

# Nyssma Manual 33



**NYSSMA**<sup>®</sup>  
NEW YORK STATE SCHOOL MUSIC ASSOCIATION

**NYSSMA Manual 33** is an essential resource for music educators, students, and performance enthusiasts within the New York State School Music Association (NYSSMA). This manual serves as a comprehensive guide to the NYSSMA evaluation process, providing detailed information on performance standards, assessment criteria, and repertoire selections. With its structured approach, NYSSMA Manual 33 aims to enhance music education and performance experiences across all levels of schooling in New York.

## Understanding NYSSMA Manual 33

NYSSMA Manual 33 is the latest edition of the NYSSMA Manual, which is updated periodically to reflect changes in music education practices and performance requirements. The manual outlines a framework that ensures consistency and fairness in evaluating student performances during festivals and competitions.

### Purpose and Importance

The primary purpose of NYSSMA Manual 33 is to:

- 1. Standardize Assessment:** The manual provides a standardized set of guidelines for evaluating student performances, which helps to maintain a level of consistency across different regions and adjudicators.
- 2. Encourage Excellence:** By establishing clear expectations, the manual motivates students to strive for excellence in their musical endeavors.
- 3. Provide Resources:** It offers a wealth of resources for educators, including suggested repertoire lists, scales, and technical exercises that are essential for student development.
- 4. Support Professional Development:** The manual serves as a reference for music educators, helping them stay informed about best practices in teaching and assessment.

## Key Components of NYSSMA Manual 33

NYSSMA Manual 33 is divided into several key sections that address various aspects of music performance and education. These components are crucial for

understanding how to navigate the NYSSMA evaluation process effectively.

## **Repertoire Lists**

One of the most significant features of NYSSMA Manual 33 is its comprehensive repertoire lists. These lists are categorized by instrument and skill level, ensuring that students can select appropriate pieces for their evaluations.

- **Levels of Repertoire:** The repertoire is organized into levels, ranging from Level I (beginner) to Level VI (advanced). Each level includes a variety of musical styles, allowing students to showcase their versatility.

- **Selection Criteria:** When choosing repertoire, students should consider factors such as technical difficulty, musicality, and personal interest. The manual encourages students to select pieces that not only challenge them but also allow them to express their musicality.

## **Performance Evaluation Criteria**

The performance evaluation process outlined in NYSSMA Manual 33 includes specific criteria that adjudicators use to assess student performances. These criteria are divided into several categories:

1. **Tone Quality:** Evaluators assess the quality of sound produced by the performer, focusing on clarity, richness, and warmth.

2. **Intonation:** This criterion examines the performer's ability to play or sing in tune, which is essential for a successful musical performance.

3. **Rhythm:** Adjudicators look for accuracy in rhythm, including the performer's ability to maintain a steady tempo and execute complex rhythmic patterns.

4. **Technique:** This includes the performer's technical skill in executing the selected repertoire, such as fingerings, bowings, and breath control.

5. **Musicality:** Evaluators consider the performer's interpretative skills, including dynamics, phrasing, and overall expression.

6. **Stage Presence:** This involves the performer's confidence and ability to engage the audience, which is an essential aspect of live performance.

## **Scales and Technical Exercises**

NYSSMA Manual 33 also includes specific requirements for scales and technical exercises. These exercises are critical for developing a strong foundation in music performance.

- **Scales:** Students are expected to perform major and minor scales, arpeggios, and specific technical exercises that align with their level of proficiency.

- **Technical Requirements:** The manual outlines specific technical requirements for each instrument, ensuring that students are well-prepared for their

evaluations.

## **Preparing for NYSSMA Evaluations**

Preparing for NYSSMA evaluations can be a daunting task, but with the right approach and resources, students can achieve their goals. Here are some strategies to ensure successful preparation:

### **Practice Regularly**

Consistent practice is essential for mastering the repertoire and technical requirements outlined in NYSSMA Manual 33. Students should establish a structured practice routine that includes:

- Daily practice sessions
- Focused work on challenging sections of the music
- Regular review of scales and technical exercises

### **Work with a Teacher**

Engaging with a qualified music teacher can greatly enhance a student's preparation. Teachers can provide valuable feedback, help with interpretation, and offer guidance on performance techniques.

### **Participate in Mock Evaluations**

Conducting mock evaluations can help students become familiar with the evaluation process and reduce performance anxiety. This practice allows students to:

- Experience a simulated performance environment
- Receive constructive feedback from peers or teachers
- Build confidence in their abilities

### **Listen and Analyze Performances**

Listening to professional recordings of the selected repertoire can provide students with insights into interpretation and expression. Students should analyze various performances to identify different stylistic approaches and nuances.

## **Benefits of Participating in NYSSMA Evaluations**

Participating in NYSSMA evaluations offers numerous benefits for students, including:

1. **Goal Setting:** The structured nature of the evaluations encourages students to set and achieve specific musical goals.
2. **Feedback:** Students receive constructive feedback from experienced adjudicators, which can help them improve their performance skills.
3. **Performance Experience:** Performing in front of an audience is invaluable for developing stage presence and overcoming performance anxiety.
4. **Recognition:** Successful evaluations can lead to awards, scholarships, and opportunities for further musical education.
5. **Networking:** Engaging with other musicians and educators at NYSSMA events fosters a sense of community and can open doors to collaboration and mentorship.

## **Conclusion**

In conclusion, NYSSMA Manual 33 is a vital resource for music students and educators in New York State. By providing a clear framework for performance evaluation, repertoire selection, and technical requirements, the manual enhances the overall quality of music education. Students who engage with the manual and participate in NYSSMA evaluations benefit from structured guidance, valuable feedback, and opportunities for personal and musical growth. Whether a novice or an accomplished musician, the principles outlined in NYSSMA Manual 33 serve as a foundation for a rewarding musical journey.

## **Frequently Asked Questions**

### **What is the NYSSMA Manual 33?**

The NYSSMA Manual 33 is a comprehensive resource for music educators, featuring guidelines and standards for music performance assessment, including criteria for evaluating solo and ensemble performances.

### **What updates were made in the latest edition of NYSSMA Manual 33?**

The latest edition of NYSSMA Manual 33 includes updated repertoire lists, revised assessment criteria, and new guidelines for incorporating technology in music education.

### **How can teachers effectively implement the NYSSMA Manual 33 in their classrooms?**

Teachers can implement NYSSMA Manual 33 by integrating its assessment criteria into their lesson plans, using the repertoire lists for student performances, and participating in NYSSMA training workshops.

### **Is there an online version of NYSSMA Manual 33**

## available?

Yes, an online version of NYSSMA Manual 33 is available through the NYSSMA website, allowing educators easy access to the manual's resources and updates.

## What role does NYSSMA Manual 33 play in student evaluations?

NYSSMA Manual 33 plays a crucial role in student evaluations by providing standardized criteria for assessment, which helps ensure fairness and consistency in evaluating music performance skills.

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A=All-State; S=Solo; E=Ensemble; IJ=Instrumental Jazz; VJ=Vocal ...

arlingtonnyssma@gmail.com marlow.erin@gmail.com epecor@carmelschools.org

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For all other NYSSMA Manual information please contact: Andy Kittleson, Manual Chairperson 3379 Pennyroyal Ct., Walworth, NY 14568 Phone: (585) 831-2944 E-Mail: [Manual@nyssma.org](mailto:Manual@nyssma.org)

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