



Stissing Mountain Junior-Senior High School Music Department

Pine Plains Central School District • 2829 Church Street • Pine Plains, New York 12567
Erin Marlow, *Band* • Carla Newsome, *Band/ General Music* • Alec Sisco, *Chorus/General Music*

January 2025

Dear Teachers,

We are pleased to announce that Stissing Mountain Jr./Sr. High School in Pine Plains will be the North site for the 2024 NYSSMA Zone 10 Solo Festival. This solo festival is open to all school districts in Zone 10.

The festival will take place on Friday and Saturday May 2 and 3 at Stissing Mountain High School and will include levels 1-6 and All-State for woodwinds, brass, percussion, strings, piano, and voice. **There will not be jazz solos at this site.**

REGISTRATION: Registration for this festival is now open on Da Capo Music Festivals www.dacapomusicfestivals.com. If you are unfamiliar with DaCapo, please visit <https://tinyurl.com/54cau58b> for assistance (please do not email the Da Capo webmaster with festival-specific questions). **The registration deadline for the festival is March 21, 2025. Late registrations will not be accepted!**

Before registering your students, please do everything you can to eliminate the need for scheduling changes. Be sure your students have checked their own calendars before requesting times, and have doubled-checked with their accompanists. We will do our best to honor requested times, but please make it clear to your students that requested times are not guaranteed. Traditionally, Friday is very popular for Zone 10 festivals, so students must keep both Friday and Saturday open.

PAYMENT: Please note that the NYSSMA fees for each audition are as follows:

Levels I-IV = \$20

Levels V & VI = \$30

All-State = \$36

Levels I-IV Piano = \$26

Level V&VI Piano = \$36

For payment, please send one check payable to NYSSMA, along with a copy of your invoice, to the address at the end of this letter. If your school will be sending a purchase order or an Arts-InEd form, be sure to work with your business office to ensure the



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proper forms are mailed to us in advance of the deadline. Audition times are assigned on a “first come, first-served” basis upon receipt of registrations and payments.

ACCOMPANISTS: When registering, please include the accompanist’s full name for each accompanied solo. Many accompanists work with students from multiple districts, and the schedule must be created according to their availability. Pianos for accompaniment will only be available for voice and All State students. Please do not bring your own keyboard to accompany students in another room. Due to a limited schedule, accompanists should not be accompanying for more than 7 hours.

OTHER IMPORTANT REMINDERS:

- Students that plan to use pre-recorded accompaniment **MUST BRING THEIR OWN SPEAKERS OR CD PLAYER.** No speakers will be provided onsite.
- Please make certain that you and your students make music selections based on NYSSMA Manual Edition 33 (effective July 2022, white pages/green tabs). For more information, please see <https://www.nyssma.org/committees/manual/>. Please be aware of rule changes (specifically regarding playing the same solo on two different instruments) and the scales and sight-reading required for each level.
- A xylophone, timpani and bass drum are the only percussion instruments available for percussion auditions. All other percussion equipment must be supplied by the student or teacher (cymbals, triangle and tambourine will be supplied for All-State sight-reading only). **There will not be a marimba available for student use.**
- All- State forms are no longer mailed to NYSSMA. They should be completed on- line by the registration deadline. The All-State online recommendation form is now open. Forms not completed 6 weeks advance may be changed to a level 6 audition.
- Please send questions and correspondence about this festival to marlow.erin@gmail.com. Please do not use my school email!

Thank you for your help in making this festival successful! We look forward to seeing you and your students on May 2 and 3!

Erin Marlow, Carla Newsome and Alec Sisco