

THE FLORIDA BANDMASTER

(Bulletin of the Florida Bandmasters Association, Inc.)

89th Year, No. 4

Pembroke Pines, Florida

February 1, 2026

**ATTENTION!! SUMMER CONFERENCE DATES
The Conference is July 7-10, 2026
DoubleTree by Hilton Orlando at Theme Park Resort
PLEASE HELP SPREAD THE WORD!
More info coming to the website**

STATE MUSIC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT BULLETIN

Following is the FBA Statement of Purpose for Band Music Performance Assessments:

- I. To provide the opportunity for students and directors to perform in an environment which provides critical evaluation of its performance by noted experts in the field of band performance.
- II. To provide the opportunity for students and directors to perform for their peers in a formal concert setting.
- III. To provide a performance opportunity which will serve as a motivational goal for students and directors.
- IV. To provide an opportunity for students and directors to hear performances of their peers and learn from hearing those performances.
- V. To provide a goal which is so compelling that the preparation for attaining that goal becomes the vehicle for continued growth and to demonstrate students' abilities to apply musical fundamentals and concepts in an ensemble performance setting.

STATE BAND MPA INFORMATION:

As we approach the time for the State MPA's, if you concentrate on the musical and educational goals to be attained, rather than on the ratings that may be earned, it will more likely be the positive, enlightening and successful experience that you wish it to be.

Middle School directors (and high school directors whose bands are not attending) in the locations where the State Concert Band MPA is being held, are encouraged to make every effort to bring their students to at least a portion of the MPA as a field trip. What better way to motivate your students and provide them with an outstanding model!

Please pay careful attention to the MPA Online for State Concert MPA; be sure to accurately provide all the information required. **Note** entry deadlines and the need to supply the duration of each selection for Concert Bands.

I urge you to take the time to read this Bulletin and the Instructions provided on the FBA website carefully BEFORE beginning to complete MPA Online. The accurate completion is essential to provide the information needed to ensure that the MPA will be efficiently organized and administered FOR THE SAKE OF YOU AND YOUR STUDENTS.

Things about which to be especially careful

Observe the **POSTED Registration Opens Date** for **ENTRY** & the **10-DAY-BEFORE THE FIRST STATE-SITE** deadline for **MUSIC TITLE CHANGES**. (See below for YOUR deadline.)

The 2026 Assessment is \$430.00 per Concert Band if paid by Check (\$30.00 recording fee included).

Pay by Credit Card is available at \$430.00 per Concert Band found on the Assessment Form.

You will need to send the Executive Director 3 items for completion of the State Band Entry

1. "Entry Form" (with signatures and list of participating students: printed from MPA Online)
2. Assessment form: printed from MPA Online
3. Checks payable to FBA or Florida Bandmasters Association (or paid through MPA On-line).

Forms may be emailed to: exec@fba.flmusiced.org

NOTE: DO NOT allow anyone else to mail your paperwork & check. TRUST ME on this.

If you choose to initiate a purchase order with your entry form instead of a check, the payment MUST be received by the FBA State Office within 14 days following your District Concert Band MPA.

If mailing, Send Entry Forms & check to: **Neil E. Jenkins, FBA Executive Director**
P.O. Box 840135
Pembroke Pines, FL 33084

2026 STATE BAND MPA DEADLINE DATES

Concert MPA Last Day:	Registration Opens (9 pm)	State Entry Deadline: (Postmarked)	For Districts:
Feb 28	March 12	March 25	12, 17, 21, 22
March 5	March 12	March 25	15, 20
March 6	March 12	March 25	5, 10, 13, 16
March 7	March 12	March 25	1, 2, 3, 4, 6, 7, 8, 11, 18, 19
March 11	March 12	March 25	14, 23
March 12	March 12	March 25	9

NOTE: the Deadline has been extended from 9 days to 13 days due to multiple Districts dealing with Spring Break

FINAL CUT-OFF DATE (Beyond which NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED):

Postmarked no later than 7 days after the original deadline.

Please do all you can to observe the original deadline date.

Original Deadline	Final Cut-off Deadline
March 25	April 1

After this date \$50.00
late fee

After this date - NO ENTRIES TAKEN
\$100 late fee will be levied for incorrect entry forms.

MUSIC CHANGE DEADLINE: Saturday, April 11, 2026 (done online)

STATE BAND MPA DATES AND SITES

North Site: University of North Florida (Jacksonville): April 21-23, 2026

Local Host: Tim Groulx

Districts: 4, 5, 6, 8, 17, 19, 21

North-West Site: Florida State University (Niceville): April 29-30, 2026

Local Host: Patrick Dunnigan & Keith Griffis

Districts: 1, 2, 3 plus any others wishing to make the trip

Central Site: Venice High School (Venice): April 30-May 2, 2026

Local Host: David Wing

Districts: 7, 9, 10, 11, 12, 13, 18, 23

South Site: Broward College-Bailey Concert Hall: April 30-May 2, 2026

Local Host: Cindy Berry

Districts: 11, 13, 14, 15, 16, 18, 20, 22

NOTE: Requests to Go Out of Region must be made in writing to the Executive Director within 15 days prior to the start date of the site you wish to attend (see Handbook, page 13, #7.b.).

***Request letters can be scanned and emailed.

2026 STATE MUSIC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT ADJUDICATORS

North Site: April 21-23, 2026

Concert: Robert Hansbrough
Catherine Rand
Stanley Schoonover
Commentator: Jay Watkins

Univ. of North Fla. - Jacksonville

Concert: Robert Hansbrough
Ricky Fleming
Scotty Walker
Commentator: Jay Watkins

Florida State Univ. - Tallahassee

Concert: Scott Jones
Bentley Shellahamer
Stanley Schoonover
Commentator: Matt McCutchen

Venice High School - Venice

Concert: William Connell
David Hedgecoth
Lauren Wright
Commentator: Gary Green

Broward College - Davie

IMPORTANT!

BE SURE TO REGISTER FOR YOUR DESIGNATED SITE ONLY!

Schools shall perform at the Music Performance Assessments in their own Districts or Region of the State **except by permission of the Executive Director**. District assignments are posted on the FBA website under MPA-State Band and on page 3 of this Bulletin. Permission will depend on extenuating circumstances based upon the following criteria:

- 1) Unavoidable school calendar conflicts.
- 2) Other educational reasons. (A band may qualify for this reason only once every fifth school year.)
- 3) Availability of time at the site being proposed for attendance.

STATE MPA ENTRY FORM INFORMATION

READ YOUR FBA HANDBOOK CAREFULLY and meet all requirements, rules and regulations contained therein, while observing the following guidelines and requirements.

REQUESTS FOR PERFORMING ON SPECIFIC DATES at the State MPA will be honored on a "first-requested / first-received" based on date received after each district MPA. Explain WHY you need certain dates, realizing that it may not be possible to always honor first choices. Saturday is part of the **Central & South** schedule and needs to be used. Most performance times will be from **approximately** NOON into the evening hours, except with an earlier start on any Saturday.

GENERAL INFORMATION

1. THE STATE BAND MPA Entry Forms are completed online.
2. DEADLINES must be met by submitting the following:

Entry IS NOT COMPLETE until all requirements have been met.

- a. The completed ENTRY FORM (**with signatures and the list of band students**).
- b. The completed MPA ASSESSMENT FORM.

Assessment for 2026 is \$430.00 per Concert Band (includes recording fee).

- c. A CHECK or MONEY ORDER (payable to the Florida Bandmasters Association), or
- d. Payment by Credit Card through the Invoice on MPA.

3. Include all **SPECIAL PERMISSION FORMS** to perform music not on the current FBA MPA Approved Music List, or requesting for special performance times.

There will only be one date the window opens for selecting your performance date and time block:

March 12

OBSERVING DEADLINES

The Florida Bandmasters Association has established the following rules:

(1) State MPA Entry Forms must be done online and must be **COMPLETED NO LATER THAN 13 CALENDAR DAYS** after the posted Registration Date. (See page 2 of this Bulletin for your District date.)

(2) After that date, a \$50.00 Late Fee (payable by Check or Credit Card payment through MPA) will be due.

(3) **FINAL CUT-OFF DATE** (Beyond which NO ENTRIES WILL BE ACCEPTED): **Postmarked no later than 7 days after the original deadline.** (See Page 2 for your final cut-off deadline.). If an entry form is found to be incomplete or inaccurate by the final cut-off deadline, (missing signatures, lacking the Assessment form) the fee will increase to \$100.00.

MUSIC TITLE CHANGES: CONCERT BAND changes must be made in the MPA Online program and must be completed by **April 11, 2026** for all sites. You do this on your own through MPA Online.
****Please also send the Executive Director an email with any changes.

AFTER THE DEADLINE FOR ENTRY FORMS:

If you miss your deadline, you must email the Executive Director and ask to have the window for your entry reopened, after which you have 24 hours to complete the entry and mail in the forms with the fee for the band along with the appropriate late fee.

CLASSIFICATION FORMS:

A completed Official Classification Form must be on file with the State Executive Director before a school will be allowed to enter an MPA (this was submitted to your District Chair in October).

DIRECTORS: Upon arriving at the MPA site, report immediately to the FBA office to sign in, to get last-minute information or changes, and to meet your student guide if one has been assigned.

[NOTE]: Only a director whose name appears on and signs the official MPA entry form may register or transact business for his or her school, unless another adult has a letter of authorization on that school's stationery signed by the director **AND** principal of that school. **The director (or the appointed representative) MUST be on the premises during the hours students from a school are performing.** **PENALTY: Disqualification of band.**

EQUIPMENT FURNISHED:

WARM-UP ROOM: Chairs and stands. (Bring your own tuner!)

CONCERT STAGE: Chairs and stands, 4 timpani, bass drum, chimes, marimba, xylophone, vibraphone, podium. There are no risers. Make arrangements with the local host for any other equipment or **BRING YOUR OWN!** If you will need a PIANO on stage, you must notify me at the time of entry and contact the site host.

BAND SCORES FOR ADJUDICATORS: Each of the 3 adjudicators must be provided with at least a condensed score of all three selections (this includes the march) with measures numbered, or the band will be disqualified. However, the band **MAY** (at the discretion of the Executive Director) be allowed to perform for comments only. Place a set of scores in **THREE (3)** separate envelopes with the school name clearly marked on each score and envelope.

DUPLICATED or PHOTOCOPIED CONCERT BAND SCORES are not allowed except as indicated in the FBA Handbook. Bands will not be allowed to perform for a rating if this rule is not observed. Recorded adjudicator comments are required for concert bands. The adjudicators will have equipment to record comments which will be uploaded into the MPA On-line program.

DIRECTORS WILL BE VIDEO RECORDED DURING THE CONCERT BAND PERFORMANCE, AND INDIVIDUAL COMMENTS MADE FOR YOUR BENEFIT. RECORDINGS WILL BE PROVIDED UPON DEPARTURE.

STUDENT CONDUCTORS - There are No Student Conductors at the State MPA.

BAND PERFORMANCE TIMES: Times listed on the CONCERT BAND SCHEDULE will be WARM-UP TIMES & PERFORMANCE TIMES. **Time slots include set-up, performance & clearing the area.**

PLEASE STAY ON TIME - BE CONSIDERATE OF THE BANDS WHICH PRECEDE OR FOLLOW. If yours is the first band in any particular "Listening Block", you should check with the Executive Director if you wish to warm-up on stage. PLEASE STAY ON TIME!!

CLINIC AND STUDENT CONDUCTOR: No Clinic Session or Student Conductor at the State MPA. Bands are highly encouraged to stay and listen to other groups within their Performance Block. It is important for your students to hear other band programs and provide support for those performing on stage.

SCHEDULING: Bands are scheduled by days, according to classification and by the size of the band within each classification. Exceptions include late entries or other necessary scheduling considerations.

CHECKING OUT: You may pick up your adjudicator comment sheets, scores, recording, commentator recording, appropriate plaques, **AT THE CONCLUSION OF YOUR PERFORMANCE BLOCK.** Before you sign out, check everything carefully to be sure you have all scores, sheets, commentary recording, and the plaque to which you are entitled.

ADJUDICATOR COMMENTS: Every attempt will be made to upload your adjudicator comments within 24 hours following your performance and may be heard and downloaded through your MPA On-Line login.

RECORDINGS: Your Concert Band will be recorded and provided to you when you are ready to check out. Recordings of your band's performance may or may not be made available for purchase by your students and parents. You will also receive your Director Commentator's Video. **(INFORMATION WILL BE ON THE WEBSITE WITH THE OPTION FOR QUANTITY DISCOUNTS FOR STUDENTS AND PARENTS FOR RECORDINGS OF ALL STATE PERFORMANCES, IF AVAILABLE)**

MISCELLANEOUS INFORMATION: It is our policy to deal with DIRECTORS ONLY (so that they will be kept informed) if problems occur. Instruct your students to find you if they need assistance.

CONCERT BAND MUSIC: Must be from the current FBA MPA Approved Concert Music List (except Selection #1, march) or have a SPECIAL PERMISSION form from the State Concert Music Committee Chairman attached to the Entry Form. There are no page numbers, so make sure it is on the List, or write in "SP" for Special Permission.

SPECIAL NOTE: TIME BLOCKS: Note that specific time blocks have been created for all sites which will usually accommodate four-six bands per block. You are being highly encouraged to listen to all the bands in your time block (excluding when you are in warm-up). Once the schedule is finalized, an explanation will be posted showing how your block will function. This will afford everyone the opportunity to hear other groups, and more importantly, guarantee an audience for any band performing.

Sheets and audio files will ONLY be released at the end of your Performance Block.

GOOD LUCK TO EVERYONE!!!!!!!!!