



GREATER SOUTHWEST MUSIC FESTIVAL RULES & REGULATIONS

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GENERAL INFORMATION AND REGISTRATION:

- A. The Greater Southwest Music Festival **Concert division** is open to all elementary, middle school, junior high, and high school students (*public, private, charter, homeschool, etc.*). Students aged pre-school through college may participate in the **Solo & Ensemble division**.
- B. All entries must be submitted by a school director or studio teacher on the Amarillo Symphony's Festival site.
- C. Requests for specific performance times will be given every consideration.
- D. Organization and Solo & Ensemble participants may enter for "COMMENTS ONLY." Directors should indicate this choice at check-in.
- E. Contest sites are:
- Amarillo Civic Center** (*3rd & Buchanan*):
- **Auditorium**: MS & HS Varsity Bands, Orchestras; Full Orchestras; Special Bands & Orchestras (*unaffiliated with a school*)
 - **Grand Plaza**: MS & HS Non-Varsity Bands, Orchestras; Beginning Bands, Orchestras
 - **Hospitality Room**: Show Choirs; Jazz Bands
- Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts** (*500 S Buchanan St., 79101*): Concert Choirs
- Amarillo College** (*Washington St. Campus*): Solo & Ensemble – Band, Orchestra, Voice, and Piano

ENTRY FEES:

- A. **IMPORTANT**: All fees must be paid by **Wednesday, April 15, 2026**. Please communicate with Amarillo Symphony staff if a PO is required for invoicing.
- B. MS & HS Varsity B/C/O; Full/Symphony Orchestras; "Special" Organizations (*not affiliated with a school*) _____ \$425.00
- C. MS & HS Non-Varsity B/C/O; Beginning Bands & Orchestras; Elementary Choirs; Jazz Bands; Show Choirs _____ \$350.00

*Jazz Bands and Show Choirs will receive a complimentary DVD of their performance.
Concert Bands, Choirs, and Orchestras will receive a complimentary recording (USB) of their performance.*

- D. Solos _____ \$10.00
- E. Ensembles (*per member*) _____ \$10.00

REFUNDS & CANCELLATION FEES:

- A. **IMPORTANT**: A \$50.00 fee will be charged for cancellations between April 1–15, 2026.
- B. No refunds will be made after Wednesday, April 15, 2026.

GROUP TYPES & VENUES:

- A. **Concert Bands (CC Auditorium & Grand Plaza)** – Small & Large School Beginning; Small MS Varsity & Non-Varsity; Small HS Varsity & Non-Varsity; Large MS Varsity & Non-Varsity; Large HS Varsity & Non-Varsity
- B. **Concert Orchestras (CC Auditorium & Grand Plaza)** – Varsity & Non-Varsity Special; Beginning; 6th Grade; MS Varsity & Non-Varsity; HS Varsity & Non-Varsity; HS Full/Symphony
- C. **Concert Choirs (Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts)** – Special; Elementary; 6th Grade; MS Varsity & Non-Varsity Mixed; MS Varsity & Non-Varsity Treble; MS Varsity & Non-Varsity Tenor/Bass; HS Varsity & Non-Varsity Mixed; HS Varsity & Non-Varsity Treble; HS Varsity & Non-Varsity Tenor/Bass
- D. **Jazz Bands (CC Hospitality Room)** – MS & HS
- E. **Show Choirs (CC Hospitality Room)**
- F. **Solo & Ensemble** –
- Woodwinds (*Amarillo College*)
 - Percussion (*Amarillo College*)
 - Piano (*Amarillo College*)
 - Brass (*Amarillo College*)
 - Strings (*Amarillo College*)
 - Voice (*Amarillo College*)

CONFERENCE: Conference shall be based on school enrollment as of Monday, January 5, 2026. Directors must show correct Festival conference during registration. Signature of principal or superintendent will verify the eligibility of students and correct conference. **Single entries in any performance division may result in re-assignment.**

- 6A HS (*enrollment of 2,275+*)
- 5A HS (*enrollment of 1,315-2,274*)
- 4A HS (*enrollment of 545-1,314*)
- 3A HS (*enrollment of 254-544*)
- 2A HS (*enrollment of 105-253*)
- 1A HS (*enrollment of 0-104*)
- ELEM _____ All elementary groups
- Special _____ Groups not included in the above descriptions; all-city/youth organizations not affiliated with a school
- Private _____ Groups from a private school
- 3B JHS (*enrollment of 650+*)
- 2B JHS (*enrollment of 250-649*)
- 1B JHS (*enrollment of 0-249*)
- 3C MS (*enrollment of 650+*)
- 2C MS (*enrollment of 250-649*)
- 1C MS (*enrollment of 0-249*)

IMPORTANT: Duplication of personnel between varsity & non-varsity bands/choirs/orchestras is not permitted.

CLASSES: Groups must provide 'Class Identification' to determine pricing and venue:

- Beginner _____ 1st year players only
- Elementary _____ Elementary Groups
- Varsity _____ Varsity Groups only
- Non-Varsity _____ Non-Varsity Groups only
- Private _____ Private Schools, Groups, or Studios

CONCERT BAND, ORCHESTRA, and JAZZ BAND REGULATIONS:

A. There is no prescribed list of selections.

- It is suggested **concert bands** perform a march and one (1) or two (2) other works suitable for contest use.
- **Orchestras** are encouraged to perform at least two (2) selections suitable for contest use.
- **Jazz bands** are asked to perform three (3) tunes of contrasting styles suitable for competition.

B. Published Scores –

- **Concert bands & orchestras** must provide three (3) published scores with measures numbered for each composition performed.
- **Jazz bands** are only required to provide one (1) published score with measures numbered for each composition performed.

IMPORTANT: Reproduced Copies of Music – Reproduced copies of published, copyrighted music scores will be accepted ONLY IF:

- The reproduction of scores is an emergency and is made without purpose to avoid purchase of music;
- The reproduction shows the notice of copyright;
- Proof is provided that a purchase order for the procurement of copyrighted scores has been initiated or a statement by the copyright holder granting permission to use photocopied scores is submitted to Amarillo Symphony and GSWMF staff prior to the performance;
- Certification that reproduced scores will be destroyed immediately following use; and
- Individuals or schools who groups perform copyrighted and/or music requiring royalty are responsible for conforming to all rules and regulations pertaining to the performance of copyrighted music.

C. Times begin with setup and end with vacant stage.

IMPORTANT: Larger instrumental ensembles needing extra setup time or ensembles performing longer programs will be required to register for two (2) 20-minute time slots; a 50% discount will be applied to the 2nd slot. Groups not in compliance will be ineligible for 'Best in Class' honors.

D. Stage Equipment Furnished for...

All Concert Bands & Orchestras (Auditorium & Grand Plaza) –

- | | | |
|--------------------|--------------|---|
| • bass drum | • gong | • piano (<i>electric keyboard in Grand Plaza</i>) |
| • four (4) timpani | • marimba | • chairs |
| • chimes | • vibraphone | • music stands |
| • xylophone | • bells | |

Jazz Bands (Hospitality Rm.) –

- risers
- chairs
- music stands
- electric keyboard

IMPORTANT: Jazz bands must furnish all necessary electronic equipment, including extension cords.

E. Warm-Up Facilities –

- **Concert Bands & Orchestras** will be provided warm-up time/facility prior to performance for a period not to exceed time allotted on stage (*20-minutes*).
- **Jazz bands** will have a 40-minute performance time and includes time for warm-up.

CONCERT CHOIR REGULATIONS:

A. There is no prescribed list of selections. Each choir will sing three (3) selections suitable for contest use.

B. Published Scores –

- **Concert choirs** must provide three (3) published scores with measures numbered for each composition performed.

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C. **Times begin with setup and end with vacant stage.**

D. **Stage Equipment Furnished –**

- standard acoustic piano
- choral risers

IMPORTANT: Concert choirs must furnish any additional equipment required for performance (*playback equipment, auxiliary instruments, etc.*).

E. **Warm-up facilities** will be provided prior to performance for a period not to exceed time allotted on stage (~20-minutes).

SHOW CHOIR REGULATIONS:

A. **There is no prescribed list of selections.** Each organization is asked to perform three (3) selections of contrasting styles suitable for contest use.

B. **Published Scores –**

- **Show choirs** must provide one (1) published score with measures numbered for each composition performed.

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- Individuals or schools who groups perform copyrighted and/or music requiring royalty are responsible for conforming to all rules and regulations pertaining to the performance of copyrighted music.

C. **Performance time is not to exceed 40 minutes**, including set-up and strike.

D. **Equipment Furnished for Show Choirs –**

- risers
- chairs
- music stands
- electric keyboard

IMPORTANT: Show choirs must furnish any additional equipment required for performance (*playback equipment, auxiliary instruments, etc.*).

E. **Show choirs** will have a 40-minute performance time and includes time for warm-up.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST REGULATIONS (Piano, Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Strings, and Vocal):

A. **There is no prescribed list of selections for Solo & Ensemble contest.** Please choose contest-type materials.

- **Vocal & piano solos** MUST be memorized to earn an 'Outstanding.'
- **Instrumental solos (excluding piano)** do NOT need to be memorized to earn an 'Outstanding.'
- Piano ensembles (2-4 people) need not be memorized.

B. **Participants are required to provide one (1) published score with measures numbered.** Any duplicated scores must be accompanied by a letter from the publisher.

C. **EQUIPMENT FURNISHED –**

- pianos for 'Piano Solo & Ensemble' and for accompaniment purposes (*solos & ensembles*)
- percussion equipment (*at Amarillo College*)

IMPORTANT: Recorded accompaniments may be used; performers MUST furnish their own playback equipment.

D. **Performance Time Limits –**

- **Instrumental Solo & Ensemble (Piano, Woodwinds, Brass, Percussion, Strings):** 5-minute slot (*includes tuning, performance, exit*). Per the discretion of the judge, a performance exceeding five (5) minutes may/may not be played in its entirety. Students should check-in with their monitor fifteen (15) minutes before performance.
- **Vocal Solo & Ensemble:** 5-minute slot (*includes introductions, performance, exit*). Per the discretion of the judge, a performance exceeding five (5) minutes may/may not be played in its entirety. Students should check-in with their monitor fifteen (15) minutes before performance.

IMPORTANT: 5-minute time limits are for a single performance of a single work (*solo OR ensemble*); only one (1) piece per 5-minute slot. Students (*solo OR ensemble*) performing more than one (1) piece will need to complete multiple entry forms.

E. **Students must play for assigned judge in order to receive rating.** Exceptions may be made by contest site chairman only.

F. **Small Ensembles –**

- Duets, Trios, Quartets, Quintets, etc. (*not to exceed ten people in one ensemble*)

IMPORTANT: Piano ensembles are limited to 2-4 students.

G. Medium Ensembles –

- **Woodwinds/Brass/Percussion:** 11-24 students (*no more than 2 on a part*)
- **Strings:** 11-24 students (*no more than 4 on a part*)
- **Vocal:** 11-24 students (*no more than 8 on a part*)

H. Adequate sponsors/chaperones for students MUST be present at Solo & Ensemble sites.

- I. In case of accompanist conflicts, consult with contest site chairperson at the contest site for adjustments.

RATING SYSTEM & CONCERT BAND/CHOIR/ORCHESTRA AWARDS:

- A. Each adjudicator will assign a rating in accordance to the following: 0 (Outstanding), 1 (1st Division), 2 (2nd Division), or 3 (3rd Division). Composite ratings shall result in a single rating for each performing group (ex: 1, 2, 2 = 2). Performance groups receiving an 'Outstanding' or '1st Division' will be eligible for the 'Best in Class' awards.
- B. Either an 'Outstanding' or '1st Division' trophy will be awarded to those organizations receiving a corresponding rating in each class of competition. Trophies are awarded to the highest-ranking groups as determined by the adjudicators.

IMPORTANT: 'Best in Class' awards will be announced and presented in a ceremony immediately following the competition in the Globe-News Center for the Performing Arts on the evening of Saturday, May 3, 2025.

SOLO & ENSEMBLE AWARDS:

- A. Each adjudicator will assign a rating in accordance to the following: 0 (Outstanding), 1 (1st Division), 2 (2nd Division), or 3 (3rd Division).

COPYRIGHT RULES

- A. **Compliance** – Compliance with current copyright law is required of all participants.
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