

**Mark of Excellence
National Orchestra Honors
Registration Packet**

**THE FOUNDATION
For Music Education**



THE FOUNDATION For Music Education

Mark of Excellence

National Orchestra Honors

Recorded Music Competition

The Mark of Excellence/National Orchestra Honors

project seeks to recognize and award outstanding achievement in performance by high school, middle school, and youth orchestras. The project will gather entries from throughout the United States and provide valuable feedback for all entrants. A unique competitive environment is created that allows orchestras to compare their performance quality to that of other outstanding ensembles from across the country.

How It Works

Directors submit a CD recording of their ensemble from the current 2011-2012 school year. Adjudicators will listen to entries and provide detailed tape recorded comments and brief written comments. All entrants will receive a compilation CD recording of the winning orchestral performances. Winners will also be recognized in regional and/or national publications and at national and regional conferences. National winners and Commended winners will receive a trophy. It is hoped that the critiques and the compilation recordings will prove helpful in improving performance in high school, middle school, and youth orchestras.

**2012 Submission Deadline:
June 7, 2012**

(Results Announced - September 15, 2012)

The Foundation For Music Education is a not-for-profit organization committed to raising funds for the support of music education and the proliferation of music educators in our schools.

**Mark of Excellence
National Orchestra Honors Rules and Guidelines**

**THE FOUNDATION
For Music Education**

PERFORMANCE CATEGORIES:

High School Full Orchestra
High School String Orchestra
Middle School Full Orchestra
Middle School String Orchestra
Youth Orchestra - community or regional based group

APPLICATION REQUIREMENTS AND PROCESS:

1. Submit 2 CD recordings and one set of scores of two selections. These selections may be of any level or source, but higher consideration will be given to serious works of appropriate difficulty for the school classification.
2. The adjudicator will listen to recordings and provide a live critique tape as they listen, as well as brief written comments.
3. The adjudicator will select the top 25% of entries for the National Orchestra Honors. These winners will be recognized in regional and/or national publications and at national and regional conferences. Winners will receive a plaque.
4. The second 25% will receive Commended status, and will also be recognized in national publications. They will be awarded a certificate.
5. The adjudicator will pick selections for inclusion in the compilation CD of the winners which is sent to all entrants.

**Mark of Excellence
National Orchestra Honors Registration Form**



Director Name (exactly as it should appear in publicity) _____

Ensemble Name (exactly as it should appear in publicity) _____

School Enrollment _____ Program Enrollment _____

Mailing Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Physical Address _____

City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

School Main Phone _____ Direct Line _____ Ext. _____

Fax _____

Home Phone _____ E-mail _____

Audition CD Information

Selection #1 _____

Composer/Arranger _____

Duration _____ Date of Recording _____

Recording Event/Venue _____

Selection #2 _____

Composer/Arranger _____

Duration _____ Date of Recording _____

Recording Event/Venue _____

Ensemble Information

Ensemble Name (exactly as it should appear in publicity) _____

Number of Students _____

Contest Category

- Full Orchestra - HS
- String Orchestra - HS
- Full Orchestra - MS
- String Orchestra - MS
- Youth Orchestra

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

**Mark of Excellence
National Orchestra Honors Contract**



The undersigned customer (Group) and The Foundation For Music Education (TFME) hereby enter this contract and agree to the following terms and conditions:

1. Audio Submission

The audio submission accompanying this contract is in compliance with the Mark of Excellence Rules and Guidelines and was not engineered, edited, or tampered with in any way except to remove any recorded announcements or introductions.

2. Agreement to Participate/Use of Media

The undersigned irrevocably grant to TFME, its agents, licensees and assigns, the right to use any and all media in any and all forms; the Group's, the member's, and the conductor's names, likeness, photographic prints; and any reproduction of their sounds or performance submitted to TFME, for any purpose including promotion, advertising, or otherwise.

3. General and Administrative

3.1 This Agreement shall be governed in all respects and aspects by the laws of the State of Texas, and the parties hereby agree that any legal action concerning this Agreement shall be brought in a court of competent jurisdiction, in Lubbock County, Texas. If counsel is required to enforce the terms of this Agreement and/or corollary agreements, the prevailing party shall be entitled to recover reasonable attorney fees and costs.

3.2 If any provision of this Agreement, or its application to any person or circumstance, is invalid or unenforceable, then the remainder of this Agreement or the application of those provisions to other persons or circumstances shall not be affected thereby.

3.3 This Agreement and the attachments hereto, contain the entire Agreement of the parties and there are no representations, inducements, promises, agreements, arrangements or undertakings, oral or written, between the parties other than those set forth and duly executed in writing. No agreement of any kind shall be binding upon either party unless and until the same has been made in writing and duly executed by both parties. This agreement shall not be modified or amended except by written agreement executed by both parties.

3.4 The parties have reviewed this Agreement in its entirety and acknowledge that each has had a full opportunity to negotiate the Agreement's terms. Therefore, the parties expressly waive any and all applicable common law and statutory rules of construction that any provision of this Agreement should be construed against the Agreement's drafter, and agree and affirm that the Agreement and all provisions thereof shall in all cases be construed as a whole, according to the fair meaning of the language used.

3.5 Failure to insist upon strict compliance with any of the terms, covenants and conditions hereof shall not be deemed a waiver of such terms, covenants and conditions, nor shall any waiver or relinquishment of any right or power here under at any one or more times be deemed a waiver or relinquishment of such right or power at any other time or times. No waiver shall be valid unless in writing and signed by all parties.

3.6 The captions of each section are added as a matter of convenience only and shall be considered of no effect in the construction of any provision of this Agreement.

3.7 This Agreement may be executed by facsimile and/or in any number of counterparts, any or all of which may contain the signatures of less than all the parties, and all of which shall be construed together as but a single instrument and shall be binding on the parties as though originally executed on one originally executed document. All facsimile counterparts shall be promptly followed with delivery of original executed counterparts.

3.8 This Agreement shall become effective upon execution by the parties. The parties have duly executed this Agreement by their signatures below.

3.9 In the event that TFME is unable to reach an agreement with a copyright holder for mechanical rights, or if the copyright holder is unresponsive, it may be necessary to omit a winning performance from the compilation CD.

Organization/Group _____

Authorized Signature _____ Date _____

TFME Signature _____ Date _____

**Mark of Excellence
National Orchestra Honors Registration Instructions**

**THE FOUNDATION
For Music Education**

A completed application should include:

1. Signed and completed *Mark of Excellence National Orchestra Honors Registration Form*
2. Signed *Mark of Excellence National Orchestra Honors Contract*
3. Two CD recordings from the current 2011-2012 school year with the school name clearly marked
4. One set of scores with the school name deleted
5. \$325.00 application fee

Check Payable to: The Foundation For Music Education/Mark Of Excellence

Mail to:

Rick Yancey
Mark of Excellence Registrations
39 Travis Park Dr.
Sugar Land, TX 77479

Phone: 888.518.3927
Fax: 281.265.3095
ryancey@choicemusicevents.org

Submission Deadline: June 7, 2012

**Mark of Excellence
National Orchestra Honors Frequently Asked Questions**

**THE FOUNDATION
For Music Education**

Will my scores and materials be returned?

Yes

Is the judging anonymous?

Yes. Choice Music Events will burn a CD copy of your entry for the judge using an identifying number.

Can I enter a higher school size classification?

Yes, but you may not enter a lower one.