

Solo and Ensemble Festival 2026

Solo and Ensemble Festival is a great way to challenge your gifted instrumentalists and encourage your developing musicians. Performing as a soloist helps students improve on their instrument while fostering confidence and poise. Chamber music (duets, trios, quartets, quintets, etc.) allows students to support a part on their own which develops individual rhythm, intonation, phrasing, listening, and more. Solo and Ensemble for the Southeastern Bandmasters District will be held at **Midway High School on Saturday, April 25, 2026**. You must have paid your SEDBA dues to participate in this event. This SEDBA event is a proper event for the “Solo/Small Ensembles and/or Chamber Music” section for NCBA Programs of Merit and Distinction.

Please fill out the online forms, which will be made available on the SEDBA website closer to time for the event, and pay the appropriate fees **by Wednesday, March 25, 2026**. Like in years past, online registration will be used for this event in 2026. The schedule will be distributed by email, so please include all of the correct information on the forms. There can be no refunds of fees paid because the contest must be self-supporting. Please pay the amount for each solo and ensemble you submit on the forms, whether they perform or not, including your check with the forms. Like last year, the fee schedule is the same for each type of entry:

Solo \$8.00

Duet \$8.00

Ensemble (trio or larger) \$8.00

Scheduling will be done on a distance-traveled basis. Schools located further away will be scheduled later in the day, and the closest schools will be scheduled earlier in the day. The schedule should fit a 9:00 AM to 5:00 PM time frame. If you have a preference of time, indicate it on the enrollment forms and we will try to honor it.

Please list the soloist's name on the forms, but individual names of each small ensemble member are not necessary. One name will suffice for each group. Certificates will be awarded to each participant. As in the past, each band director will receive signed blank certificates for each entry when the forms are picked up at the end of the scheduled events for each school. All grade levels are welcome to perform in our Solo and Ensemble!

As you know, there is no required list of repertoire in North Carolina. Solos can be accompanied or unaccompanied. The Rubank Publications are useful for this type of festival (Concert and Contest Collection for all instruments, duet and trio collections, etc.). J.W. Pepper has an entire catalog dedicated to Solo and Ensemble literature (800-345-6296 or jwpepper.com). Younger musicians are certainly welcome to play out of their school method books for the event. Please encourage your students to get involved in this individual and small group activity that can make a wonderful difference in their playing and self-confidence. We want this to be a positive experience for every participant.

Please feel free to email or call with any questions or concerns. I am looking forward to our 2026 Solo and Ensemble Festival! I am hoping that we can build and grow our Solo and Ensemble Festival in the SEDBA district. I am excited to welcome your students to our campus and event in April!

Joshua C. Tew, Director of Bands/Chorus

Midway High School

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