

Dear All-State Band Member and Parents,

I trust you are having a fine school year and are looking forward to the chance to perform at Orchestra Hall. The second phase of **your All-State commitment** will involve activities and rehearsals **beginning at 10:15am Friday, February 12th and ending at approximately 5pm on Saturday, February 13**. This is our only communication before we meet; please study the following information carefully.

DETAILED SCHEDULE

A preliminary schedule is attached. You will have activities scheduled for Friday early evening. It's important for you to block this time now on your calendar and make any arrangements with school, work, and other activities.

CONFLICTS

When you accepted membership in All-State, you agreed to be available for rehearsals and concerts in February 2010. MMEA's policy is to allow students involved in state-level tournaments to miss a few hours of rehearsal either on Friday afternoon or evening. Sub-section, section, and regional games are not included under this policy. The **ONLY** state level competitions that are scheduled the same weekend are girls and boys Nordic Ski, Dance Team, and One-Act Play. If you are involved in one of these activities, or in a national competition, contact the MMEA office as soon as possible at 763/566-1460 or info@mmea.org. We expect that *all other students* will clear their schedule and participate in all scheduled rehearsals and concerts on the enclosed schedule.

SUPERVISION

Supervision will be provided during rehearsals and during the performance at Orchestra Hall. **NO OTHER SUPERVISION WILL BE PROVIDED BY MMEA AT ANY OTHER TIME DURING THE WEEKEND.**

MEALS AND LODGING

Although MMEA is not supervising students overnight on Friday, we do want to know the lodging plans for each student. The student rate is \$92.00 for single or double, \$102 triple or quad plus tax. If you plan to book a hotel room, do it **NOW** so that rooms are available. These rooms sell quickly!

A Minneapolis city ordinance prohibits minors from checking into a hotel without an adult present at check-in time. Your parents, a relative, or your director **MUST** be present with you when you check in.

The Hilton Minneapolis has a block of rooms at a student rate of \$92 single or double, \$102 for triple or quad (plus tax). Book a room by going to www.mmea.org/winterclinic.htm and clicking on the student rate link. Book **NOW** as room sells quickly

MMEA will provide dinner for the students on Friday, at a cost of \$10 per student. All other meals are at the student's expense (breakfast and lunch on Friday and Saturday). Lodging is also at the student's expense. **Please return the enclosed Parent Permission and Registration Form along with a check for \$10 payable to MMEA by January 25th.**

ELIGIBILITY

If for any reason you are no longer a member of your high school band, you may no longer be eligible to be a member of the MMEA All-State Bands. Contact me immediately if this is the case.

CONCERT DRESS

Concert attire should be the same as your own high school band concerts. This is a formal occasion in a very formal setting. Please no spaghetti straps and skirts should be knee-length or longer.

LITERATURE

You will be performing most of the pieces from this past summer (check the MMEA website for this list at www.mmea.org/allstate.htm). Find your music, and practice your music! If for some reason you can't locate your music, please contact me.

It is especially important that those few students who failed to turn in the authentic printed copies of music after concert in August be **sure** to find them and bring them along in February. Several pieces of music that we are using were borrowed from area high schools. We owe it to those generous people to return full sets of parts when we are finished with them.

EQUIPMENT – REMEMBER TO BRING ...

- Remember to bring all reeds (including extra reeds) and mutes.
- Bring a folding stand for rehearsals
- Percussion should provide ALL MALLETS for your assigned parts.
- Your instrument and your music.

ORCHESTRA HALL PERFORMANCE GUIDELINES

- Performers must enter and exit through the Stage Door, located on the Marquette Avenue side of the building (across from Symphony Place Apartments) between 11th and 12th Streets.
- Only performers and crew with backstage passes are allowed in the downstairs backstage area.
- No food or beverage is allowed on stage or in the auditorium.
- Orchestra Hall has a policy prohibiting video cameras, tape recorders, and all forms of photography.
- Encourage your family, friends and teachers to attend this concert. Tickets are \$19.00 each for adults and \$9.00 for students 18 years old and younger. You can purchase these tickets beginning January 1st by phone (612)371-5656 or 1-800-292-4141. You can also purchase tickets at the Orchestra Hall ticket booth on the day of the concert or on-line at www.minnesotaorchestra.org. All tickets will be general admission with no reserved seating.
- If you are planning to meet people in the lobby, take your personal belongings with you. The backstage area will be closed at the conclusion of the performance. Performers are not allowed to pass back and forth between the stage/backstage and the lobby.

As a member of the MMEA All-State Bands you have been selected and recognized as an outstanding high school musician, among the best in the state. Consequently, you have an important responsibility to all of the people you represent from your home school band, your teachers, your school, and your community in Minnesota. Your responsibility to these people is to represent yourself in a positive manner at all times on February 12 & 13, with appropriate behavior, pride, and respect for the opportunity you have to participate in the All-State Bands.

Remember - you must

1. Return the enclosed Registration and Parent Permission form.

2. Include a check or money order, payable to MMEA, for \$10 to cover the Friday dinner.

Send to MMEA, 6860 Shingle Creek Parkway, Suite 103, Brooklyn Center, MN 55430 before January 25.

I am looking forward to seeing you again and hearing all of the outstanding bands on Friday, February 12! If you have any questions please call me on my cell 952-334-9379 or call the MMEA office at 763-566-1460.

Sincerely,
Michael Buck
MMEA Band Vice President
tubabuck@hotmail.com