

## **GENERAL INFORMATION FOR PARTICIPANTS**

### **SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF THE HAGUE**

**Rijksstraatweg 200**

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**The Netherlands**

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**Festival Host: Jim Yarnell**

**On the behalf of THE AMERICAN SCHOOL OF THE HAGUE AND THE ASSOCIATION FOR MUSIC IN INTERNATIONAL SCHOOLS welcome to the SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL. We hope that this day will be productive and rewarding for you. We wish you the best of luck as you further develop your musical talents.**

**The following guidelines will help you as you participate in the festival.**

1. **Scores:** Each ensemble leader must supply the judge with one score of the chosen music with numbered measures.
2. **Limitation:** A student may enter any number of solo & ensemble events but may not enter two events with the same event number.
3. **Time:** An ensemble performance may not exceed 8 minutes. The judge will spend time with the participants and will offer suggestions for improvement. This should be one of the biggest benefits of the festival. Take advantage of this service!
4. **Memory:** Ensemble pieces do not have to be memorised.
5. **Accompaniment:** Ensembles may be performed with or without accompaniment. Accompaniment may be live (accompanist provided by the participant) or recorded. A piano will be available in the performance room, but participants must bring any other instrument or equipment needed (e.g. CD or tape player). A major cause of delay during the festival is the late arrival of accompanists from other events. It is strongly suggested that you bring more than one accompanist!
6. **Classifications:** Students aged 11 to 14 (or grades 5 to 8) are in **Junior Division**. Students aged 14 to 18 (or grades 9 to 12) are in **Senior Division**.
7. **Performance Rating:**

<b>I+</b> <i>Performance with Distinction</i>	Blue Ribbon
<b>I</b> <i>Performance with Merit</i>	Blue Ribbon
<b>II+</b> <i>Good Performance</i>	Red Ribbon
<b>II</b> <i>Satisfactory Performance</i>	Red Ribbon
<b>III</b> <i>The AMIS Challenge</i>	White Ribbon

#### **Definitions:**

- I+** This performance is strong, confident and accurate in all aspects. There is ample and clear evidence of a high standard of musicianship, sensitivity and expression, understanding of the music and thorough preparation. The candidate shows clear evidence of long-term commitment to the pursuit of musical excellence.
- I** This performance is generally strong, but may demonstrate minor shortcomings such as small mistakes or loss of focus. The candidate is highly motivated, and will be able to apply the judge's guidance effectively, moving swiftly towards the kind of performance described in I+.
- II+** Although still musically pleasing for the most part, this performance has some obvious shortcomings. Pitch and rhythmic aspects may be inaccurate, or there may be evidence of insufficient understanding or preparation. Confidence or focus may be flawed.
- II** As above, but with fewer of the musically pleasing aspects. The candidate will be expected to devote some time and effort in applying the judge's comments in order to progress towards higher standards.
- III** This performance will have more of the feeling of a work in progress, rather than a polished final product. The judge will offer specific comments which will help the candidate accept the AMIS Challenge.

The challenge is to apply for the next festival, demonstrate a pleasing level of performance, and exchange the white ribbon for an AMIS Certificate of Improvement (providing an award of category II or above is achieved). If the candidate is unable to attend the next festival, the private music teacher or school music department can arrange for an appropriate performance opportunity which will allow the young musician to demonstrate the improvement which has been achieved. (No AMIS certificate to be awarded.)

**PLEASE SHARE THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION WITH STUDENTS:**

- Try to get to your performance room well ahead of time. It is quite possible that the judge will call you if the events ahead of yours are not in the room. It is quite possible that the judge might have to wait for a piano accompanist to report.
- Please make sure that your students have a copy of the music for the judges. There will be no access to copy machines the day of the festival.
- Please do not play instruments except in the warm-up or performance rooms. Please do not run in the hallways and please do not enter a room while a performance is in progress.
- There will be three warm-up rooms, one for voice, one for piano and one for instrumental. Please use these rooms only just prior to your performance time. Instrument cases and belongings can be kept in these rooms but you must arrange for the safeguard of personal property.
- The cafeteria will be open all day. Lunch will cost approximately 5.00 Euros. Remember that everything will need to be paid in Euros. Talk to our cafeteria personnel about the possibility of taking food with you if you are going to be leaving right after the awards ceremony as this would need to be ordered by 10:00AM Saturday morning.
- When not playing in an event, all participants should be listening to other events. This is intended to be one of the most valuable aspects of this festival. You should support the other students from your school or listen students from other schools play the same instrument as you do. Remember, everyone is nervous that day and proper courtesy and compliments to your fellow musicians will go a long way.
- No smoking is allowed in the building at any time.
- All students should report to a master class at the end of the day's events. Master classes are generally held in the same location as the events from the day.
- Everyone should report to the theater at 5:00PM for the closing ceremony.
- Upon the conclusion of your prepared piece the judge has been asked to offer a few suggestions about the nature of your performance. Don't interpret this as a bad sign. The judge is only trying to help you with your musical advancement.

**DIRECTIONS:** For directions and travel connections to The American School of The Hague check the ASH website at: [www.ash.nl](http://www.ash.nl)