority of the work. We will be available before and after school to work with students on their music. Each student will need to sign up for two help sessions outside of school that best fit his/her schedule. Sign-up sheets will be posted beginning in December. Solos should be performance-ready by the end of January because rehearsals with piano accompanists will begin in late January. Each soloist will practice with his/her accompanist twice.

Although not required, **private lessons** are a wonderful enrichment that can provide the weekly individual instruction that helps to make the learning and preparation process truly meaningful for the student. If you are interested in private lessons, with either a professional or with a qualified high school student, please talk to your band, orchestra or chorus teacher to get a list of recommended teachers.

### **How does my student obtain music?**

For students taking private lessons with a professional, their private lesson instructor can select the solo for them. However, please remind private adult teachers that solos must be performance-ready by the end of January, pieces must also have at least 28 measures (not including repeats of any kind), and an original copy of the piece must be ordered and provided to the judge on the festival day. For students taking guided practice lessons with a high school student, or no lessons at all, their band, chorus, or orchestra director will select a solo for them. All ensemble music will be selected by the band, chorus, or orchestra directors.

**Students will be responsible for the purchase of an original copy of the piece of music they perform for the festival once their music is selected. Music should be ordered in December to ensure timely delivery before the festival day. Students will be penalized if they do not provide an original copy of the music, and we would like to be sure to set our students up for success by making certain they have their original music ordered.**

### **Are there any costs involved in participation?**

All students performing a solo must be accompanied by a pianist. We are happy to contract qualified accompanists for our students. There will be a \$30.00 fee for this service. The fee covers two practices with the pianist as well as the performance on the day of the festival. An accompanist may charge more for additional rehearsals if needed for longer, very advanced solos. The fee is paid directly to the accompanist. Please do not send a check to school for the accompanist fee until the rehearsals with the accompanist begin. Any student wishing to find his/her own accompanist is welcome to do so, but please be careful to choose an adult who has experience accompanying students.

You are also responsible for paying an entry fee. The entry fee pays for the judges, the cost of transporting and renting pianos, and other details that cost money when putting on a large event such as the Solo & Ensemble Festival. **The cost is \$9 per band/chorus/orchestra solo, \$13 per piano solo, and \$5 per ensemble member. This fee must be paid at the time the student signs up. Please make checks payable to "Gregory Middle School" and make sure your student's name and phone number appears on the check.** We will pay the IGSMMA fee in one large check.

### **Will it take the whole day?**

All solos and ensembles will be scheduled between 8:00 a.m. and 4:30 p.m. on February 18. Some special scheduling needs can be met if we know now, for example, "morning only because we have a wedding that afternoon." Please do not request afternoon because you like to sleep in. The closer we get to the actual contest date, the more difficult it becomes to make changes in the scheduling. The students will be at the performance site about 60 minutes total for the solo and/or ensemble experience (warm-up and performance). **Please note that this event coincides with a holiday weekend and the 8<sup>th</sup> Grade Washington D.C. trip. Please consider this when deciding on your participation.**

### **What do you need to do as a student?**

1. Communicate with your private teacher or chorus/band/orchestra director to choose a solo and/or ensemble. Each solo or ensemble must have at least **28 measures (not including any repeats)**. If your private teacher is picking your solo, your band/orchestra teacher **MUST** have the information and a copy of the accompaniment by December 1<sup>st</sup>. Your teacher also needs to know that you will need to be able to obtain an original copy of the sheet music and that your piece must be performance-ready by the end of January.
2. Work hard on your music during December and January (and until Feb. 18<sup>th</sup>) and do your best.
3. Make sure you get plenty of help from us or your private teacher.
4. Always come to the help sessions you sign up for and be picked up on time.
5. Make sure that you have ordered an original copy and that the individual measures are numbered in pencil before your performance.

### **What do you need to do as a parent?**

1. Encourage your musician to participate and work hard at home.
2. Provide transportation to the festival site (Gregory!) and to all help sessions/rehearsals
3. Be responsible for the accompanist and participation fees.
4. Make sure the original of the music is ordered for your musician in December.

### **Please turn in/complete the following by November 17, 2016:**

- Turn in the attached sheet along with a check totaling the fees indicated.
- Turn in the title of your solo piece and a copy of the piano accompaniment for your solo by December 1<sup>st</sup> (if your private teacher has selected it for you). Your teacher will do this for you if you do not take private lessons.

# Orchestra Solo and Ensemble Entry Form

Student Name \_\_\_\_\_ Instrument \_\_\_\_\_

Please select all below that apply and return by Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. **A check for all fees should be made out to GREGORY MIDDLE SCHOOL and should contain student's name and phone number.**

## GUIDELINES FOR SOLO/ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION

Grade 6	One Solo
Grade 7	One Solo or One Ensemble
Grade 8	One Solo and/or One Ensemble
All Select Strings Members	All Members are expected to perform a solo.

*Students who receive private instruction in piano may also perform a piano solo. This is solely the responsibility of student and his/her parents and private piano teacher.*

## SOLOS:

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to play a solo and my private teacher has selected/will select one for me.

- Name of Solo \_\_\_\_\_
- Arranger/Composer \_\_\_\_\_
- Book \_\_\_\_\_ Volume (if applicable): \_\_\_\_\_ Revised Edition? Yes No

\*\*\*If your solo is not out of a Suzuki book, you or your private teacher are responsible for providing a photocopy of the accompaniment music. Accompaniments are due to the orchestra teachers NO LATER THAN DECEMBER 1<sup>st</sup> \*\*\*

\_\_\_\_\_ I want to play a solo and need to have one selected for me by my orchestra teacher.

ACCOMPANISTS: The majority of solos are written with piano accompaniment, therefore you will need to arrange to have one play for you. An accompanist is a piano player who is experienced in performing with soloists. **Students may not accompany our soloists at this event.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I need an accompanist and agree to pay the \$30 fee. **Please do not send payment now.**

\_\_\_\_\_ I have my own adult accompanist who is qualified to play with me.

- Accompanist's first and last name \_\_\_\_\_

PIANO SOLO: Students who take private piano lessons outside of school have the option to perform a solo for the solo and ensemble festival. If you would like to perform a piano solo, please provide the title and composer of the work you will be performing. All piano solos have an entry fee of \$13.

- Title \_\_\_\_\_
- Composer \_\_\_\_\_
- How many years have you played piano? \_\_\_\_\_

**ENSEMBLES:** Please note that duets (2 students) are the easiest to coordinate because students will need to meet and practice together once a week at each other's homes. Trios (3 students) are possible. Quartets work best when there are 2 violins, 1 viola and 1 cello or bass. Anything other than these groups should be discussed with a teacher before turning in this registration form.

Ensemble Members (each member pays a \$5 fee)	Instrument

**HELP SESSIONS:** Students who do not take private lessons must attend TWO help sessions in preparation for the performance. Students who take private lessons should work on the music that their teacher has selected in lessons. All students are also required to practice their music at home. Help sessions with Mrs. Lein and Mrs. Lauff will be available after school in January and early February. Help sessions ensure that students have the best possible performance experience. **Any student not taking lessons who does not complete the two help sessions will be ineligible for festival participation and refunds are not possible.**

**Fees:**

\_\_\_\_\_ orchestra instrument solo @ \$9 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ ensembles @ \$5 each = \$\_\_\_\_\_ \*Each member of the ensemble is responsible for paying \$5.

\_\_\_\_\_ piano solo @ \$13 = \$\_\_\_\_\_

Total amount enclosed \$\_\_\_\_\_

Check payable to Gregory Middle School **with child's name and phone number. Please do not send the accompanist fee at this time.** It will be collected in January.

I have read the guidelines outlined above and give my student permission to participate in Solo & Ensemble Festival to be held on Saturday, February 18, 2017, at Gregory Middle School.

Print Student's Name \_\_\_\_\_ Student's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

Parent Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_

*This packet was given to students in class on Tuesday, November 1<sup>st</sup>, and it is due no later than Thursday, November 17<sup>th</sup>. If you would like information about private teachers, please email [Lori\\_Lauff@ipsd.org](mailto:Lori_Lauff@ipsd.org) or [Stephanie\\_Lein@ipsd.org](mailto:Stephanie_Lein@ipsd.org) for a recommendation for your child.*