



**New England Music Festival Association**  
**Salvatore Cicciarella, President**  
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Dear New England Sponsors

January 15, 2018

First let me thank you for your support of your students and their participation in the New England Solo & Ensemble Festival. Unique among festivals in New England (and the oldest), our event provides the opportunity for high school musicians to perform a quality piece of music for adjudicator evaluation and feedback without worrying about scales or sight-reading, and focusing only on the performance of the piece to the best of their ability. Thank you for being a part of that effort and tradition.

For the first time this year, we are inviting a very select few of the musicians from our Solo & Ensemble Festival to perform in the Chorus Concert at this year's New England Concert Festival in March. Each of our adjudicators was asked to nominate only one from all of the performances they heard over two Saturdays. They are not required to nominate anyone, an option that several used. Those nominations were reviewed by the New England Music Festival Board on Saturday night and based on the students' ratings, grade, experience, piece and instrumentation, we invited three soloists and one ensemble to perform their Solo & Ensemble piece in that performance in March. Congratulations to the four student performances that was invited in our inaugural year.

Their performances will be at the beginning of the New England Chorus Concert on Saturday, March 17<sup>th</sup> at Lewis S. Mills High School in Burlington, CT. They will be performing their Solo & Ensemble piece at this concert, just as they did this past month. Mr. Parker, Festival Director will arrange a dress rehearsal opportunity for them that morning. If they were accompanied at the Solo & Ensemble Festival, they need to perform their piece accompanied at this concert. If their accompanist is unable to attend that Saturday, we will work with them to arrange for another to do so.

Should one of the invited students not wish to perform in this concert, then the board will invite the alternates selected from the initial adjudicators nominations. Those students will be invited by January 22<sup>nd</sup> if the opportunity arises. Only students who were invited to perform are made aware of their nomination for this honor.

Again, congratulations to your student(s) for their participation in the Solo & Ensemble Festival and thank you for your support that makes that happen. I look forward to seeing you in Burlington, CT in March. Enjoy the holiday break.

Sincerely,

Sal Cicciarella, President