

The **2018 Northwest Missouri State University Show/Jazz Choir Festival** will be held on Saturday, February 10, 2018. We would like to take this opportunity to inform you of the 2018 rules.

Entries: 18 schools may participate in the festival. We will accept the first 18 entry forms returned to us, using postmark dates as criteria. A list of alternate schools will be compiled, by postmark dates, in case of cancellation by a school (cancellation prior to December 1, 2017).

In the case of weather-related cancellations, we cannot refund application fees.

Competition Classes: Groups compete in either the Show Choir or Jazz Choir category. Jazz Choirs are those groups who use NO CHOREOGRAPHY and specialize in jazz vocals and ballads.

Competition classes are determined by the MSHSAA music enrollment breaks as published on the organization's web site. For our competition we combine the two smallest classes into one category.

The classifications are:*

Show Choirs

- Small Choreographed Choirs. (1 - 291)
- Medium Choreographed Choirs.(292 – 603)
- Large Choreographed Choirs. (604 - 1250)
- Extra Large Choreographed Choirs. . . (1251 and up)
- Secondary Choreographed Choirs... .. (all one class)

Jazz Choirs

- Non-choreographed(All sizes)**

*Numbers indicated on registration forms should reflect school student population figures for grades 9-12 as of October 1, 2017. Enrollment figures will be verified from the MSHSAA web site.

**In the event that there are three schools under the enrollment of 600, a second jazz choir class will be added. If this event occurs, your school will be notified.

Non-Competition - Comments Only

Each of the three judges will make recorded comments and suggestions. Rating sheets will be issued **only if requested** by the instructor. No final numerical rating will be given to a school from this category, unless so desired by the instructor.

FACILITY DETAILS

Performance Site: All performances will take place at the Houston Center for the Performing Arts.

In accordance with University regulations, potentially hazardous special effects such as explosive and smoke devices are **prohibited** from the Festival.

No confetti or other objects may be thrown or strewn on the stage during performances.

Equipment Available: We will have available for your use on stage the following:

1 Grand Piano
10 Chairs
1 Sound System with 5 Microphones
Music Stands
Platforms - Sixteen 4' x 8' platforms: 4 @ 8" ht, 4 @ 16" ht., 4 @ 24" ht., 4 @ 32" ht.)
Platforms will be set in a standard 4 x 4 arrangement and may not be moved nor will the configuration be altered.

We will not provide drums at either performance site. Groups using drums must bring their own **set** and **mats**. Equipment is permitted in the performance building **45 minutes** prior to your stage performance time. All equipment must be completely removed from the performance building immediately following your performance.

Equipment Set-Up and Teardown: Northwest student helpers will assist in the movement of the piano. You must provide your own crew for all other elements of your performance.

Performance Time: Each choir will have **25 minutes**. This time allotment is for equipment set-up, performance, and teardown. All **sets** and **prop pieces** must be removed from the staging area within the allotted 25 minute set-up, performance, and strike period. Groups exceeding the time limit will be penalized 10 points for each minute (or portion thereof) beyond the 25-minute time limit. Timing begins when the stage manager says, "GO." There will be **no light or curtain changes** during a performance. Stage lights will remain on for the entire performance. (The piano only may be re-positioned on stage prior to your timed performance.)

Adjudication: There will be three judges for the first round of performances, using ballots of 100 total points each. Show Choirs will be judged on musical performance, choreography, and overall visual effect. Jazz Choirs will be judged on vocal performance and overall effect (2 judges on vocal performance, 1 judge on overall effect).

Computer, keyboard, and CD/tape-generated accompaniment will be allowed with the following provisions:

1. No part of the generated accompaniment may fill roles that are designated in the score to be a vocal role.
2. Only acoustic sounds may be used. No sounds resembling the timbre of a singer's voice may be used.
3. Groups using accompaniment CD/tape will have access to our CD player. For your best performance, we ask that you use your own operator (or have someone standing by the sound board to help our operator).

Finals: After all preliminary performances have been completed all choirs and their directors will meet at the Performing Arts Center. Certificates of appreciation will be given to all participating directors.

A performance by **Northwest Celebration** will follow these presentations, followed by the awarding of 3rd place trophies in each category for the Show Choir division and all trophies in the Secondary division.

At this point, the announcement of the two top groups in each Show Choir category will occur. These groups will participate in a second round of performances for the Sweepstakes award. Any group leaving with no intention of returning prior to the announcement of the second round of performances for the sweepstakes award will be disqualified from receiving a first or second place trophy in the Festival. The remaining group scores will be adjusted accordingly to fill the vacated position.

Following the performances by all choirs in the Sweepstakes, the 1st and 2nd place trophies will then be presented, followed by the presentation of the Sweepstakes trophy for the Show Choir division.

Judging: Six judges will be using ballots of 100 points each in the final round (totaling 600 possible points). Show Choirs will be judged on musical performance, choreography, and overall visual effect.

Groups competing in this round will have a total of 25 minutes on stage. This includes equipment set-up, performance, and teardown. This time limit will be strictly enforced. Ten points will be deducted for each minute (or portion thereof) beyond the 25-minute time limit.

Trophies: A maximum of three trophies (1st, 2nd, and 3rd place) will be awarded in each category.

Sweepstakes Trophy: The sweepstakes trophy is a traveling trophy. The school winning the sweepstakes award may take the trophy home and bring it back for the next festival.

The emphasis on this festival is **educational**. We strongly encourage everyone to listen and learn from other performances.

It is our goal to make the 2018 Show and Jazz Choir Festival a meaningful, educational experience for all who participate. If you have any questions, please call me at (660)562-1790.

Sincerely,

Dr. Brian Lanier, Festival Director
blanier@nwmissouri.edu