

January 8, 2025

Dear Colleague,

Below you will find information regarding the CDBA Central Region Middle and High School Band MPA, which will be held March 18th-20th at Asheboro High School in Asheboro, North Carolina. If enrollment does not warrant three days at the Central Region site, we will limit the event to the first two days. You will be asked for your date preference via the online registration. If there are special circumstances regarding a need for a particular time, please be sure to let me know. I will try my best to accommodate your request, but cannot guarantee that I will be able to satisfy every request for date and time preferences. Date preferences will be granted primarily by postmark order and time preference are very difficult so flexibility will need to be had on both ends.

The NCMEA Handbook has very specific rules regarding participation in one of its sponsored music festivals. Please consult this document on the state website to be sure you follow all necessary rules and regulations.

Please note the following:

- The registration and fee must be postmarked no later than **FEBRUARY 24th, 2025**.
- **Registration is online – [REGISTRATION](#)**
- After completing online registration, send copy and payment to:
Tucker Smith, Band Director
Asheboro High School
1221 S Park St.
Asheboro, NC 27203
- Time slots are filled on a first come, first served basis, in order of postmarked date on printed materials and fees received. The schedule should be finalized by early March and posted on the Central District website.
- **The fee for each band to participate at MPA is \$225.00 if not participating in the clinic.** A check made out to “Central District Band Association” must accompany your mailed registration form.
- **Each Band Director must be a member of NAFME** in order to have a band participate in MPA. All Band Directors must present their current NAFME card or other proof of current membership at the registration table on the day of the event.
- All members of the performing bands **must be enrolled in a band class at your school.**
- **You must provide three conductor’s scores (present them at the registration table upon arrival) of all three performed selections for adjudication purposes.** Selections performed that are out of print must have publisher’s authorization before a photocopied score will be permitted for use.
- The Central District has a huge library of scores that may be used for our adjudicators. You can find a list in the [score file](#) on the CDBA website. If you plan to use the CDBA score service for any of your selections, you will need to indicate this at least three weeks prior to the event. Because we will be running two MPA sites concurrently, we will give priority to the earliest requests if there are requests for the same selection at both sites. We will notify you if you will need to order scores or ask colleagues to borrow scores. In planning your music and securing your scores, please plan for this new requirement. Only scores requested ahead of time will be available on-site at the event. Also, there is an overlap this year, so you if you need scores put in your request early since the earlier submission will receive the scores.
- Submit your score file request now. [Request](#)
- We remind you to choose your music from the **official MPA list** used by the North Carolina Bandmasters Association. Please use the hyperlink to double check your selections, because we will.

TIMING:

Staging and Performance

- Level I and II may not exceed 25 minutes of stage time.
- Level III and IV may not exceed 30 minutes of stage time.
- Level V may not exceed 35 minutes of stage time.
- Level VI and MASTERWORKS may not exceed 40 minutes of stage time.

Sight Reading

- Level I Bands do NOT have the option to sight read. (*new this year, 2025*)
- Level II, III, and IV Bands have five minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.
- Level V Bands have six minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.
- Level VI and MASTERWORK Bands have seven minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.

Warm-Up

- Level I and II Bands are given 25 minutes time in the warm-up room.
- Level III and IV Bands are given 30 minutes time in the warm-up room.
- Level V Bands are given 35 minutes time in the warm-up room.
- Level VI and MASTERWORK Bands are given 40 minutes time in the warm-up room.

REPERTOIRE:

Each band must prepare a march of the director's choice and two compositions from the [Official North Carolina Band Association list](#). One composition must be from the registered difficulty level of evaluation and the other composition may be from the same classification or from a higher classification. If choosing from the Masterworks list, only one selection (as outlined on the list) and a march must be performed. If you are performing two concert pieces on two different levels (example: Grade II and III) your band will be labeled as the lower Grade level. Per my example, a Grade II band.

SIGHT READING:

Sight Reading will be required of all bands (level II through VI and MASTERWORKS) and will follow the guidelines set by the NC Bandmasters. The sight-reading rating score will be included equally in the overall rating for all participating bands. Bands will read one concert selection and will perform for one sight-reading judge. The judge will make recorded comments and use the MENC sight-reading evaluation form.

During the preparation time before the sight-reading performance, band directors and the students may clap rhythms, sing parts, count out loud and finger instruments, but they may not play their instruments. Only one band director may work with a band in the sight-reading room.

During the sight-reading performance, directors may call out letters or numbers and verbal cues (e.g. "more trumpet", "tubas watch") but may not sing parts or rhythms while the band is playing.

Be sure to look at the sight-reading guidelines on the NCBA website (ncbandmasters.org/mpa/sightreading.htm).

Things to remember while choosing music:

- MPA- Rule 3C: Where a school has more than one band, duplication of personnel will be permitted so long as the percentage of duplicated material personnel in either ensemble does not exceed 20% of the total number of students involved or no more than 5 participants, whichever is greater. For the purposes of calculating duplicate personnel, if a student performs on different instruments listed separately for All-State Honor Band auditions in multiple ensembles, they would not count as duplicates.
- No electronics will be allowed unless specified by the composer.

- Bands will be allowed to program flex-band arrangements of titles that are currently on the MPA list for 2024. They will enter under the category of "Flex". Flex-bands will sight read one level beneath their concert graded material.

INFORMATION REGARDING THE EVENT:

Judges:

Central Region (West)

Stage Judges: Dr. Hunter Kopczynski, Mr. Neil Underwood, Mrs. Elizabeth Hasty

Sight-reading: Mr. Ken Davis

Site:

Central Region (West):Asheboro High School

1221 S Park St.

Asheboro, NC 27203

Equipment: Asheboro City Schools will supply chairs, music stands and podiums for both performance rooms. The warm-up room will have chairs, but stands are not guaranteed. The stage will have the following large percussion instruments:

1 Orchestra Bells

1 Xylophone

1 Vibraphone

1 Marimba

1 Chimes

1 Set of 4 Tympani (23", 26", 29", 32")

1 Gong

1 Bass Drum

Performing groups should provide proper mallets for these instruments, as well as all other necessary instruments. The sight-reading room will have all necessary large percussion instruments.

Please do not hesitate to contact me if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Tucker Smith

Director of Bands

Asheboro High School

1221 S. Park St.

Asheboro, NC 27203

tsmith@asheboro.k12.nc.us