

LETTER TO THOSE SENDING STUDENTS TO THE 2025 SOLO & ENSEMBLE

Dear Music Directors, Music Teachers, School Personnel, Parents and Students:

This is another exciting year for Lorain County school musicians with many features and opportunities at the **Lorain County Solo & Ensemble!** The date is Saturday, **February 22, 2025 at Firelands High School in Oberlin.**

We have a variety of entry categories designed to challenge the talents of your student musicians and expand their musical interests:

- **Jazz Ensemble** – This category provides an opportunity for the serious jazz musician to have his/her small jazz group adjudicated. Groups up to Octet size may perform; a vocalist would be considered as one of the eight.
- **Composition/Arrangement** – This category provides an opportunity for the young composer/arranger to present and have performed an original composition (or arrangement of an existing work) to be adjudicated on its written content rather than its performance. Although part of this entry requirement is that it be performed on the scheduled Solo & Ensemble date, (it must be a solo or ensemble composition), the adjudication is on the elements of composition or arrangement rather than the qualities of its performance. There is an additional fee to cover the cost of adjudicating the notation skills in advance of the performance. Completed full scores must be submitted with the application form.
- **Barbershop Quartet** - This category provides choral directors who use close harmony activities to train their musicians to listen carefully to others for pitch, balance, and ensemble effect, and a chance to bring a vocal group such as this to the event to perform. This is also a chance for vocalists to add animation to their performance and showcase some of the fun they experience in doing Barbershop singing.
- **Four-Hands-Piano/Piano-Duo** – This category provides piano students the opportunity of performing in an ensemble whereas before, they have only done solo performances. It opens a whole range of challenges like balance, communication and togetherness with a partner, and shared expression and interpretation. Performers have the option of using two pianos (Duo) or the same piano (Four-Hands).
- **Strings Category** - In this category, we have always welcomed harp but we would also like to invite Classical, Spanish or Jazz acoustic guitar. Please use the Standard Solo/Ensemble registration form for this entry and if you have any questions regarding appropriate music, instruments or style-of-playing. Please give us a call or email.

Occasionally, a director, parent or other sponsor of a performer is concerned that there is a conflict in performance times among their students, or, an accompanist has two students to accompany scheduled at the same time, or some other issue in regards to an assigned performance time exists. This is easily handled by informing the door monitor of a minor delay and your performer will report one slot earlier or one slot later than scheduled. The only time this becomes a problem is if it happens too frequently, so please use this flexibility sparingly.

Please read the rules which are posted on our website and make sure your students and parents are aware of those which pertain to their performances. There are 21 rules which govern the Solo & Ensemble event.

There is only one online enrollment form for all categories to facilitate scheduling and fees. You may find the **Rules/Regulations** and the **Registration** link on our website:

<http://www.loraincountyesc.org/LorainCountySoloEnsembleContest.aspx>

Sincerely,

Debbie Hunt, Solo & Ensemble Administrator, 440-324-3174 | hunt@esclc.org