

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, RULES and HELPFUL TIPS

Links to the **SEC Rules** and the **SEC Helpful Tips** documents are on both the SEC webpage and on FORMS/DOCUMENTS. **The REGISTRATION deadline is posted on the SEC webpage. Registration is done online with the link provided when needed.**

There is a small fee for each participant. The fees help cover some costs of the SEC. Fees are as follows - \$5 per solo and ensembles are \$3 per person excluding adults. Online forms must be completed and all fees paid by the deadline. Pay all fees at the front tables at band. **Bring the exact amount as we are not equipped to make change.**

IMPORTANT – When completing the online form, 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. **BE AWARE** - Participants using recorded accompaniment will need to supply their own Bluetooth speaker or CD player.

FOR PARTICIPANTS

Review point #14 on the SEC Rules document 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 entire SEC Rules document.

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.

JUDGES' DECISION ARE FINAL

Awards will be given for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd depending upon points scored. 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.

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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 to 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.