CENTRAL ISLIP UNION FREE SCHOOL DISTRICT

Department of Music Education & Instructional Technology 1 Broadway Avenue Central Islip, NY 11722 631-348-5100 www.centralislip.k12.ny.us/music

PHILIP K. VOIGT - pvoigt@centralislip.k12.ny.us
Director of Music Education & Instructional Technology



Often times a NYSSMA Solo will require an accompaniment and this letter should clarify all of the requirements and obligations in your commitment to perform a NYSSMA Solo. Please review our NYSSMA FAQ found under "NYSSMA Help and Info" on our website at http://www.centralislip.k12.ny.us/nyssma for a complete explanation of the NYSSMA festival and process. Please be sure to speak to your music teacher if you have any questions and to learn all of the options available to our students.

NYSSMA Regulations: Accompanists are not required except for All-State if the literature has an accompaniment. They are highly recommended for all vocal soloists. Recorded and electronic accompaniments are permitted (including All-State), but students must supply the equipment and be able to set it up and perform within the time allotment.

Recorded Accompaniments: If any CI student is going to use a recorded accompaniment they are required to bring their own CD stereo player or, in the case of SMARTMusic, their own laptop/iPad. The district may not be able to supply those items on the festival weekend. Please speak to your music teacher if you plan to use a recorded accompaniment to ensure all of your needs are met 2-3 weeks prior to the festival. While not required it is highly recommended that an All-State student use a live accompanist over a recorded accompaniments. Recorded accompaniments <u>are</u> allowed for All-State auditions when necessary.

Level I-VI (and some All-State) Vocal Solos: The student's music teacher should be able to provide the necessary services (or one of our talented music staff who will be attending the festival). The CI Music Department will cover all expenses whenever a CI music teacher is performing the services of accompanist for our students. Students are required to speak to their music teacher to secure these services at least 2 months prior to the festival. If none of our teachers are available, please see below.

All-State (Vocal & Instrumental) Audition Solos: It is always recommended that a student seek the services of one of our music staff as an accompanist whenever possible! If the level of music is too intricate or none of the CI Music are available, it is the responsibility of the NYSSMA student and parent to secure this service from a professional pianist. When speaking to a professional pianist if they agree to our contractual terms of \$57 for one 1-hour practice session and \$57 for the performance at the festival, then the CI Music Department can cover this expense (additional rehearsals would be at the expense of the student/parent and paid directly to the pianist). If the pianist does not agree to our terms of payment and the student and parent still wish to hire said pianist, the payment directly to the pianist will be the sole responsibility of the student/parent. It is highly recommended that you speak to your music teacher before making any arrangements with a professional pianist. Attached is a list of pianists that have worked in school districts across Suffolk County. These are NOT CI employees. The CI Music Department cannot officially endorse any of these pianists but they all have very good reputations across Suffolk County.

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Below please find the names and phone numbers for local Suffolk County pianists who have worked with All-State NYSSMA Soloists in the past.

The CI Music Department cannot officially endorse any of these pianists but they all have very good reputations across Suffolk County. It is highly recommended you secure any professional accompanist at least 2 months prior to the festival. VERY IMPORTANT: Once you do secure professional pianist they must email Mr. Voigt (at pvoigt@centralislip.k12.ny.us) at least 2 months prior to the festival date if they are to be paid through the music department (they must agree to our payment terms of \$57 for one 1-hour practice session and \$57 for the performance at the festival). CI Music Department will ONLY pay a professional pianist for an All-State Audition solo.

PLEASE SPEAK TO YOUR MUSIC TEACHER BEFORE CALLING ANY PIANISTS TO REVIEW ALL OF YOUR OPTIONS AND THEIR PERSONAL RECOMMENDATIONS ON WHO TO CALL FIRST