



North Jersey School Music Association

Region I of the New Jersey Music Educators Association

www.njsma.com

September 2006

Dear Colleagues,

Welcome back to another year of teaching music in North Jersey! While you were resting up during the summer, the NJSMA Executive Board was busily preparing for another exciting year of high quality programs for you and your students. Our General Membership meeting last May was well-attended, and those present voted in new faces to the executive board, as well as revisions to our Constitution and By-Laws, which gave us a good head start for planning this year's programs.

Each year the executive board carefully considers the progress of the organization, including feedback from you, our members. As a result, we will be implementing a number of changes in our Region that we hope will improve the delivery of our programs, as well as some logistical changes required by circumstances. One of the important changes for this year concerns our audition site, Paramus High School. Paramus is undergoing a major construction project and we will not be able to use that building for auditions. **When a new site has been confirmed, it will be posted here and details will be mailed out. Check the website and audition materials as we near our first audition date.**

For the past few years we have tried to keep costs under control and not raise fees, however, so many costs have skyrocketed in the past few years that we have no choice but to make minimal increases to our fees to help offset the costs of running our programs. **Audition fees will increase to \$10 per student, ticket prices will increase to \$10 and festival fees will also be higher.** We apologize for this change, however, given the choice of slightly raising the fees or decreasing our offerings, we feel everyone would be best served by continuing to offer our programs at their current levels, with an eye to expanding our offerings, not curtailing them.

Application forms will be posted on line for download during the week of October 16. There are changes in every division and we ask that you read the information carefully before submitting applications.

Important new changes: 1) Orchestra directors are now required to attend one rehearsal or the concert in addition to the audition requirement. We have not been able to staff our rehearsals adequately with only volunteers, and are therefore forced to make rehearsal attendance a requirement. This is similar to the choral director requirement. 2) For senior women auditioning for the choirs, there will now be a place on the audition form to indicate a preference for placement in the choirs. These preferences will be honored in score order until one of the groups is filled. In other words, the better a senior girl scores, the more likely we will be able to honor her preference. Indicating a preference does NOT guarantee placement in the indicated choir or either choir.

Other changes can be found on this website, and we urge you to look them over carefully.

Last year, we again offered scholarships to graduating seniors in Region ensembles, and are pleased to announce the following winners of the 2006 NJSMA Scholarships:

1. Sarah, England from Warren Hills HS
2. Adam Lintz from West Essex HS
3. Kevin Raschen from Northern Highlands Regional HS
4. Wyatt Sikora from Boonton HS

As always, we ask you to remember that our organization is a volunteer organization and we rely heavily on your goodwill and help running the various aspects of our programs. We are always in need of people to help host, manage, run sectionals, conduct, accompany, and sit on the board, as well as other important positions. Please do not hesitate to contact any of us on the board if you would like to get more involved this year.

NEW!! --> Our website will be moving to a new address: www.njsma.org. We will be transitioning from our old address to this new address over the next two months. Keep an eye out for the switch and if you have us bookmarked, don't forget to update to this new address.

Again, welcome back to school, and please do not hesitate to contact any of the board members listed on the reverse side if you need anything or if you have questions. Our contact information can be found on the NJSMA website.

Warmest regards,
John Pierce, Ed.D.
NJSMA President