



Dear Directors,

To serve our state's many outstanding bands, the UMEA State Junior High/Middle School Band festival includes two days of performances, with 15 bands each day. Bands submit a recorded audition for opportunity to perform at State and receive outstanding clinics from nationally renowned directors. The screening process includes an additional adjudicator assigned specifically to provide constructive comments for every applicant. This enhanced feedback is designed to help every applicant further benefit from their audition experience.

Beginning in 2018, all submissions are done electronically, and submitted through the UMEA web page, at <http://umea.us/stjrhighband.php> **When submitting audio files, include the band name, and song title as part of the file name.**

The festival will once again be hosted by the University of Utah on March 22 and 23, 2018. Bands that are selected to participate will have the opportunity to perform in Libby Gardner Hall and then receive an off stage clinic with an out of state clinician. The festival has proven to be a rewarding experience for all bands that have participated in the past and directors and students are able to gain new knowledge and insights to help sustain and lift their programs to an even higher level of excellence. A total of 30 concert bands will perform over the two-day festival. All selected bands will perform a 20 minute or less program of grade level II literature or above and then be able to attend a workshop with one of the out of state guest clinicians. All 30 bands will receive a participation plaque recognizing their significant achievement for the qualification and participation in the state festival performance.

Bands are selected based on a blind audition format, **including a required audition chorale** to help make the judging more fair by comparing "apples to apples." This chorale will be posted on the UMEA website. Bands choose their second selection to show their technical abilities.

The second day of the festival is designated for the top 15 bands from the auditions. At the conclusion of their performance they will have a workshop from one of the clinicians in addition to an adjudicated sight-reading experience. Those bands on the second day of the festival that receive superior ratings from both festival judges as well as a superior rating from the sight reading judge are sanctioned as sweepstakes recipients. All bands on the second day can receive this distinction of excellence. The other 15 qualifying bands are selected from the bands that applied according to audition. Those additional 15 (non-sweepstakes) bands perform on the first day of the festival.

Bands who don't reply within the specified time may forfeit their placement to another band. Schools are welcome to have more than one band apply (due to the size of some schools and programs), but will only be allowed to have one performing group per day.

It is amazing to have so many outstanding groups continue to apply and want to participate. We hope the festival will provide goal-setting opportunities for all bands and directors to help their ensembles reach an even higher level of excellence.

Sincerely,

Dave Faires
UMEA Vice President, Junior High

Heath Wolf
UMEA Junior High State Concert Band Festival Chairman