

SOLO & ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL

BCO students are invited to participate in the Illinois Grade School Music Association Solo and Ensemble Contest. This event is scheduled to take place on **Saturday, February 18, 2017** at Gregory Middle School. Individual performance times will be scheduled between the hours of 8:00AM and 4:00PM. The performance schedule is usually made available approximately two weeks before the contest day.

Solo & Ensemble Festival is a wonderful opportunity for students to learn a solo piece of music, perform with a piano accompanist, and receive comments from a professional. The musical growth derived from participating in this event is unbelievable! Each participant will receive written comments from the adjudicator and a Division I, II, or III rating. Students receiving a Division I or II will also receive a medal. Students do not compete against other students.

SOLO PARTICIPATION

Students are invited to perform a solo. **There is a \$9.00 performance fee for each solo.** Interested students should obtain an appropriate contest solo from his/her private instructor. Students not studying privately can obtain a solo from their Band, Chorus, or Orchestra Teacher. **Solos must be at least 28 measures long: this does not include repeats.**

All solos **must be performed with piano accompaniment as appropriate.** If needed, professional accompanists will be available for a **\$30.00 fee.** This will include 1-2 rehearsals with the accompanist, as well as, the performance on February 20. If you are using a school accompanist, you will need to sign an agreement stating that you will pay the accompanist at the first rehearsal, even if you have dropped out of the festival at that point. This information will be coming to you as you sign up.

Students studying piano privately are welcome to perform a solo on the piano (chosen by your piano teacher). Piano solos also must be at least 28 measures long not including repeats. **Piano solos are \$12.00.**

ENSEMBLE PARTICIPATION

Students may choose to be included in a small ensemble. There will be a \$5.00 per person performance fee for each ensemble. **Small ensembles require additional practice and rehearsal time.** This is a great way to learn how to work with others and have fun making music with friends. *Be sure to choose ensemble members who you will be able to work with outside the school day!*

HELP SESSIONS

Students must attend at least three help sessions in preparation for the performance. Help sessions with your classroom teacher will be available before and after school. Sign-up sheets will be posted in your classroom. This is to insure that students have the best possible performance experience. The first appointment will be to pick out the music and should happen before the end of November. If you are studying privately, please have your private teacher pick out any solo literature and complete a Title Information Form (which will be handed to you once you register).

CONTEST FEES TO BE PAID AT TIME OF REGISTRATION

Students are responsible for the cost of solo music, performance fees and accompanist fees. Again, a solo requires a \$9.00 entrance fee, Piano solos require \$12.00 entrance fee, and each ensemble requires a \$5.00 entrance fee PER MEMBER. Please make checks for **ENTRANCE FEES ONLY** payable to Still Middle School (NOTE: do **NOT** pay for accompanists at this time.) **NO REFUNDS WILL BE GIVEN.**