

# Jericho Public Schools Music Department



## NYSSMA Festival Handbook

The following is information you will need to know about the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA) Solo and Ensemble Festivals this spring. Many NYSSMA festivals are held throughout the County, and it is important that you appear at the correct festival site. Festival times are scheduled from 4:00 to 9:00pm on weekdays, and 9:00am to 4:00pm on Saturdays. There is very little flexibility in scheduling specific audition times. Times are determined by the festival Chairpeople. However, if you know of a major family or school conflict on a particular day and time, let us know as soon as possible by email or letter.

**Registration and Payment:** Registration for all NYSSMA festivals will be on the DaCapo Inventory Parent Portal. NYSSMA Pre-Registration dates are December 15 - January 23 for all festivals.

### *All Fees are determined by NYSSMA*

Levels 1-4 Piano: \$26

Levels 1-4 Instrumental and Vocal: \$20

All-State: \$36

Levels 5-6 Piano: \$36

Levels 5-6 Instrumental and Vocal: \$30

**Payment method(s):** Credit Card (Da Capo Inventory) or Check made payable to "Jericho Public Schools"

*Jericho School District is now a member of Da Capo Inventory. Please register for the Da Capo Inventory Parent Portal. This account will give access to the online pre-registration form and pay the fees for all upcoming NYSSMA festivals.*

**Create your account:** [dacapoinventory.com](http://dacapoinventory.com)

**Questions regarding the parent portal that require tech support:** [support@dacapoinventory.com](mailto:support@dacapoinventory.com)

**All Jericho UFSD students have been assigned to appear in the following festival for the upcoming NYSSMA Adjudication season:**

### **2026 Festival Locations and Dates** (Students are responsible for their transportation to and from all festivals.)

- **March 13-14 Level 1-6 Piano Festival JERICHO Middle School**
- **March 18-19 Level 1-4 Instrumental/Vocal OYSTER BAY HS**
- **May 1-2 Level 5-6 and All-State Instrumental/Vocal/Harp Festival SYOSSET HS**
- **May 1-2 Every Vocal Jazz and Levels 1-6 /AS Jazz Instrumental SYOSSET HS**
- **May 18-19 Classical Guitar WANTAGH HS**

## Preparation

**NYSSMA Manual:** Make sure your prepared solo appears in the *current NYSSMA (edition 34) Online Manual* by checking with your private teacher or with the Jericho Music Department staff. Solos are graded by difficulty from Level 1 (easiest) to Level 6 (most difficult). Choose your solo carefully with the help of your music teacher. Students are responsible for preparing solos outside of school time. Most soloists find that a private music teacher is the best way to prepare. Your school music teacher is available (as time permits) during extra help to *assist* students; however, your school music teacher should not be your only teacher. Practice must be regular and consistent. Approximately two weeks prior to the festival, participating students will be given a "Playing Permit" containing a map to the site, date, time, and room designation. Take the completed "Playing Permit" to the festival registration desk at least *twenty minutes* before you are scheduled to play. After you are registered, go to the "warm-up room" and review your prepared solo. Go to the Audition Room *five minutes* before you are scheduled.

## Audition

Your NYSSMA Solo is the largest portion of the evaluation. *Auditions: Level I-IV = 10 min. Level V-VI = 15 min.* You should have two (2) **original** copies of your music selection. If your instrumental or vocal solo comes with a piano accompaniment (with the solo part on it), you can give the piano part to the adjudicator, and avoid buying a second original. Please check with your private teacher or Jericho Music staff. **No illegal photocopies, downloaded solos, or scanned reproductions are allowed under NYSSMA rules.**

### 1. Solo

NYSSMA Solos are judged upon the following criteria:

Rhythm - the accuracy and steadiness of the solo

Technique - the physical dexterity required to accurately perform the music

Precision - accuracy of notes and fingerings, bowings, or stickings

Interpretation - the musical qualities of dynamics, style, tempo, phrasing, and tone

Musicianship - the artistic expression of the music

### Vocal Solos

Vocal students who are singing with accompaniment must provide their own accompanist or arrange for a pre-recorded accompaniment. If you are using an mp3, recorded/CD accompaniment, **students must provide their own playback equipment.** Vocal adjudications include solo performance and sight reading, no scales.

### 2. Sight-Reading

Sight-Reading is a part of each audition for all Piano, Instrumental and Vocal participants. A short sight-reading example (unfamiliar music) will be performed. Students will be given about one minute to look over the music before attempting to play or sing it. Students should use this time to look at the time signature, the key signature, tricky rhythms, dynamics, tempo, and phrasing.

### 3. Scales

Major Scales are a part of each instrumental audition. **All scales must be memorized!!!**

#### Woodwinds and Brass

Level 1-2 3 prepared scales - up and down one octave Judge will hear all 3 scales Level 3-4 7 prepared scales - up and down one octave Judge will choose 3 from the 7 Level 5-6 15 prepared scales - up and down one octave Judge will choose 3 from the 15

#### Strings

Level 1-2 3 prepared scales - up and down one octave Judge will hear all 3 scales Level 3-4 Violin/Viola 7 prepared scales - 2 of 7 two octaves Judge will choose 3 of 7 (one two octave) Level 3-4 Cello/Bass 7 prepared scales - 1 of 7 two octaves Judge will choose 3 of 7 (one two octave) Level 5-6 Violin/Viola/Cello 15 prepared scales - all two octaves Judge will choose 3 of 15 Level 5-6 Bass 12 scales - E, F, F#/Gb, and G two octave Judge will choose 3 of 15 (two two octave)

#### Piano

Level 1: 3 prepared scales - 1 octave, any tempo hands separate or together Judge will hear all 3 scales Level 2: 3 prepared scales - 2 octaves,  $\theta = 72$  in eighth notes, hands separate or together Judge hears 3 scales Level 3-4: 7 prepared scales - 3 octaves,  $\theta = 72$  triplet eighth notes, hands together Judge will choose 3 of the 7 Level 5-6: 15 prepared scales - 4 octaves,  $\theta = 92$  to 112, sixteenth notes hands together Judge will choose 3 of the 15

**Rudiments** are a part of each Percussion audition.

Please have your private teacher or a member of the Jericho Music staff provide you with the list of required rudiments for each NYSSMA level.

### 4. Grades

NYSSMA grades will be posted on the DaCapo Inventory site and visible to parents approximately one week after the festival. You will receive your graded evaluation from your school music teacher approximately three days after the festival.

### 5. Number of NYSSMA Solos

NYSSMA Festivals provide an outstanding opportunity for students to perform at their highest level of musicianship. We believe that participating in the NYSSMA Festivals will be a positive and enriching experience for Jericho music students.

Students may prepare more than one NYSSMA Solo on different instruments.

(Example: Piano & Clarinet or Flute and Piccolo) No NYSSMA solo may be performed more than once during the festival season. Please do not ask to appear at another festival site unless there is an irreconcilable conflict. This must be approved in advance by the Curriculum Associate and by NYSSMA.

## JERICHO MUSIC STAFF DIRECTORY



When completing the online NYSSMA pre-registration form on the DaCapo Inventory Parent Portal it is very important to identify the appropriate music teacher for your child(ren). Please use the directory below to find the name of the teacher in the attending school building.

### Cantiague Elementary School

Band - Grace Schene  
Orchestra - Peter O'Malley  
Piano/Vocal - Donna Zarrabi

### George A. Jackson School

Band - Margaret Assimakopoulos  
Orchestra - Aimee Lillienstein  
Piano/Vocal - Brittany Wheeler

### Ratner Seaman Elementary

Band - Grace Schene  
Orchestra - Peter O'Malley  
Piano/Vocal - Deana Verone

### Jericho Middle School Grades 6-8

Band Grade 6 - Michael Blutman  
Band Grade 7 and 8 - Steven Marsh  
Orchestra Grade 6 and 8 - Michael Lee  
Orchestra Grade 7 - Aimee Lillienstein  
Piano/Vocal Grade 6 - Deana Verone  
Piano/Vocal Grade 7 and 8 - Elizabeth Owens

### Jericho High School Grades 9-12

Band Grades 9-12 - Evangeline Bellon  
Jazz Band All Grades - Michael Blutman  
Orchestra Grades 9-12 - Michael Lee  
Piano/Vocal Grades 9-12 - Elizabeth Owens  
Piano/Vocal Jazz All - Elizabeth Owens

### Students currently not enrolled in the Jericho School Music Programs

All Instruments/Piano - **Ruth Breidenbach**

We hope this NYSSMA Handbook is helpful and wish you and your child(ren) a successful musical year. Please feel free to reach out with questions.

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