

February 9, 2010

Dear Orchestra Students and Parents:

Every year, the University of Nebraska at Omaha hosts a one-day solo/small ensemble festival for string students age 6-18. The **U.N.O. String Solo and Ensemble Olympics** is a great opportunity for students to play in a relaxed setting for judges that offer constructive comments and praise. Students may prepare solos and/or small ensembles for performance. This year, String Olympics will be held on **Saturday, March 27** at the **University of Nebraska at Omaha, 6001 Dodge St., Strauss Performing Arts Building.**

DESCRIPTION

This unique event is open to beginning, intermediate and advanced students from elementary through high school. The emphasis of the String Olympics is to provide a positive factor in a student's personal musical growth. It is one of the few events where beginners are given the opportunity to gain experience, receive positive feedback and excel individually. The judges take time to give praise and encouragement to each soloist and ensemble by both spoken and written comments. This is an excellent opportunity for beginning students as it is a non-threatening environment that motivates them to practice and perform. It is also a fantastic way for high school musicians to prepare for District Music Contest (coming up at the end of April).

AWARDS

There are opportunities for awards. The number of entries classifies schools. Medals are given to the top five individual scores in each classification at each level (elementary, middle school, high school). Certificates are given to each member of the top five ensembles scoring highest in each classification at each level. The top solo and ensemble scores from each school are tabulated to determine the winning schools with trophies awarded to the top schools in each classification at each level. Plus, all participants receive participation certificates.

GUIDELINES

- A student may perform more than one solo, but must do so on a different instrument and with different music.
- Solos must have accompaniment, whether live or taped (unless the piece was written as unaccompanied).
- The String Olympics are only open to orchestral string instruments (violin, viola, cello, and double bass).

- All performances should be no longer than 5 minutes and 30 seconds.
- Ratings are I - Superior, II - Good, III - Average and IV – Fair

If your child is interested in participating in this event, please fill out the attached form and return it to Mrs. Martinez with a check for the participation fee. The cost for each performance is \$10. So, if your child is playing a solo, the fee is \$10. If your child is in a small ensemble, the fee is \$10 – each member of the group can pitch in. For example, if your child is in a string quartet, each member can pay \$2.50 toward the fee. Please make checks payable to ***Millard North High School Orchestra***. Just fill out the attached form and send it, along with the check, by WEDNESDAY, FEBRUARY 25! Because of scheduling considerations, entries received after this date **WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED!** U.N.O. will notify us about our performance times around March 15.

Thank you for your interest in this unique opportunity for these students. If you have questions or need further information, please call me at school (715-1513), or email djmartin@mpsomaha.org.

Sincerely,

Mrs. Debbie Martinez
Orchestra Director
Millard North High School

PERMISSION TO PARTICIPATE IN THE U.N.O. STRING OLYMPICS
Saturday, March 27, 2010
U.N.O. Strauss Performing Arts Center
6001 Dodge St.

_____ Would like to participate in the U.N.O. String Olympics. I understand that transportation to and from the event is my responsibility.

Please indicate if you will need a school accompanist for the solo:

_____ Yes, we will need accompaniment provided.

_____ No, we have our own accompanist.

Time Preference

Please list any time preferences you have. If there are none, you may leave this part blank. _____

Each event is \$10. The student may perform one solo, and/or he/she may participate in as many groups as he/she wishes.

Entry Fees

Solo 1 x \$10 = \$ _____

Title of Solo _____

Ensemble

Names of students in ensemble: _____

Title of Piece _____

Amount owed for ensemble: (\$10 divided by # of participants) _____

Amount enclosed: _____

Parent signature _____ Date _____

Make checks payable to Millard North High School Orchestra
This form is due by February 25, 2010.