March 18, 2016

Dear Colleagues,

I would like to invite you to the 25th annual Heart of America Marching Festival sponsored by the University of Kansas Bands and the Northeast District of the Kansas Music Educators Association. The contest date is Saturday, October 29, 2016 and the deadline for entries is Friday, September 30, 2016.

The staff and students at the University of Kansas are committed to making this the most accessible, organized, and enjoyable festival for your group, as well as a useful and rewarding educational experience. We will utilize some of the best adjudicators available from across the nation, giving your group superb feedback and insight into your performance.

For 2016, the Heart of America Festival will once again utilize a single performance format and the following trophies and/or plaques will be awarded:

- Division Ratings – I, II, III
- 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place awards for each size classification
- Grand Champion
- Awards for Outstanding Music, Marching, General Effect, Percussion, and Colorguard/Auxiliary

Please feel free to contact me at any time with questions or comments at (785) 864-3367 or e-mail at maosmith@ku.edu. Please take a moment to complete the attached entry form and submit payment as soon as possible. We’re looking forward to seeing you at the 2015 Heart of America Marching Festival!

Sincerely,

Matthew O. Smith, D.M.A.
Director, Marching Jayhawks
maosmith@ku.edu
Heart of America Marching Festival
Saturday, October 29, 2016
Information for Directors

Registration and Fee

Directors should complete the online HOA registration on the Marching Jayhawks website: www.marchingjayhawks.com.

A confirmation page will be posted upon receipt of your online registration. Directors should then mail a printed copy of the confirmation page and payment ($300) to the following address:

KU Band
1530 Naismith Drive, Room 124
Lawrence, KS 66045

Checks should be made payable to: Northeast District KMEA
Deadline: Friday, September 30, 2016

Note: Entry fee is non-refundable after the September 30 registration deadline.

Scheduling

We will attempt to schedule bands based on classification, beginning with Division IV and concluding with Division I. We will also consider performance order within divisions based on last year’s results. The specific performance times will be announced after the registration deadline. While we can attempt to honor special scheduling requests due to school activities, we cannot guarantee that they can be accommodated.

Classifications

Bands will be placed in divisions will be based on the size of the winds:

- Division IV: 48 winds or less
- Division III: 49-72 winds
- Division II: 73-96 winds
- Division I: 97+ winds
**Adjudication**

A panel of five judges will be used to evaluate each band. Adjudicators will use a 100-point scale. The score will then be multiplied by the percentage designated for each caption and a composite score with a maximum of 100 points will be assigned to each band. *Note: If a band does not have an auxiliary unit, the overall score will be based on the composite score with a 90-point scale and then translated to a 100-point scale.*

Directors will have the option of receiving a rating, a ranking, or both. All bands will receive adjudication sheets and recorded comments from the adjudicators. Directors may also elect to receive comments only.

**Music Execution (30%)**
This adjudicator evaluates the overall quality of the musical performance. Tone quality and effective use of the woodwinds, brass, and percussion are evaluated. The score is also based on the blend of the instruments, intonation, phrasing, clarity of the music lines, steadiness of tempo, technical execution, and rhythmic precision.

**Marching Execution (30%)**
This adjudicator looks for uniformity of stride and fundamental marching skills throughout the performance. The marching should result in minimal movement in the upper body. Posture and instrument carriage is also evaluated. This adjudicator also checks for interval spacing within and between forms, and alignment and clarity of forms.

**General Effect (20%)**
This adjudicator evaluates the entire production. This will include the overall continuity and flow of the performance, variety of musical selections, use of the percussion and auxiliary units, and general impact of the show. Coordination of music and drill, level of difficulty, and creativity will also be considered. Other factors will include staging, attention to detail, and uniform appearance.

**Percussion (10%)**
This adjudicator will watch the entire percussion section from the field. Rhythmic stability, stick fundamentals, uniformity, and clarity will be primary considerations. Use of pits, keyboard, and other elements will be evaluated as well. Comments on the difficulty and appropriateness of the percussion writing to the winds will be factored.
**Color Guard/Auxiliary (10%)**
This adjudicator looks at all auxiliary units within the band (flags, rifles, sabres, twirlers, dancers, etc.) and evaluates the relationship of their work to the music. Precision of individual movements and the entire visual ensemble will be evaluated, as will the staging, uniforms, and suitability of equipment.

**Awards**

1st Division Rating – score of 75.0 or higher
2nd Division Rating – score of 50.0 or higher
3rd Division Rating – score of 0-50.0

1st, 2nd, and 3rd Place for each class (I, II, III, and IV)

- Outstanding Color Guard/Auxiliary
- Outstanding Percussion
- Outstanding Marching Execution
- Outstanding Music Execution
- Outstanding General Effect

Overall Grand Champion – highest overall score