



Audition Objectives, Process, and Criteria for Honor Performing Ensembles CMEA Conference

New Language and Criteria for the 2026 Conference and Beyond

CMEA's Objective for Honor Performing Groups:

CMEA promotes high-quality performances at the annual conference. At the conference, CMEA will highlight the excellent work being executed by members and their students throughout Colorado. In selecting honor ensembles, the CMEA State Assembly will strive to select ensembles from a diverse representation of small, large, rural, urban, and city-center schools and geographic locations within our state. Equally important will be the representation of all educational levels, including community groups. CMEA will also strive to have a representation of elementary/general music-based ensembles, collegiate ensembles, instrumental ensembles, vocal ensembles, and a wide representation of musical genres, including modern band ensembles.

Process for Application:

The CMEA President will collect all recordings, scores, and application materials to be considered as an honor performing group at the CMEA annual conference. All submissions will be collected through a web-based online application process. The President and the Executive Director will release the deadline and materials submission methods each year through CMEA Communications and the CMEA website. No submission materials will be released or distributed to council chairs, council chair elects, or council members until the day before the scheduled listening sessions. Council chairs must work with the Executive Director to determine if they will invite non-council members to the listening session to have adequate resources to cover travel, food, and hotel rooms if needed. At all times, the submission information is to remain anonymous, and only the President and Executive Director will have access to submission information until official selections have been made and the CMEA President notifies each selected performing group director.

Audition Categories:

K-12- Elementary Choirs, General Music Performing Ensembles, Instrumental Music Performing Ensembles, Vocal Music Performing Ensembles

K-12- Roots and Modern Ensembles (ie: Mariachi Ensembles, Steel Drum Bands, Guitar Ensembles, Chamber Ensembles, Modern Band Groups. etc.)

K-12- Community Based Music Ensembles

Collegiate Ensembles not included in CMEA College Rotation (selected on a space available basis)

Adult-Based Community Ensembles

Criteria for Submitting an Application to Perform:

Director Requirements

Directors new to a school or program are eligible to apply for performance at the end of their second full year working in that program.

Must be the conductor/director of the ensemble on the audition recording.

May not appear as a conductor with more than one ensemble at the same conference.

Regardless of category, directors may not appear as the primary conductor in consecutive years.

The director of the submitting ensemble must remain the director of the ensemble selected to perform. Any changes in directorship between submission and a Clinic/Conference performance will immediately disqualify the ensemble.

Elementary-based groups may only apply every three years.

Each middle school/high school ensemble is allowed to perform every three years. If you have multiple ensembles, you may submit a different ensemble every two years.

- Directors in schools with multiple ensembles can submit an alternate style of performing group each year they are eligible to audition. (For example, if you had a treble choir perform in 2024, you must submit a mixed choir or tenor/bass choir in 2025 to perform in 2026.)
- Directors who wish to submit to the same ensemble must wait two years. (For example, if you were selected in 2024, you may submit again in 2026 to perform in 2027).
- School directors with limited ensembles may submit the same group to perform every two years. (For example, if you were selected in 2024, you may submit again in 2026 to perform in 2027).

Teachers and conductors of all performing groups submitting applications MUST BE CURRENT MEMBERS OF NAfME/CMEA .

Directors of selected honor-performing groups are required to register for the 2026 Clinic/Conference before the performance.

The director applying will be the director of record, and all communications will be sent to that director. It is the director's responsibility to share important information with their co-directors/assistant directors.

If selected to perform at the annual conference, each honor performing group will receive a commemorative plaque for their performance. Each school will be limited to one plaque per performing group that lists all ensemble directors (co-directors and assistant directors).

School Administrators Approval:

Directors will submit a PDF/scan of the Principal Signature Page as part of the application process.

Preparing and submitting the recording:

Directors will submit quality recordings of the ensemble's performance (mp3 or WAV) is preferred and must be labeled precisely as follows- Title of Piece.mp3-(DO NOT IDENTIFY THE SCHOOL OR DIRECTOR). All files must not exceed 10 GB.

Directors will submit a PDF/scanned copy of each score performed on each recording with any and all identifying school/director information removed. (PDF/scans of scores will be held securely and used only in the evaluation/listening process. Scores submitted will be deleted upon completion of performance group selections.) Score files must be labeled as follows: Title of Piece.pdf- DO NOT IDENTIFY THE SCHOOL OR DIRECTOR. All files must not exceed 10 GB.

Recordings must include a minimum of two and a maximum of three selections (may not be multiple movements from the same piece). In all cases, the recordings must come from the 2025-2026 school year.

A wide musical variety should be demonstrated. Multiple movements from the same piece of music are not considered a variety. A video recording may be submitted without self-identifying elements if the ensemble involves visual material that the director feels is beneficial.

All recordings must be clean and unidentifiable, contain no banners or the school/ensemble name in any written manner, and contain no speaking that may identify the ensemble or director.

Recordings must reflect complete and unedited performances of the audition selections. Unedited shall be defined as a recording that receives no pitch or rhythm alteration and studio enhancement or alteration of any type during the post-production process. Recordings that do not adhere to these criteria will be disqualified from consideration.

Recordings must be submitted in acceptable sound file formats, such as MP3, MP4 or WAV. All application recordings must be playable using current computer technology.

Acceptable video file formats include AVI, FLV, WMV, MOV, MP4, M4P, M4V, Ogg, and WebM. OGV, 3gp

Any recordings that do not play through online/computer technology will not be considered for selection.

Failure to meet the Criteria:

Failure to adhere to these criteria will be grounds for disqualification from the audition process.

Timeline:

Posted year-round on the CMEA Website under Conference- Honor Performing Group Tab- Audition Objectives, Process, and Criteria for Honor Performing Ensembles

April 1- The CMEA Newsletter contains a link to Audition Objectives, Processes, and Criteria for Honor Performing Ensembles

April 15th each year- The CMEA President sends an email to College Deans/Heads of Department to determine Collegiate Groups/Directors performing in the CMEA College Rotation

May 1st each year- On-line application and submission live on the CMEA website

May 25th each year- All application materials are due for Honor Group Submissions

May 25th each year- College Deans/Heads of Departments deadline to identify performing groups on the CMEA College Rotation

First Two weeks in June- CMEA State Assembly Meeting and Selection process of Honor Performing Groups

June 30- CMEA President notifies Directors of Honor Groups Selected to Perform and notifies directors of groups not selected to perform

By 2nd week in August- Conference Scheduling Complete

September 1- list of Honor Performing Groups posted on the CMEA Website, listed in the newsletter, and listed in Social Media Posts

First Friday in December- Performing Group Directors Memo #1 is emailed from the CMEA Executive Director to all Honor Performing Group Directors

Third Wednesday in December- Performing Group Directors Memo #2 is emailed from the CMEA Executive Director to all Honor Performing Group Directors

Third Wednesday in January- Performing Group Directors Memo #3 is emailed from the CMEA Executive Director to all Honor Performing Group Directors