



Folly Quarter Middle School Band Program

13500 Triadelphia Road • Ellicott City, Maryland 21042 • 410-313-1506 x. 3115
Andrew Spang, Director of Bands

December 7, 2011

Dear Parent and Students.

The annual **Howard County Solo and Ensemble Festival** will be held on **Saturday, February 4, 2012** at **Mt. Hebron High School** from 9:00 a.m. to 4:00 p.m. (Snow Date: Sat., Feb. 11, 2012) The festival is an opportunity for all instrumental music students to perform a solo with piano accompaniment, or in a small group ensemble such as a duet, trio, quartet, etc. Students will have ten minutes to perform their music before an adjudicator, and students will receive verbal and written feedback about their performance. Students will also receive a certificate for their participation.

I encourage **all** students in the music program to participate. If you are interested, the following information applies:

1. Decide to perform a solo with piano accompaniment, or in a small group ensemble such as a duet, trio, quartet, etc. Do this **AS SOON AS POSSIBLE!**
2. Pick music that is an appropriate level of difficulty, and appropriate music for an adjudication festival. I can help provide music, or if you study privately your private lesson teacher can assist in choosing music. Please use the MBDA State List of approved solos as a reference. The state list can be found in the band office, at most music stores, and on-line at www.mmea-maryland.org
3. Most solos *must* have piano accompaniment. A list of accompanists is included with this letter. You **must** indicate the **accompanist's name** on the application. The exception would be percussion solos, where many do not have accompaniment.
4. Fill out the attached registration form and return it to me along with the registration fee in the form of a check* made payable to: **Folly Quarter Middle School by Friday, January 6, 2012.** (* Please note that there is a mandatory \$35 charge for all returned checks.) Please note that I can fill in **the areas shaded in gray** with proper codes and page numbers.

Students should practice the festival music **daily**. After learning the music, soloists should practice with their accompanist several times, and students in ensembles should practice together as often as possible. I will provide assistance to students during class and after school. If you have any questions about the Solo and Ensemble Festival, please call or email me at school. Thank you.

Sincerely,

Andrew B. Spang
Director of Bands
Folly Quarter Middle School
H: 410-751-2203
W: 410:313-1506
E: andrew_spang@hcpss.org
Web: <http://www.follyquarterband.org>



Folly Quarter Middle School Bands
Andrew B. Spang, Director

All About Solo & Ensemble

What is Solo & Ensemble?

The **Solo & Ensemble Festival** is a chance for students to prepare and perform solos or chamber music in front of a judge for comments and awards. *Solos* are pieces performed by just you with another person playing piano. Chamber music, or *ensembles*, are pieces performed by two or more students, usually three to five people playing similar instruments (such as brass, or clarinet ensemble).

There are two levels of Solo & Ensemble, one at the **County Level** and one at the **State Level**. You must receive a “I” (Superior) rating at the County Festival to be allowed to continue onto the State Level.

How do I get to do S&E ?

Interested students should pick an appropriate solo as soon as possible. To get the most from this opportunity, students should work on the solo with a private teacher. Then, in early January, sometimes as early as late December, students should speak to their band director and get a Registration Form. **Students must complete the Registration Form and return it with the appropriate Fee to the Band Director by the deadlines.** Students will have to fill out separate forms at the County and State Levels.

What does it cost?

Solo & Ensemble has a fee, currently **\$8** for the Howard County Solo & Ensemble Festival, that each student must pay. Ensembles work differently, be sure to check the Registration Form for accurate costs and fees. ***In addition, all students performing solos will have to pay a piano accompanist.*** These rates vary from pianist to pianist, on the difficulty of the piece, and depending on how many rehearsals/performances you give.

Is it an audition?

No, this is not an audition and no one is “chosen” for Solo & Ensemble. This is a chance to perform a solo for a respected judge and musician who can

give you feedback on how to improve your playing. However, it does tend to feel like an audition while you are doing it.

What do I need to prepare?

There are two things you need to prepare for your performance at Solo & Ensemble. ❶ **Your Solo:** Obviously, you want to learn the solo you are going to prepare. Keep in mind that you will need to get the music to a pianist who will also need to practice this music. Then, you will need to rehearse with the pianist so that you are both comfortable performing the piece together. ❷ **Scales:** Students should be prepared to play scales. You should be prepared to play a one octave **Chromatic Scale**, except for flute and clarinet players who should prepare a two octave chromatic scale. Also, you will need to know your **Major Scales** up to 4 #s and 4 b's. See your director for a copy of these scales, if necessary. **Is there Sight Reading?** No, there is no sight-reading at Solo & Ensemble.

Where do I get a pianist?

It is ***completely your responsibility*** to contact and arrange to have a pianist practice and perform with you. Your band director should have a list of qualified and professional pianists. You will need to pay the pianist for their time and efforts. Be sure to get a copy of ***Working with Pianists*** from Mr. Spang if you are going to do a solo. Please understand: **most solos require piano accompaniment!**

Where do I get music?

The music performed must be listed on the **Maryland Band Director Association Solo & Ensemble List**. Actual copies of the music must be purchased from your local music store or ordered through appropriate distributors. **You must not perform from photocopies — that is illegal!** The best advice of appropriate solos for you and your particular instrument will come from your private teacher. Ensemble music can sometimes be borrowed from your band director.

**HOWARD COUNTY
SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL**

INDIVIDUAL STUDENT COSTS

The table below shows the total cost for each event, and the cost break down per student to perform in an ensemble event. Note: The total ensemble amount should be entered once in the database (Do not enter what each individual student pays.)

<u>Event</u>	<u>Ensemble Amount</u>	<u>Each student pays</u>
Solo	\$8.00	\$8.00
Duet	\$12.00	\$6.00
Trio	\$15.00	\$5.00
Quartet	\$16.00	\$4.00
Quintet	\$20.00	\$4.00

(Large Ensembles)

6 students	\$20.00	\$3.33
7 students	\$20.00	\$2.86
8 students	\$20.00	\$2.50
9 students	\$20.00	\$2.23
10 students	\$20.00	\$2.00
11 students	\$20.00	\$1.82
12 students	\$20.00	\$1.67
13 students	\$20.00	\$1.54
14 students	\$20.00	\$1.43

2012 HOWARD COUNTY SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

SOLO REGISTRATION FORM

Fee - \$8.00

PLEASE PRINT

Saturday, February 4, 2012

School FQMS Name as it should appear on the certificate _____

Last Name _____ First Name _____ School Grade _____

Instr. Event Title of Selection _____ Grade Level

Composer/Arranger _____ Page No. in MBDA manual

Private Teacher _____ *Accompanist _____

*** Application must include an Accompanist to avoid scheduling conflicts.**

For comments only? _____ Is the student in more than one event? _____

STUDENT CONTRACT: I will return this form and any fee to my instrumental music director before the deadline. I will have an original copy of music for the adjudicator with measures numbered on all copies. I will make arrangements to have an accompanist, and practice several times with the accompanist before the event. I will make arrangements for transportation. Student Signature _____

PARENT/GUARDIAN CONTRACT: I will support and encourage the above student to practice the music, and will provide transportation to Mt. Hebron H.S. at the appropriate time and day of the event.

Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Please return this form to your school instrumental music director.

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Parent/Guardian Signature _____

Please return this form to your school instrumental music director.

6. Last Name _____	First Name _____	School Grade _____
7. Last Name _____	First Name _____	School Grade _____
8. Last Name _____	First Name _____	School Grade _____
9. Last Name _____	First Name _____	School Grade _____
10. Last Name _____	First Name _____	School Grade _____

STUDENT CONTRACT:

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2. We will have an original copy of the music with measures numbered for the adjudicator.
3. We will make transportation arrangements to Mt. Hebron H.S. at the appropriate time and day of the event.

1. Student Signature _____	6. Student Signature _____
2. Student Signature _____	8. Student Signature _____
3. Student Signature _____	8. Student Signature _____
4. Student Signature _____	9. Student Signature _____
5. Student Signature _____	10. Student Signature _____

Please check if
you are in more
than one event

6. Last Name _____	First Name _____	School Grade _____
7. Last Name _____	First Name _____	School Grade _____
8. Last Name _____	First Name _____	School Grade _____
9. Last Name _____	First Name _____	School Grade _____
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4. Student Signature _____	9. Student Signature _____
5. Student Signature _____	10. Student Signature _____

**HOWARD COUNTY
SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL**

ACCOMPANISTS

Please note: the Music Office of The Howard County Public School System compiled the accompanist list. The names were provided at the request of those who are listed, some of which are school system employees. It should be understood that this list **does not represent a recommendation or endorsement by the school system.**

Debbie Allen
(410) 381-0133
thallenpos@msn.com

Jason Bednarz
jasonbednarz@hotmail.com

Lisa Bowling
410-772-2253
loureneb@verizon.net

Mark Dubbs
(410) 465-3985

Elizabeth Fixsen
301-802-6896
efixsen@yahoo.com

Barbara Ford
(410) 489-5547
Barbara_Ford@hcpss.org

Susan Gonzales
(410) 426-9628

Carrie Grams
(410) 715-1748

Nellie Hill
(301) 776-2382

Dan Hoffner
(410) 465-0104
danhoffner@hotmail.com

David Holmes
(410) 730-7083
DWHolmes1@verizon.net

Estelle King
(410) 747-2178

Doug Lawler
(410) 719-1252

Allen Leung
(443) 812-5591
Allen_Leung@hcpss.org

Alison Matuskey
410-949-4949
Alison_Matuskey@hcpss.org

Linda Ng
(301) 498-5888

Susan Pumplin
(410) 730-6306
SPumplin@verizon.net

Mary Ratcliffe
MRatcliffe@verizon.net

Linda Rosbrough
(410) 715-6746

Celeste Rusconi
(410) 531-9445

Debbie Sagmiller
(301) 829-6675

Irina Sedorova
(410) 900-3232

Nancy Showacre
(410) 796-7038
NShowacre@yahoo.com

Phyllis Stanley
(410) 992-9373

Olenka Stasyshyn
(410) 750-2847

Karen Sturms
Evening: (410) 663-2320
Day: (410) 887-5945

Wendy Szczublewski
(410) 772-1097

Jonathan Tuzman
tuzmusic@gmail.com
862.202.3623
973.932.0889

Christine Wells
410-768-0434
443-756-2325

Ellie Whittenberger
(410) 465-6995