

SEC Helpful Tips

MUSIC CHOICES

The music performed is chosen by the soloist or ensemble members. It is not assigned.

A Cadet is encouraged to use a Performance Spotlight song from their book or choose another song they can handle.

On the other hand, Junior, Senior and Symphonic members are **strongly discouraged** from using music from current or past band assignments, repertoire or concert band arrangements in general. Rather, they should do some investigation and choose new and different music to best showcase their ability. This applies especially to music for ensembles for which the **music must be specifically arranged for ensembles** – not concert band arrangements.

For performance song ideas for all levels, ask to see the J.W. Pepper Solo and Ensemble music catalog at the front table or visit their website, [J.W. Pepper Sheet Music](#) and click on [Shop Sheet Music and More](#). You might also try [Stanton's Sheet Music](#). Click on [Instrument Solos](#), [Ensembles](#), [Methods](#) under Browse Categories at the top of the page. Many titles have a recording to which you can listen.

Here are a couple more links to online resources for solo and ensemble music. Some are free, some are for pay.

[Trumpet Ensemble Music](#)

[Clarinet Institute Home Page](#) Includes music for many different instruments, not just clarinet.

Here is a link to a document with more specific suggestions for beginner to intermediate trumpet solos -

[SEC Trumpet Solo Suggestions](#).

REGISTRATION FORMS

Links to the registration forms and the SEC Info and Guidelines document are on both the SEC webpage and on FORMS/DOCUMENTS. **The deadline is posted with the forms.** The deadline is not on the forms themselves as they are reused from year to year. There are separate registration forms for Percussion and Wood/Brass, solos and ensembles. There is a small fee for each participant which is stated on the respective registration form. The fees help cover some costs of the SEC. Forms and fees should be turned in together.

Participants complete only the portion on the top half of the form. Use one form per soloist and one form per ensemble. The bottom half of the form is where the SEC judge will record points.

IMPORTANT - Indicate the name of your accompanist or if you are using a CD for accompaniment. If you will not be having an accompanist, you must write NONE. Not every room will have a piano available. The SEC organizers need this information to schedule your performance time according to your accompanist needs.

FOR PARTICIPANTS

Keep a copy of the registration form to help you become very familiar with exactly what the judge will be looking for from your performance that day. It is most important that all participants read through the SEC Rules document found on our website.

Before the day of the event, prepare a separate, original music score by numbering the measures in pencil. The measures should be numbered above the staff at the beginning of each measure. Points will be taken off for non-measured and/or non-original scores.

PARTICULAR RECOMMENDATIONS FROM JUDGES

1. Preferably, all solo piece(s) would be classical and not contemporary/popular.
2. Ideally, all students should have a piano accompanist. If that is impossible, CD accompaniment, while not preferable is acceptable.
3. In general, judges have observed that students frequently are playing music below their level/ability. Students should be playing more challenging pieces.

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JUDGES' DECISION ARE FINAL

Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd depending upon points scored (see registration form). All entries will receive 3rd or higher. Everyone needs to be aware that the judges' decisions are final. The judges are professionals, hired by the director. The judge carries the authority on how he or she scores each event and the place awarded. Members and their parents are not to dispute a judge's final decision.

FOR THOSE NOT PARTICIPATING IN THE SEC

Any student (including any Cadet) who is not participating in the SEC is encouraged to come on the day of the SEC, to observe all that goes on. You are also invited to sit in the audience for any open event. There should be no talking by spectators at any time. This is a good opportunity to experience what the SEC is all about.

On the Day of the SEC

1. Dress up for this event in dressy/"church" attire. Your appearance and stage presence matter. Points may be given and/or deducted for appearance and/or stage presence.
2. Sign-in at the check-in table, go the gathering area with your belongings, and warm up.
3. When your event time comes, enter the room and be seated.
 - Wait quietly, until the judge indicates he is ready for your event. There should be no chatting. Be professional and respectful.
 - Step up to the judge, and hand him your ORIGINAL, numbered, music score.
 - If you are playing your piece from memory, **move any and all stands away from you, to another part of the room**, to receive credit for memorization.
 - Feel free to briefly warm up with a scale, but not with the piece you are to perform (the judge hears it twice).
 - Tune with your accompanist/ensemble group.
 - Introduce yourself(ves) and announce the title of your piece before beginning.
 - Face the judge while playing.
 - Bow to the judge at the end of piece.
 - Take a seat and wait quietly, not discussing performance while judge finishes scoring. Watch for the judge to give indication that he is finished and that you may collect your music. Make sure to pick up your music from judge and leave quietly.
4. Entering performance rooms is not allowed without direct admittance by a door monitor. No door monitor = No admittance. Room etiquette dictates that no one enters or leaves a room after a piece begins. There should be no talking in the room by spectators at any time.
5. Participants waiting in the hallways should be quiet during events – sound does carry through the walls and is distracting to the participant.