Following are two proposed rule changes for 2023 regional and state solo and ensemble contests. The proposals will be discussed and voted on at the November 2021 WMEA Board meeting. As per our rule change process, proposals can be accepted, amended or rejected. Those which are finally approved will go to the WIAA Executive Board for concurrence, amendment (which then come back for concurrence) or rejection. Teacher input for WMEA Board consideration is welcomed, appreciated and encouraged. Email to rulechange@wmea.org by October 15, 2021.

Proposed new text is **bold, underlined and italicized.**

**Proposal Number 1**

*Add the following to rule 1.5.2*

1.5.2 A soloist’s accompanist may be an adult, or a student *or a composed electronic soundtrack* and may change between the regional and state contests. *See Rule 3.13.3 for further information. A single accompanist on piano, guitar, or harp *or electronics* is the only accompanist permitted. An electronic accompaniment must be an integral part of the solo composition. The accompaniment cannot substitute a live accompanist with midi renditions or recordings of piano, guitar, or harp; and cannot be a karaoke or ‘practice track’ style accompaniment. Solo piano entries may not be accompanied *unless accompanied by a composed electronic soundtrack*. Soloists may not accompany themselves.

**Proposal Number 2**

*Add the following to rule 1.6.4*

1.6.4 Only one piano (single pianist), guitar, or harp *or electronics* may be used in an ensemble and will not count in the ensemble number for category assignments. *See Rule 1.5.2 for further definition of acceptable “electronics.”*

PROPOSED BY: Mitch DeGrace, mdegrace@meridian.wednet.edu, SJMEA

RATIONALE for both proposals: “More often, we are seeing composed electronic music incorporated with live instruments and performed in an acoustic setting. These types of compositions should be accepted as legitimate solo and ensemble literature in our regions and at the state level. One example: a few years ago, a student of SJMEA performed a published snare solo with composed electronic accompaniment. He was not allowed to compete and resulted in ‘comment only’. The piece was legitimate but did not fall under the state’s accompaniment rule. These two proposals would change rules 1.5.2 (solo categories) and 1.6.4 (ensemble categories,) but also affect 2.13, 3.3, 1.6.5, 1.6.6 and 1.6.13.2.

I propose that composed electronic music should be an acceptable form of accompaniment along with piano, guitar and harp. This would include any ‘composed electronic soundtrack’ and would strictly EXCLUDE midi renditions or recordings of piano, guitar or harp accompaniments. It would strictly EXCLUDE karaoke or ‘practice track’ type accompaniments provided by the publisher.

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Examples for clarification:

1) Copper Wired – Solo Timpani and Electronics – Alex Orfaly (JWPepper 10777774)
2) Vector – Keyboard Percussion and Electronics – Matt Moore (JWPepper 11319162)
3) The Fifth Dimension – Solo Trumpet with Electronics – Amanda McCullough (JWPepper 10454705)
4) Hero’s Journey – for Timpani and Electronics – Jarryd Elias (Jarrydeliasmusic.com)
5) After Sea Pieces – for Choir and Electronics – Warren Burt (JWPepper 10687581)
6) Fantasia for Flute and Electronics: Sugarhouse – D.J. Sparr (JWPepper 10443938)
7) Check Your Reality – for Solo Horn and Fixed Electronic Media – Joshua Jandreau (JWPepper 10794680)
8) Third Rail – Four Episodes for Solo Snare and Sequenced Piano – John Ling (Tapspace TSPCS-32)

Proposals Number 1 and 2 would also require the following changes:

Add the following to rule 2.13

2.13 Entries at the regional level that use any kind of electronics other than a piano provided by contest management during performance will perform for comment only and not be eligible for the state contest. See rule 1.5.2 for only exception allowed.

Add the following to rule 3.3

3.3 No electronics of any kind may be used during performance in any category or division at the State Solo and Ensemble Contest. See rule 1.5.2 for only exception allowed

Add the following to rule 1.6.5

1.6.5 A participant performing on piano, guitar, or harp or electronics in an instrumental ensemble must be a student who meets all student eligibility requirements. (Clarification: Between the region and state event, it is allowable to drop the piano, guitar, or harp or electronics participant, but you cannot add or change.) See Rule 1.5.2 for further definition of acceptable “electronics.”

Add the following to rule 1.6.6

1.6.6 An ensemble must consist of at least two (2) and no more than sixteen (16) instrumentalists/vocalists (not including piano, guitar or harp or electronics). Personnel may not change during the ensemble’s performance time. See Rule 1.5.2 for further definition of acceptable “electronics.”

And specific to the Guitar Ensemble Category......

Add the following to rule 1.6.13.2

1.6.13.2 A single harp, piano or electronics accompanist may be used and will not count toward ensemble count. That accompanist must be a student meeting all eligibility requirements. See Rule 1.5.2 for further definition of acceptable “electronics.”

*Related rule referenced in 1.5.2:

3.13.3 Solo scheduling will be done to accommodate accompanist conflicts according to the accompanist listed on each registration form. Accompanist changes or additions will be considered in scheduling only if received in writing no later than five weeks prior to the date of the contest. Solo accompanists who are listed for more than 18 accompaniments will not be guaranteed freedom from conflicts. If any accompanist is listed for more than 18 students, the contest manager will not change schedule conflicts for him/her and it will be the accompanists’ and soloists’ responsibility to find an alternative solution.

Teacher input for WMEA Board consideration is encouraged and greatly appreciated. Please send to rulechange@wmea.org by October 15, 2021.