LETTER TO THOSE SENDING STUDENTS TO THE
2020 SOLO & ENSEMBLE CONTEST

Dear Music Directors, Music Teachers, School Personnel, Parents and Students:

This is another exciting year for Lorain County school musicians with many features and opportunities at the Lorain County Solo & Ensemble Contest!! The date is Saturday, February 29, 2020 at Brookside Middle/High School in Sheffield.

We have a variety of entry categories designed to challenge the talents of your student musicians and expand their musical interests:

- **Jazz Ensemble** – This category provides an opportunity for the serious jazz musician to have his/her small jazz group adjudicated. Groups up to Octet size may perform; a vocalist would be considered as one of the eight.

- **Composition/Arrangement** – This category provides an opportunity for the young composer/arranger to present and have performed an original composition (or arrangement of an existing work) to be adjudicated on its written content rather than its performance. Although part of this entry requirement is that it be performed on Saturday at Contest (it must be a solo or ensemble composition), the adjudication is on the elements of composition or arrangement rather than the qualities of its performance. There is an additional fee to cover the cost of adjudicating the notation skills in advance of the contest performance. Completed full scores must be submitted with the application form.

- **Barbershop Quartet** - This category provides choral directors who use close harmony activities to train their musicians to listen carefully to others for pitch, balance, and ensemble effect, a chance to bring a vocal group such as this to Contest. This is also a chance for vocalists to add animation to their performance and showcase some of the fun they experience in doing Barbershop singing.

- **Four-Hands-Piano/Piano-Duo** – This category provides piano students the opportunity of performing in an ensemble whereas before, they have only done solo performances. It opens a whole range of challenges like balance, communication and togetherness with a partner, and shared expression and interpretation. Performers have the option of using two pianos (Duo) or the same piano (Four-Hands).

- **Strings Category** - In this category, we have always welcomed harp but we would also like to invite Classical, Spanish or Jazz acoustic guitar. Please use the Standard Solo/Ensemble registration form for this entry and if you have any questions regarding appropriate music, instruments or style-of-playing. Please give us a call or email.

Occasionally, a director, parent or other sponsor of a performer is concerned that there is a conflict in performance times among their students, or, an accompanist has two students to accompany scheduled at the same time, or some other issue in regards to an assigned performance time exists. This is easily handled by informing the door monitor of a minor delay and your performer will report one slot earlier or one slot later than scheduled. The only time this becomes a problem is if it happens too frequently, so please use this flexibility sparingly.
Please read the rules which are posted on our website and make sure your students and parents are aware of those which pertain to their performances. There are 21 rules which govern this Solo & Ensemble Contest.

There is only one online enrollment form for all categories to facilitate scheduling and fees. You may find the **Rules/Regulations** and the **Registration** link on our website:

http://www.loraincountyesc.org/LorainCountySoloEnsembleContest.aspx

Sincerely,

Debbie Hunt, Contest Administrator, 440-324-3174 | hunt@esclc.org