California Music Educators Association
Central Coast Section

www.ccsmusic.org

Dear Middle School Orchestra Directors and Strings Teachers: September 9, 2026

Applications and audition materials for the **2027 CMEA CCS Middle School Honor Orchestra** are now live on the CCS website (ccsmusic.org) under Honor Groups. Thank you for your hard work in preparing your students for this audition. The information on the following pages will help you through the audition process and contains all the information needed to ensure that you, your students, and their parents are informed and prepared.

Our conductor this year is a fantastic and very experienced conductor, Joni Swenson. She has conducted many honor orchestras throughout the area and is excited to return to the CCS Honor Orchestra podium.

Please review the key dates, procedures, and events schedule below:

AUDITION PROCEDURES/TIMELINE

- NAfME Membership must be current through the event date.
- **Online Audition Window: Monday, September 28 through Wednesday, November 18 11:59PM**
- **Postmark Deadline: All forms and fees to event chair (Heather Calame): Monday, November 16th**
- **Adjudication Requirement:** Per CCS policy, all submitting directors must be available to assist with online adjudication **November 21st-25th**
- Directors will receive the final audition results to distribute to families during **the first week of December**

EVENTS SCHEDULE:

Thursday, January 21st, 2027, 5:00 – 8:00 p.m. Rehearsal
Friday, January 22nd, 2027, 9:00 a.m. – 3:00 p.m. Rehearsal
Saturday, January 23rd, 2027 9:00 a.m. – 12:00 noon. Rehearsal
Saturday, January 23rd, 2027 2:00 p.m. **Concert**

AUDITION PROCEDURE AND FEE INFORMATION

Auditions are completed through audio recordings and uploaded to Festival Scores.
The event code is LXW89CV
No digital alterations of recordings will be accepted. No reverb, cuts (other than between excerpts), or other edits should be made.

This year, audition fees and participation fees may either be mailed to the chair like in the past, or paid through Festival Scores. Payments done through Festival Scores are subject to an online payment fee. Click this link for an online payment fee calculator. It is also possible for directors to give students access to upload their own recordings and pay their own audition fees at the discretion of their director. Please weigh all of the options carefully and use the system that works best for your school.

Audition fee: **$5.00** per student
Participation fee (if accepted): **$60.00** per student.

One school or director check per honor ensemble for any students not paid through Festival Scores. No parent checks accepted.

- Please submit a Teacher and School Information form as well as a Student Honor Group Application for each auditioning student.
- Please mail forms to:

  Heather Calame
  Pacific Collegiate School
  3004 Mission St
  Santa Cruz, CA 95060
- Audition paperwork (and payments) must be postmarked or emailed by **Monday, November 16th**

AUDITION RESULTS

Directors will receive a complete list of audition results by the first week of December**.** Accepted students should confirm their schedules as they are expected to punctually attend all rehearsals and the performance. Sports and all other extra curricular activities are not acceptable reasons for absence or tardiness to rehearsals or performance. **Students that are no-shows are still responsible for all fees.**

All music will be sent out in early December. Teachers are expected to work on Honor Ensemble music with students and monitor their progress prior to the first rehearsal. Please encourage all your students to audition. The experience of preparing an audition is highly rewarding and can spark your students' focus and ambition.

Please feel free to contact me with any questions or concerns. I look forward to hearing from you.

Sincerely,



Heather Calame
Instrumental Music Director
Pacific Collegiate School / CCS Middle School Orchestra Chair
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