

**Solo/Ensemble Festival** will be held February 8-9, 2008. The festival will be held at Hagerty High School. Solo and Ensemble festival provides students with an opportunity to perform either in smaller groups or as individuals with piano accompaniment. Playing as a soloist or as part of a smaller group is a different kind of playing than performing with a full band. It is important for a well-rounded education in music for students to have experiences in all different kinds of playing. Students who participate in Solo/Ensemble have an opportunity to grow musically and have the fun of performing solo music. The Florida Bandmasters Association sponsors this festival and students must abide by specific guidelines. Failure to abide by these rules may result in student disqualification. Solo performances require a live piano accompanist. You must arrange rehearsals with this accompanist and make him/her aware of your scheduled performance time. An accompanist will be assigned to you by the band director if you desire or you may secure your own accompanist. Students will be responsible for paying the accompanist a fee of approximately \$40 (Check with your assigned accompanist for your exact cost). If you cannot provide your own accompanist, the band can find one for you. At the festival, all solos and ensembles will perform for a judge. You are not in competition with anyone but will receive specific comments and rating based on your performance. The judge will fill out a comment sheet and submit a rating of your performance to the festival office. All ratings will be posted in a central location at the festival site. You will receive one of the following ratings:

**SUPERIOR** - An outstanding performance. Musical details were apparently rehearsed. This performance was very well prepared.

**EXCELLENT** - An excellent performance. There were a few minor problems. Student may not have paid close attention to dynamics or phrasing.

**GOOD** - Student shows potential. Piece played fairly well. Needs more attention on phrasing, dynamics, intonation, tempo or rhythmic accuracy.

**FAIR** - Student has a basic idea how the piece should be played. Obviously needs more rehearsal time.

**POOR** - Unrehearsed, some serious musical problems were evident. Basic fundamentals of playing should be reviewed.

The band director will not allow students who are not sufficiently prepared to participate in the final festival performance. You will not be approved for the final performance if the band director is not convinced you will have the opportunity for a positive learning experience.

## **ENSEMBLES**

You must practice your individual parts before trying to rehearse together. All members of the ensemble should be present for scheduled help sessions with the band director. You will need several coaching sessions before checking off for final performance.

## **DRESS**

- You will be expected to "dress up" for this performance. This is a live performance - be professional in your attire and presentation.
- Make plans (when/where) to meet your accompanist or ensemble members.
- Arrive 45 minutes prior to your scheduled performance.

- Warm up in the warm up room only! No playing in the hallways.
- I strongly encourage you to perform in this festival. This is one of the most educational experiences provided by the Florida Bandmasters Association and offers you a chance to grow as a solo musician. Work diligently to assure your success in February.