



NE FAME Festival
March 13, 14, 2010
Grand Wayne Center
Fort Wayne

Performing Arts Director Information

☀ **NEW THIS YEAR. Performance DVD.**

Today's performance will be taped for purchase at the festival.

☀ **Sign-in.** All teachers and directors must sign-in at the Director Registration Desk outside the Holding Areas in the main lobby to turn in your performance materials (script, CDs, tapes, signs, etc) and receive any pertinent information about your Festival performance.

☀ **Holding Areas.** Your student group has been assigned a specific holding area which you may occupy at your designated time. This space is where you may run through your warm-up exercises, deliver final instructions, and assemble in preparation for your performance. You and your students may leave coats, hats, and other items in the room while you perform. You will be escorted from the holding area to your assigned stage for your performance and escorted back to your holding area following your performance. Please clear your holding area room ASAP following your performance to make way for the group that follows. FAME does not provide security in the holding area rooms. Please do not leave purses, cameras, phones, instruments, equipment, or other valuable items unattended in the holding area during your performance. FAME is not responsible for loss or theft of personal belongings at the festival.

☀ **Stages.** Four stages will be set up for performing groups: two in the East Hall, one in the West Hall and a Piano Recital area in the Grand Lobby. While one group is performing, the next group will be lining up on the second stage. This movement allows continuous performances and will give you a full 20 minutes for your group to perform. Please make sure to time your entire performance to fit within your time slot, including introductions, announcements, and applause. If one group goes over time, the

whole day schedule is difficult to correct to return to the schedule. Please show respect for other performing groups and comply with this time limit. You will be asked to cut your program time, if you run too long.

☀ **Orchestra/Band Pit.** FAME will provide chairs and music stands for all instrumental groups (up to a maximum of 75 chairs and stands). Additionally, a Clavinova keyboard (thank you Fred Myers Pianos), concert bass drum, two snare drums, and a suspended cymbal will also be available for use upon request. Drum sticks, mallets, and beaters are NOT provided – please make sure your percussionists bring their stick bags.

☀ **Music Instruments/Equipment.** Each stage will have an 88 key Clavinova digital keyboard available for your use. These instruments can be played just like an acoustic piano, but they also can accept floppy discs to play back pre-sequenced MIDI tracks that you have prepared in advance. The Orchestra/Band Pit will also have some basic percussion equipment. Other than the Clavinovas and the percussion instruments, no equipment or instruments will be provided by FAME. You will be expected to bring your own equipment/instruments for your performance. If you want to perform with handbells or chimes, electric instruments like guitars, bass, etc., you will need to bring your own handbell tables, amplifiers, cables, instruments, and so on.

If you have any questions about what is available for your use, please contact Beth Peter or email: beth@famearts.org



IPFW, Rhinehart Music Center
Community Arts Room 230A
2101 East Coliseum Blvd
Fort Wayne, IN 46805-1499

www.famearts.org 260-481-0545

How to Maximize your Festival Performance

Professional sound equipment delivers amazing sound quality. Once the sound is captured by the microphones we do not have the capability to change the sound of the children's voices.

Microphone Techniques

Microphones are simple devices that convert sound waves into electricity. Unfortunately for our small performers, mics have difficulty capturing weak signals. For this reason, it is important to do two procedures: teach students to sing with more volume and move the mics closer to the children.

Train your students to sing with focus and enunciate clearly. Keep the dynamic level of the group high throughout your rehearsals and once they get to the performance, they will be comfortable with their sound level required for a great recording.

With the help of the stage technician, please position mics close to the children. Indicate how many performers will be in your group and where they will be standing. Note the location of any solo performers.

Solo singers should stand as close to the mic as possible. Children are understandably nervous about the performance and are hesitant about stepping up to the mic. Constant reassurance and practice prior to the FAME festival performance will help with stage fright. Everyone wants to hear them.

Pre-recorded Music Tracks

The use of pre-recorded accompaniment tracks are a good idea. The music is high quality and will be consistent throughout the performance and the sound engineers are able to provide the best overall sound. CDs are best; cassette tapes are poor quality by today's digital standards. If you make your own tapes, please use the best equipment possible. (portable boom boxes are usually the worst choice for making cassette copies)

If you are forced to use a cassette tape for your accompaniment tracks, please use the most expensive, highest quality blank tape you can buy. Saving a few dollars by purchasing cheap tape stock will undermine all your efforts. Use Dolby or dbx noise reduction when making a cassette copy to help to reduce the amount of hiss on your copies. And always use the highest quality equipment at your disposal.

Tips and Techniques

- ☀ Sing with focus & enunciate clearly
- ☀ Position mics close to the children
- ☀ Soloists sing directly into the mic
- ☀ Stand no more than 6 inches from mic
- ☀ Use high quality recording equipment
- ☀ Use high quality blank tape
- ☀ Use dolby or dbx noise reduction
- ☀ Keep dynamics consistent
- ☀ Teach poise & performance