

November 14, 2016

Dear Colleague,

You are cordially invited to participate in the 36th Annual Great Western Music Championships at Western Oregon University (Band and Orchestra). The contest will be held on Thursday, and Friday, April 6 & 7, 2017, in beautiful Rice Auditorium. It is open to all high school bands and orchestras regardless of classification. Last year's festival had 32 bands and orchestras participating. Because of this large number of participants, schools may enter only their top two ensembles; second groups will be accommodated on a space-available basis (although we have always been able to honor requests). Please indicate on each application form whether the entry is for a first or second group.

We will be awarding trophies to the groups who receive the highest net score in three band classes (small school- 1A/2A/3A, large school - 4A/5A, and Open – no limit) and Open classes in string and full orchestra. All other results will remain masked as before. Second groups will not be eligible for trophies.

The contest will be organized much as in the past, including a clinic immediately after the performance for each group. Our judges (Dave Becker, Chuck Bolton, Ben Brooks and Karl Raschkes – why change a winning team?) are among the most respected music educators in the Northwest and are all certified to recommend groups to the Oregon State Contest. From them you will gain not only a clear, objective assessment of your group, but receive suggestions for improvement from three master teachers. One of the particularly appealing aspects of our festival for those attempting to qualify for the Oregon State Contest is the quality of performance recording. Rice is an excellent hall for recording. You will be presented with a CD recording engineered by a trained recording technician immediately after your performance. I have always been well pleased with the quality of the recordings I get in Rice. I have submitted them for consideration for the Oregon State Contest many times.

Groups attempting to qualify for the Oregon State Contest must meet the following guidelines (refer to the OSAA web site at www.osaa.org for complete information):

1. Groups must be members in good standing of their league/district and OSAA.
2. Groups must play at least one required number from the current OBDA list.
3. Other selections may be selected from any source; judges may look most favorably on literature specific to grade level.
4. All groups must perform at least 18 minutes of music, but not exceed 30 minutes on stage.
5. A complete ORIGINAL SCORE of each piece performed with all measures numbered consecutively must be provided for each of the three judges.
6. Groups must receive a score of 75 (70 for 3A & 5A) from two judges to qualify.

Schools not interested in qualifying for the state contest need only follow guidelines 3 and 5. Although they will be adjudicated and will receive written and recorded comments from the judges, non-qualifying schools may elect to waive competitive scores from judges. Festival fees are \$300 per band; applications will be accepted and bands scheduled on a first-come basis on receipt of entry forms and fees. There will be no refunds for schools who withdraw.

Please send your application and \$300 entry payable to Western Oregon University to:

Ike Nail, Music Department Western, Oregon University

345 NW Monmouth Avenue Monmouth, OR 97361

Please direct inquiries to Ike Nail at 503-838-8341 or naili@wou.edu

I hope to see you in the spring!

