



September 11, 2023

Junior High Band Director,

The North Dakota chapter of the National Band Association is pleased to announce the Twenty-Seventh Annual Junior High All-State Band Festival to be held March 8 & 9, 2024, at Mandan High School. Erin Cole Steele has been hired to serve as the guest conductor for this special event. The mission of the NDNBA Junior High All-State Band Festival is to provide:

- ❖ a unique educational experience and musical opportunity for exceptional junior high band students.
- ❖ an opportunity for students to work with a noted guest conductor as well as other talented instrumentalists.
- ❖ acknowledgment of student achievement at the junior high level.
- ❖ motivation at this crucial stage of development.
- ❖ Exposure for the North Dakota National Band Association



Erin Cole Steele is the Director of the Division of Education and Senior Educational Clinician for Conn Selmer Inc. Prior to her position at Conn Selmer, Erin was the Director of Bands at Tapp Middle School in Cobb County, Georgia (1995-2017) where she was named Teacher of the Year. Under her leadership, the Tapp Band received numerous accolades including performing at the 58th annual Midwest Band and Orchestra Clinic. During her tenure at Tapp MS, she commissioned four pieces of music including Robert W. Smith's "The Great Locomotive Chase," Frank Ticheli's "Simple Gifts-Four Shaker Songs," Samuel R. Hazo's "Ascend," and was part of a consortium commissioning Eric Whitacre's "The Seal Lullaby."

Erin is a contributing editor for Hal Leonard's Essential Elements for Band. She has written chapters for three editions of the GIA publication series Teaching Music Through Performance and most recently wrote a chapter for the book Rehearsing the Middle School Band by Stephen Meyer.

Erin is an active guest conductor and speaker. She has presented sessions at the Midwest Clinic on several occasions as well as state and international conferences. She has served as the guest conductor for numerous All-State and regional honor bands, appearing in over 30 states. She served as the conductor for Youth Bands of Atlanta from 2011-2017 and a conductor for the "Encore" Music Camp for several years. She was the founder and administrator of the Cobb County Summer Band Camp in Georgia. Erin has served as a clinician for the Music for All Summer Symposium and is currently on the teaching faculty and executive director for The Conn Selmer Institute.

Erin Cole Steele earned her bachelor's degree in music education from the University of Georgia in 1995. While at the University of Georgia, she played cello, flute, and piccolo in the University Symphony Orchestra, chamber groups, Symphonic and Concert Bands, and the Redcoat Marching Band.

Erin's professional affiliations include Phi Beta Mu, Sigma Alpha Iota, and the National Band Association from whom she was awarded the Citation of Excellence three times (2015, 2008, and 2003).

As a passionate supporter of school music programs, she continues to remain active in instrumental classrooms throughout the country and enjoys traveling for guest conducting and speaking engagements. Erin now resides in Scottsdale, Arizona where she and her husband Andrew enjoy hiking and biking on the weekends.

Eligibility: The NDNBA Junior High All-State Band Festival is open to all Seventh and Eighth grade band students in the state of North Dakota.

Tentative Schedule: Friday, March 8

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| 1:30 – 2:00 | Registration |
| 2:00 – 5:00 | Rehearsal |
| 5:00 – 5:45 | Pizza Party Supper at Mandan High (included in registration fee) |
| 5:45 – 6:30 | Clinics |
| 6:30 – 8:30 | Rehearsal |

Saturday, March 9

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|--------------|--|
| 8:30 – 12:00 | Rehearsal |
| 12:00 – 2:30 | Lunch and break |
| 3:00 | Concert in Mandan High School Auditorium featuring the NDNBA JH All-State Band and Bismarck-Mandan Wind Ensemble |

Fees:

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| Audition fee: | \$10.00 if director is NDNBA member \$15.00 if director is not NDNBA member |
| Registration fee: | \$40.00 if director is NDNBA member \$45.00 if director is not NDNBA member (Please note that the registration fee includes the evening meal on Friday for the students at Mandan High School.) |

NBA Membership is available online. A link is provided on the NDNBA website for registration and payment.

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| Timeline: | September 11 | Information packet and audition materials available to all ND junior high band directors via the NDNBA website |
| | December 1 | Audition recordings submitted/fees postmarked by this date **Recordings will not be accepted after 11:59 pm |
| | December 8 | Late audition fees postmarked by this date with a \$50 late fee |
| | January 8 | Audition results posted on the NDNBA website |
| | February 29 | Medical Release form and Registration fees postmarked by this date |
| | March 8 & 9 | NDNBA Junior High All-State Band Festival |

For more information regarding the festival and auditions contact:

| Festival | Auditions |
|---|--|
| Verlene “Beanie” Stotts Discovery Middle School 1717 40 th Ave So Fargo, ND 58104 446-3405 stottsv@fargo.k12.nd.us | Sara Baumann Mandan Middle School 2901 12 th Ave NW Mandan, ND 58554 751-6502 Sara.Baumann@msd1.org |

Directors will be responsible for arranging housing Friday night and the lunch break on Saturday. There are numerous restaurants in Mandan to choose from that are only a short distance from Mandan High School. All students must be accompanied by their director or chaperone. ***Each student will receive a medical release form to be completed and turned in with the registration fee prior to Thursday, February 29th.***

Audition Materials

Audition materials will consist of the:

- 1) Major scale etude (to be played without break)
- 2) Chromatic scale
- 3) Short etude

NDNBA JH All State Band is only accepting auditions by digital submission. We have detailed the process below to assist you.

You will record and document each student that you have auditioning for NDNBA JH All-State Band. When you are ready to send the recordings:

1. Create and email an Excel File (or google spreadsheet) to include a header/title with band director(s) name, contact phone #, and email address of each director submitting recordings. We will check the NBA website for current membership upon the submitted auditions. If you are not a current member of NDNBA, it is expected that the non-member audition fee will be paid.

List each audition with the following columns:

| First Name | Last Name | Instrument | Grade | School | Band Director(s) | Contact information |
|------------|-----------|------------|-------|------------|------------------|--|
| First Name | Last Name | Instrument | Grade | School | Band Director(s) | Contact information |
| Sally | Smith | Alto Sax | 7 | South Park | Joe Shmoe | School phone Cell phone School address |

2. In addition to the email, send a check payable to NDNBA to:

Sara Baumann
Mandan Middle School
2901 12th Ave NW
Mandan, ND 58554

The check must be postmarked by December 1st, or you will be assessed a \$50 late fee.

Late audition checks (including the \$50 fee) must be postmarked by December 8th.

For the recording process:

3. Record/save auditions in an mp3 or wav format as 3 separate files. One labeled Major Scales, one Chromatic Scale, and one Etude (or Snare and Mallet for percussion). Do not include student names on each individual file! Each student will have their own folder labeled with name and instrument: Ex. Sally Smith Alto Sax
4. Create a folder for each instrument section. Label the folders with your school name and instrument section. Ex. South Park Alto Sax
5. **One folder per school and one check per school.**
6. Email instrument folders to NDNBAJHAS@gmail.com **YOU ARE ENCOURAGED TO HAVE/CREATE A GMAIL ACCOUNT SO YOU WILL HAVE THE GOOGLE SUPPORTED PROGRAM.** All materials and music will be shared through google drive.
7. If the folder is too large, choose to "compress" and create a zip file.
8. If the folder is too large after compressing, you may need to create more than one folder for those instruments. (You will be able to send larger files through google.)

9. When sending multiple emails please label in the subject line the total number of emails you plan to send, and which email you are on. For ex. 1 of 2, 2 of 2 so that we are sure we receive all audition folders.
10. If your school E-mail is housed by Google, and it asks if you want to send a google drive file, this is the best option.
11. You will receive a confirmation email stating your auditions were received.

Students may audition on more than one instrument (clarinet and bass clarinet, for example). However, two separate audition fees must be enclosed, and the auditions must be recorded in two separate files. *No auditions will be accepted for piccolo or Eb soprano clarinet.* All auditions will be judged anonymously. No splicing or audio manipulation of any kind is acceptable. **If a judge suspects that an audition has been digitally adjusted, all recordings from that school are subject to disqualification.** The audition materials are available on the NDNBA website. Please feel free to make copies of the audition sheet for each of your students. The etudes were composed specifically for the NDNBA Junior High All-State Band Festival. **Audition recordings must be submitted no later than 11:59 PM (CST) December 1st to be considered for the festival. A \$50.00 late fee will be assessed if payment is not postmarked by December 1st. Auditions will not be processed without payment.** Please send one check per school.

Before you submit your recordings, please check to see if you have enclosed the following items:

1. audition folder for each student
2. audition fees (one check per school, payable to NDNBA)
3. excel or google spreadsheet listing all auditions including director's current phone and email