

We are pleased to announce the opportunity for students to perform in the *IHSA State Music Solo & Ensemble Contest*. Participation in this contest is a requirement for students enrolled in the *Fine Arts Honors Program* and for students participating in the *Chamber Music Program*, and is **voluntary** for all other musicians. All students taking private lessons should plan to participate in this contest, as you are likely already working on a solo piece with your teacher and planning for this performance.

While we stand ready to do general coaching to help students prepare, the number of student participants will limit our staff's ability to prepare student musicians independently. ***When a student commits to the IHSA Contest there is a presumption that students will spend significant time preparing the music outside of school***, and will likely be coached by a private music teacher on the literature between now and March.

This year's contest will be hosted by Hillcrest High School, on **Saturday, March 4, 2017**. Hillcrest High School is located in Country Club Hills, IL. Details about bus transportation will be shared with contest participants in February.

Any band, choir or orchestra student who would like to perform a solo, or participate in a small ensemble, for adjudication should do three things:

- 1) Speak with his/her music teacher in class to let the teacher know they are interested ... and ...
- 2) Sign their name on a sign-up list on the Orchestra Class door (B120) by Friday, January 13th. The student will include the name of the solo or ensemble event they plan to perform on that list.
- 3) Find a piano accompanist to perform with them (solo) and hire that person for at least two practices and the performance. A list of recommended piano accompanists may be found here: <https://sites.google.com/a/csd99.org/district-99-orchestra/accompanists>.

We need to know the name of your accompanist by January 13th to appropriately register you in the online IHSA system. Please find your accompanist immediately and provide that person's name on the signup sheet found on the Orchestra Classroom door.

Once students register, music staff will provide more specific guidelines that will assist students in their preparation. Students should also begin to review the 'rules' of the IHSA Solo Contest by reading this document: <http://ihsa.org/documents/mu/2016-17/school-manual.pdf>

South High School will cover the registration fee for your performance. However, if a student signs up, and later drops out, they will be required to reimburse the school for the costs of the registration (roughly \$10 depending on event).

The deadline to register your interest to participate in the IHSA State Solo & Ensemble contest is Friday, January 13th.

Please Note: Participation in Solo & Ensemble Contest is a curricular requirement of all students enrolled in the Fine Arts Honors Program and those students participating in the Chamber Music Program.