

SCMEA Orchestra Division

Expectations for Solo & Ensemble Performances

Selecting Music:

1. IMSLP, MuseScore, SheetMusicPlus, etc. are all considered original scores.
2. Select music appropriate for your years of experience.
3. Select music appropriate for your ensemble instrumentation. For example, a duet should be two members playing two separate parts, not two members playing the same part together.

Before Arriving:

4. Make sure you bring the original score of your music to give to the judge. If playing in an ensemble, assign this responsibility to someone ahead of time.
5. Bring your music, instrument, bow, and accessories. Cellists and bassists need to bring a rock stop. It's also highly recommended that you have a spare set of strings; strings like to break at the most inopportune times.
6. Dress professionally. Remember that you are scored on presentation. Avoid pajamas, shorts, and sarcastic t-shirts. An orchestra polo shirt or t-shirt with khaki, black pants and/or appropriate well maintained jeans is a great choice for your orchestra concert attire. For those playing in an ensemble, coordinate with each other. Cellists and bassists, be aware of the length of skirts or dresses as you play.
7. Arrive at least 30 minutes before your scheduled time. Plan for extra travel time to the location in the event of traffic. Remember the musician's credo: early is on time, on time is late.

Once You Arrive:

8. Sign-in at the registration table.
9. Head into the warm-up room to unpack, get tuned, and warm-up. ***Please be sure to tune your instrument.*** Adults will be circulating to help if you need it. You cannot give your best performance if your instrument is out of tune.
10. An adult (or assigned student runner) will announce when it's your turn and take you to your room. Remember to bring your music, your instrument/bow, and your rock stop for cellists/bassists.

In the Judging Room:

11. Judging begins as soon as you enter the room. Enter calmly and professionally.
12. Feel free to readjust the chairs and stands to where you're comfortable.
13. Please do not tell the judge that your performance is going to be bad or apologize in advance for what you believe will be a terrible performance. That is not professional.
14. Introduce yourself to the judge. Speak with confidence:
 - a. Your name (if an ensemble, each person introduces themselves)
 - b. What school you attend
 - c. What you are about to play, both the title and the composer
 - d. An example: "My name is Reagan Smith, I attend Riverside High School, and I am playing Elegy by Faure"
15. While performing, remain calm and focused. It's okay if you make mistakes, but do not draw attention to those mistakes by making faces or sounds

16. When you have finished with your performance, thank the judge for taking the time to listen to you and leave the room calmly and professionally - remember the judge can hear you in the hallway even if the door is closed. Remember to take all of your materials.

After Your Performance:

17. Return to the warm-up room and pack up. Remember to take all of your items with you.
18. Wait for your name to be called to pick up your score sheet and music from the registration table, along with your certificate and medal, depending on your rating. This may vary depending on what your teacher has instructed you to do concerning their procedures with scores and awards.