

**FUQUAY-VARINA HIGH SCHOOL BANDS** - *Matt Edwards, Director*

201 Bengal Blvd.

Fuquay-Varina, North Carolina 27526

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January 26, 2022

Dear Colleague,

Enclosed you will find information regarding the East Central District High School Band MPA. The event will be held March 21-23, 2022 at Fuquay-Varina High School in Fuquay-Varina, NC. WCPSS programs should note that there are roughly 8 weeks between the start of spring semester and the start of the MPA event. We continue to offer the clinic option to high school bands.

If you wish to attend MPA in another District (such as attending MPA in Central, South-Central or Southeastern District), you must place a formal request by February 1. [Click here for information about the protocol to make a request to attend MPA out-of-district.](#)

During online registration you will be asked for your date preference. You may request to attend MPA on any day of the event - March 21, 22 or 23 - regardless of whether you choose "MPA only" or "MPA + Clinic". If there are special circumstances regarding a need for a particular time, let me know. I will do my best to accommodate your request. I cannot guarantee that I will be able to satisfy every request. Date preferences will be granted primarily by postmark order.

We continue to offer our clinic option in addition to the standard MPA performance at East-Central High School MPA. Clinics will be available on all days. Sixteen clinic spots are available and will be filled on a first-come, first-served basis. If you are bringing multiple bands and want to have a clinic for more than one band, you may request to do so. If I have more than 16 requests for clinics, I will contact directors that have requested more than one clinic and ask them to prioritize which ensemble will band(s) receive a clinic. There will be a maximum of 6 clinic sessions on Tuesday and Wednesday and 4 sessions on Thursday.

Here is how the clinic works:

Bands will warm-up, perform on stage, sight-read, and be judged as they always are for MPA. For those participating in the clinic, the clinician observes your performance and sight-reading in addition to the standard set of stage and sight-reading judges. The clinician is not assigning a rating nor is he or she influencing your rating in any way.

After your group sight-reads, the clinician will spend about 30 minutes with you and your group discussing your performance, where you can go from here, and teaching you how to get there. The goal is to work on fundamental concepts and develop rehearsal techniques that you can take back to your own band room. This may or may not be done through the literature you've just performed.

This year's clinician is Dr. Cormac Cannon, Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at the University of South Carolina. He was previously on faculty at Michigan State University. [You can read Dr. Cannon's full bio here.](#)

Remember that the clinic is meant to benefit both students and directors by working on concepts, not just literature. For those seeking a clinic, start thinking about areas where you would like input from the

clinician. Past clinicians have said that it is helpful to them if the director has a specific area where the ensemble or conductor needs guidance.

The cost for the “MPA only” option is \$175. The cost for the “MPA with Clinic” option is \$250. While \$250 might seem like a lot for MPA, please consider that you would be spending \$175 anyway and you might not be able to get a conductor of Dr. Cannon’s stature in your band room for only \$75.

The NCMEA Constitution has very specific rules regarding participation in one of its sponsored music festivals. There is a variety of information about the MPA rules, regulations, adjudication forms, approved literature list, sight-reading literature criteria and much more at <https://www.ncbandmasters.org/concert-band-mpa>.

Continue to the next page to see instructions for registration and a checklist of reminders and procedures regarding MPA.

- To go out-of-district for MPA (meaning attending in another NCBA District), [read and follow the procedure linked here](#). **This process must be completed by February 1.**
- [Click here to register for MPA](#). This will also be linked from the ECDBA website under the HS MPA tab.
- After completing online registration, PRINT A COPY of your registration and send it, along with payment to:

Matt Edwards (ECDBA East HS MPA Chair)  
 Fuquay-Varina High School  
 201 Bengal Blvd.  
 Fuquay-Varina, NC 27526

WCPSS schools may send registration and payment via in-system courier.

- MPA participants must follow the existing masking and bell cover requirements for Wake County Public School System because the event is held in a WCPSS facility. As of Jan. 27, everyone must wear masks at all times inside the building and wind performers must use a bell cover whenever playing.
- Time slots are filled primarily on a first come first serve basis, so apply as early as possible. The schedule should be finalized on or around March 5 and posted on the East-Central District website.
- **The fee for each band to participate at MPA (no clinic) is \$175.00 if not participating in the clinic. For MPA WITH CLINIC, the fee is \$250.** Pay with a school or booster organization check or money order payable to “NCMEA” with “ECDBA HS MPA” in the memo line. Personal checks are not accepted. **Include the check with your mailed registration form.**
- **Each Band Director must be a member of NAFME** in order to have a band participate in MPA. All Band Directors must bring their current NAFME card or a printed copy of the director’s “Profile” page from nafme.org at the registration table on the day of the event.
- All members of the performing bands **must be enrolled in a scheduled, curricular band class at your school. For 2021-22 MPA, any member of your program can perform with any of your ensembles on any instrument.**
- **You must provide three conductors scores of each of the two MPA-list compositions and your march. If you plan to use “e-Print” scores, contact me. I’ll talk you through the “water-markings” that need to be visible on your scores so they will be accepted at check-in.** Present your scores at the registration table when you check in. Selections performed that are out of print must have publisher’s authorization before a photocopied score will be permitted for use. We will need to know about 2 weeks before the event if you will need to use the score service. In planning your music and securing your scores, please plan for this new requirement. Only scores requested ahead of time will be available on-site at the event.
- Remember to choose your music from the [official NCBA MPA list](#). Carefully check the latest version of the MPA list and the *List of Changes*. Each year there are changes and it is your responsibility to check the latest version of this list. If you are playing an arrangement, be sure the arrangement you’ve chosen is on the list. A few multi-movement pieces may be performed on different grade levels depending on the specific movements selected. If you are playing one of these pieces, carefully review the notes on the MPA list. If you have questions, don’t hesitate to contact me at [cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com](mailto:cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com) for assistance.

- MPA judges are prohibited from guest conducting, rehearsing or evaluating a group in the same semester that they will judge at their MPA event. Do not enlist our MPA judges to perform any of these duties prior to MPA.
- Please review the adjudication sheets for [stage](#) and [sight-reading](#) adjudication sheets as you prepare for MPA. Note the rubrics on the back of each adjudication sheet. The verbiage on the sheets and rubrics is designed to assist you and your students in understanding the musical qualities that should be present in MPA performances. Consider sharing these sheets and rubrics with parents and administrators. They may be useful in educating these stakeholders in the importance of adjudicated events and the standards required for a highly-rated MPA performance.
- You can view the [Sight-Reading Judge Script](#) as you review the sight-reading process with your students.

#### TIMING:

##### **Staging and Performance**

- Level III and IV may not exceed 30 minutes of stage time.
- Level V may not exceed 35 minutes of stage time.
- Level VI and Masterwork may not exceed 40 minutes of stage time.

##### **Sight Reading**

- Level I Bands MAY sight read if they choose, but it is not part of their rating.
- Level II, III, and IV Bands have five minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.
- Level V Bands have six minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.
- Level VI and Masterwork Bands have seven minutes to prepare the piece for sight-reading.

##### **Warm-Up**

- Level III and IV Bands are given 30 minutes time in the warm-up room.
- Level V Bands are given 35 minutes time in the warm-up room.
- Level VI and Masterwork Bands are given 40 minutes time in the warm-up room.

#### REPERTOIRE:

Each band must prepare a march of the director's choice and two compositions from the Official North Carolina Band Association MPA List. One composition must be from the registered difficulty level of evaluation and the other composition may be from the same classification or from a higher classification. If choosing to perform at the Masterworks level, only one Masterworks selection (as outlined on the list) and a march must be performed. Note that Masterworks is no longer a separate list. Instead, look at the Notes column in the Grade VI listings. A piece that may be performed as a Masterwork will be indicated as such. Note that a select few Masterworks are required to be paired with another specific work to be used for a Masterworks-level repertoire selection.

If you have questions about how your repertoire affects your grade level registration, do not hesitate to contact me at [cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com](mailto:cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com). I'm glad to answer questions about this.

#### SIGHT READING:

Sight Reading will be required of all bands (level II through VI and MASTERWORKS) and will follow the guidelines set by the NC Bandmasters. The sight-reading rating score will be included equally in the overall rating for all participating bands. Bands will read one concert selection and will perform for one sight-reading judge. The judge will make tape comments and use the MENC sight-reading evaluation form. During the preparation time before the sight-reading performance, band directors and the students may clap rhythms, sing parts, count out loud and finger instruments, but they may not play their instruments. Only one band director may work with a band in the sight-reading room. Student teachers or assistant directors may be present in the sight-reading room, but may not work with the band during the sight-reading process. During the sight-reading performance, directors may call out letters or numbers and verbal cues (e.g. “more trumpet”, “tubas watch”) but may not sing parts or rhythms while the band is playing. Be sure to look at the sight-reading guidelines and judge’s script [on the NCBA MPA website](#).

#### COMMENTS ONLY:

Bands may choose to attend for *Comments Only* rather than receive a rating from the judges. A director may select the Comments Only format at any point up to on-site check-in on the day of their performance. Bands entering for Comments Only select a grade level, have the same literature requirements (a march and two selections from the MPA list) and receive the same adjudication feedback (recorded and written commentary) as rated bands. Judges for Comments Only bands make no reference to any scoring either in verbal or written form. Comments Only bands may request a clinic. Comments Only bands are not required to sight-read, though they may choose to do so.

Attending in the Comments Only category can be useful for a variety of situations. Comments Only might be an appropriate stepping stone for new or growing programs or programs that are building a culture of excellence in second or third bands. It can be a useful option for directors at smaller programs with very limited instrumentation. It might be useful for experienced directors who are familiar with the standards for MPA performance but want an alternative approach to the process for them and their students. The MPA Committee suggests that directors not view the Comments Only category as a negative or as a means to avoid receiving a potentially mediocre or poor rating.

#### SCORE FILE:

Thanks to our colleagues in Central District, we can continue to use the score file for MPA. Many thanks to Susan Butler, Director of Bands at South Asheboro Middle School, for housing and managing the score file!

You can find the database of available scores here:

<https://docs.google.com/spreadsheets/d/1cd-A1mqBUeHDB0eMZ95pRIRAm8HdsrnqLaSV4nanFqU/edit?usp=sharing>

You can make a request to use scores from the score file here: <https://forms.gle/J41QemduEhPyWSSq9>

To request use of one or more scores, check the database to be sure the piece is available, that the arrangement or edition matches what you are playing and the number of scores available. Scores are usually available in multiples of three, but check this to be certain. If there are less than three available, you must purchase enough scores so that there are three total scores available for judges. Once you’ve verified appropriate scores are available, complete the request form listed above.

When multiple Central District MPA events overlap, earliest request gets the scores. I encourage you to complete the request as soon as you know what you’re playing.

You may donate extra scores to the score file after MPA. I’ll provide details later.

#### **INFORMATION REGARDING THE EVENT:**

Stage Judges:

**Mr. Stan Schoonover** - Former Music Supervisor of Fairfax County (VA) Public Schools, Founding Director of the Fairfax Wind Symphony

BIO: <https://education.musicforall.org/clinician/stan-schoonover/>

**Dr. Cynthia Wagoner** - Professor of Music Education, East Carolina University

BIO: <https://music.ecu.edu/about-us/faculty-staff-information/cynthia-wagoner/>

**Mr. Perry Ditch** - Retired (White Oak HS, Jacksonville, NC)

BIO: <https://www.ncsymphony.org/education/2019-music-educator-awards/>

Sight-reading Judge:

**Mr. Bill Witcher** - Retired (Hibriton HS), adjunct faculty, Appalachian State Univ. School of Music

BIO: <https://music.appstate.edu/faculty-staff/directory/bill-witcher>

Clinician:

**Dr. Cormac Cannon** - Director of Bands and Associate Professor of Music at the University of South Carolina

BIO: [https://sc.edu/study/colleges\\_schools/music/faculty-staff/cannon.php](https://sc.edu/study/colleges_schools/music/faculty-staff/cannon.php)

Site:

Fuquay-Varina High School, 201 Bengal Blvd., Fuquay-Varina, NC, 27526

Equipment:

Fuquay-Varina High School will supply chairs, music stands and podiums for both performance rooms. The warm-up room will have chairs, but stands are not guaranteed. The stage will have the following large percussion instruments:

1 Orchestra Bells	1 36" Bass Drum
1 Xylophone	1 Set of 4 Tympani (23", 26", 29", 32")
1 4 1/3 octave marimba	1 Chimes
1 Vibraphone	1 29" Gong

Performing groups should provide proper mallets for these instruments, as well as all other necessary instruments. The sight-reading/clinic rooms will have all necessary large percussion instruments.

Contact me at [cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com](mailto:cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com) or (919) 601-8835 if I can be of any assistance.

Sincerely,

Matt Edwards

Director of Bands

Fuquay-Varina High School

ECDBA HS MPA Host and Chair

[cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com](mailto:cdbahsmpaeast@gmail.com)