



# Utah Music Educators Association

Dear Directors,

With so many outstanding bands wanting to participate in the UMEA State Junior High/Middle School Band festival, the UMEA Board has now approved to expand the two-day festival to include performance invitations to 15 bands for each day. This change allows more schools an opportunity to perform and receive outstanding clinics from nationally renowned directors outside the state of Utah. Additionally, the screening process will now also include 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.

The festival will once again be hosted by the University of Utah on March 16 and 17, 2017. 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. With so many quality programs wanting to participate and benefit from the festival experience, we decided to look to our friends in Texas and other states to learn from them and make the festival of greater benefit to our students and band programs in Utah. With the new format, a total of 30 concert bands will be able to 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.

The selected bands will be based upon the current blind audition format, but **will also require an audition chorale** for all bands to perform to help make the judging more fair by comparing "apples to apples." This chorale will be posted on the UMEA website. Bands will choose their second selection to show their technical abilities.

The second day of the festival will now be 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 will be sanctioned as sweepstakes recipients. All bands on the second day can receive this distinction of excellence. The other 15 qualifying bands will be selected from the bands that applied according to audition. Those additional 15 (non-sweepstakes) bands will now 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. The festival has grown and the new improvements will provide goal-setting opportunities for all bands and directors to help their ensembles reach an even higher level of excellence. These new enhancements will allow this to take place.

Sincerely,

Dave Faires  
UMEA Vice President, Junior High

Heath Wolf  
UMEA Junior High State Concert Band Festival Chairman