

Greetings ECKMEA Colleagues,

I hope this finds everyone doing well and getting some R&R as we head into the unknown of the 2020-2021 school year. As much as possible in our current reality, I hope everyone is taking time with family and loved ones and enjoying your summer break. No one knows what this year will bring, but I do know that music education will be alive and well in ECKMEA because of each one of you. *More than ever, let's make sure to support each other through these crazy times.*

Quick Disclaimer: I drafted this email prior to the Governor's announcement delaying the start of schools, and have not yet had a chance to confer with EC leadership to decide what impact, if any, that delay may have on our plans. Regardless, the information in this email – in particular the information about our video audition process – needs to be communicated now. Thanks for reading this info now, and know that more is coming.

On July 7th, the ECKMEA Board met (virtually) and had a very productive board meeting. We covered several important topics. You can read full details in the [meeting minutes](#), and a summary here:

- ***High School Honor Group Auditions: The board voted to utilize a recorded video audition format in lieu of live auditions*** for the fall of 2020 only. This one-year plan is due to covid health/safety concerns. Please read below for additional details and implementation plans.
- Registration Fees for honor groups raised to \$12 approved by board vote.
- High School Band "Total Percussion" Auditions approved by board vote
- Middle Level and Elementary Orchestras – registration guidelines updated and approved by board vote.
- Discussion of staffing of High School Live Auditions. Online process to complete the proposal is coming.
- Discussion of requiring improvisation in the honor Jazz auditions. Online process to complete the proposal is coming.
- Presentation of information from the State KMEA – June Board Meeting.
- Presentation of [ECKMEA Fall 2020 Calendar](#). *Please mark your personal calendars with all important ECKMEA Dates!*
 - September 8th, 2020: Fall Business Meeting at Gardner-Edgerton High School
 - October 2020: Registration deadlines for all EC Honor Groups
 - October 28-November 7th: Video Audition and adjudication process for HS Honor Groups (Details Below)
 - December 5th, 2020: ECKMEA Mini Conventions. Choir at SMNW, Orchestra at OW, and Band at BVH.

HELP NEEDED! if you have a new music teacher in your district, could you please make sure to forward this email to them, and also email their contact information to Troy Johnson, our

webmaster, so he can add them to the appropriate ECKMEA email lists.
webmaster@eckmea.org

IMPORTANT! HIGH SCHOOL HONOR GROUP AUDITIONS:

Due to Covid-19 realities, the ECKMEA Board has voted to utilize a recorded video audition in lieu of standard live auditions. This change will apply only to the 2020-2021 school year.

- **REGISTRATION:** All auditions must be registered in the KMEA Members site per our standard operating procedures utilizing the KMEA Members website. ALL registrations must be complete prior to the Late #2 deadline of Nov. 4, 2020. There will not be an on-site Late #3 deadline.
- HS honor group chairs will determine the details for each audition (Band, Choir, Jazz Band, Orchestra), fitting into the structure approved by the ECKMEA board and outlined below.
 - This process will happen between now and early/mid August.
 - If you wish to give feedback or help, please contact your respective honor group chair. <https://eckmea.org/?section=about&page=officers>
 - Publishing of all details anticipated in late August, and definitely prior to our Fall business meeting on September 8th.
- Sight reading will be removed from the 2020-2021 audition requirements for all areas.
- Videos will be uploaded/saved to YouTube or Vimeo as unlisted, in accordance with forthcoming directions from the chairs.
- Judging of videos will take place on the regular date of Nov. 7, 2020 at Gardner-Edgerton HS. This event will be in person, and will involve ECKMEA chairs, judges, & room monitors only (no students). Directors will be expected to attend in accordance with ECKMEA audition policies. All covid-related safety guidelines will be followed. If live judging is cancelled, an alternative judging and tabulation process will be implemented.
- Judges will listen to audio only for scoring each entry. Judges will not be permitted to view the videos. Door Monitors will playback the videos and watch them to ensure veracity but will not be involved in the scoring process.

Timeline:

- Full details for the audition process will be published at or before our ECKMEA Annual Fall Business Meeting on September 8th, 2020. The details will also be presented at break out meetings on September 8.
- Wednesday, October 28th:
 - All audition cuts and selected scales published on the ECKMEA website.
 - Video Submission forms will be published/opened on the ECKMEA Website.
- Wednesday, November 4th: Video Submission Deadline. **Late entries will not be accepted.** Video URLs must be submitted by Nov. 4, 2020 at 11:59:59 PM.
- Saturday, November 7th: In-person judging of video auditions at Gardner-Edgerton High School. Tabulation and results posting process to follow in the same manner as other years, with results posted on the ECKMEA website early in the following week. Goal: all results posted by the end of the day Monday, November 9th.

Final thought:

We are all collectively experiencing a unique moment in time – a moment that will be looked back on as a crossroads in our shared history. This means every one of us is dealing with a rapidly changing and evolving reality, and all we can do is process experiences and information as we receive it, and then find the next best step forward. This is exactly how we will approach our planned events for EC this year: we will process information and then do our best to find positive steps forward. Our priorities are clear: ensuring safety of our students and music educators, and making sure that music education does not become collateral damage of the covid pandemic. We, the EC board, are here to support every music educator and music student in EC. We will listen, pay attention, and support to the best of our abilities. Please don't hesitate to contact us with thoughts, questions, concerns.

Thanks for your careful reading. Have a GREAT end of your summer!

All the best,
Dan

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