

Lawton Chiles Middle Academy Band Solo/Ensemble Festival

Solo/Ensemble Festival will be held February 8-9th, 2008. The festival will be held at Bartow Senior High School.

Solo and ensemble festival provides students with an opportunity to perform either in smaller groups or as individuals with piano accompaniment. Playing as a soloist or as part of a smaller group is a different kind of playing than performing with a full band. It is important for a well-rounded education in music for students to have experiences in all different kinds of playing.

Students who participate in Solo/Ensemble have an opportunity to grow musically and have the fun of performing solo music. The Florida Bandmasters Association sponsors this festival and students must abide by specific guidelines. Failure to abide by these rules may result in student disqualification.

Solo performances require a live piano accompanist. You must arrange rehearsals with this accompanist and make him/her aware of your scheduled performance time. An accompanist will be assigned to you by the band director if you desire or you may secure your own accompanist. Students will be responsible for paying the accompanist a fee of approximately \$25 - \$35(Check with your assigned accompanist for your exact cost).

At the festival, all solos and ensembles will perform for a judge. You are not in competition with anyone but will receive specific comments and rating based on your performance. The judge will fill out a comment sheet and submit a rating of your performance to the festival office. All ratings will be posted in a central location at the festival site. You will receive one of the following ratings:

SUPERIOR - An outstanding performance. Musical details were apparently rehearsed. This performance was very well prepared.

EXCELLENT - An excellent performance. There were a few minor problems. Student may not have paid close attention to dynamics or phrasing.

GOOD - Student shows potential. Piece played fairly well. Needs more attention on phrasing, dynamics, intonation, tempo or rhythmic accuracy.

FAIR - Student has a basic idea how the piece should be played. Obviously needs more rehearsal time.

POOR - Unrehearsed, Some serious musical problems were evident. Basic fundamentals of playing should be reviewed.

Ms. Sholine will be available for individual help sessions. Students who are not taking private lessons should practice with Ms. Sholine at least once a week. We will be spending a lot of time to help students prepare for this experience. Students should be prompt for their help sessions, warm up before their session and allow extra time in case we run behind schedule. Students continuously late or forgetting to attend help sessions may be dropped from the festival.

All students must be "**checked off**" by the band director before they are allowed to proceed to festival. The band director will not allow students who are not sufficiently prepared to participate in the final festival performance. You will not be checked off for the final performance if the band director is not convinced you will have the opportunity for a positive learning experience.

ENSEMBLES

You must practice your individual parts before trying to rehearse together. All members of the ensemble should be present for scheduled help sessions with the band director. You will need several coaching sessions before checking off for final performance

DRESS

You will be expected to "dress up" for this performance. This is a live performance - be professional in your attire and presentation.

Make plans (when/where) to meet your accompanist or ensemble members.

Arrive 45 minutes prior to your scheduled performance.

Warm up in the warm up room only! No playing in the hallways.

I strongly encourage you to perform in this festival. This is one of the most educational experiences provided by the Florida Bandmasters Association and offers you a chance to grow as a solo musician. Work diligently to assure your success in February.

Sincerely,

Jane Sholine
Director of Bands
Lawton Chiles Middle Academy

******IF YOU ARE PLANNING TO PARTICIPATE IN SOLO/ENSEMBLE, PLEASE SIGN AND RETURN THE ATTACHED CONTRACT AS SOON AS POSSIBLE! DEADLINE IS FRIDAY, DECEMBER 15th. ******

I,

would like to participate in Solo/Ensemble Festival.

I understand that I will need to practice hard and work with Ms. Sholine regularly on the music. I understand the performance will be held at Bartow Senior High School on February 9th or 10th.

ENTRY FEE PER EVENT IS \$5 (*Due December 15th*)

____ I would like Ms. Sholine to assign me an accompanist (Please pay your accompanist at your first rehearsal)

I would like to participate in _____ ENTRIES. Total entry fee of \$ _____ enclosed.

ENTRIES:

____ SOLO

Title _____ Composer _____

____ Ensemble Type - _____

(Personnel : _____)

Title _____ Composer _____

____ Ensemble Type - _____

(Personnel : _____)

Title _____ Composer _____

PARENT SIGNATURE _____

STUDENT SIGNATURE _____

NOTES TO SOLO/ENSEMBLE PARTICIPANTS
LAWTON CHILES MIDDLE ACADEMY BAND

1. **Arrange for a piano accompanist** and practice together. (Please thank your pianist and arrange to pay him/her at you first meeting.)
2. **Number the measures** on the original copy of your solo. This is a festival requirement. Make a couple extra copies after the measures are numbered. The judge must be provided with the original copy of the music at the festival. If you play a solo selected by Ms. Sholine she will give the original to the judge.
3. **PRACTICE** - How you practice the solo is important!
 - a. Practice standing (except horns, bassoons, tubas) Soloist should perform standing.
 - b. First work out little passages that give you difficulty and go over these passages until they can be played ten times perfectly.
 - c. Breathe in the same places as you practice. Mark breaths in pencil and use this phrasing every time you practice.
 - d. After you have worked out all the hard spots in your solo, go back and play the entire solo from beginning to end without stopping.
 - e. Put the solo away for the day but remember the places you had trouble and practice these spots again the next day.
4. **KNOW YOUR SOLO INSIDE OUT**
Work out all the technical difficulties prior to the festival.
5. **MEMORIZE**
You'll play more musically if you are not entirely dependant on the music.
6. **TONE**
Constantly work for a better tone. Listen for good intonation and strive for good balance at all times.
7. **PHRASES**
Be sure your solo is performed with good musical phrases and breathe support.
8. **INTERPRETATION**
Give the solo meaning for yourself and the listener. Watch the tempo, rhythm, style and overall expression of the solo.
9. **TECHNIQUE**
Work for accuracy, good phrasing, rhythmic accuracy and special instrumental techniques of your solo.
10. **TEN TIMES** through perfectly before it is ready for festival.
11. **TUNE UP**
12. **HAVE CONFIDENCE** in yourself and your solo performance.
13. **APPEARANCE**
Stand tall, relax and play your best. Hold your instrument properly. Dress up!
14. **GREET YOUR JUDGE, INTRODUCE YOURSELF, ANNOUNCE YOUR SOLO TITLE AND COMPOSER**

SOLO/ENSEMBLE - FEBRUARY 8TH & 9TH

