

# *The NYSSMA Solo Festival on Jazz Guitar*

## *FAQ 's*

*What is NYSSMA?*

*NYSSMA is actually an acronym that stands for New York State School Music Association. NYSSMA is the parent organization of NMEA (Nassau County Music Educators' Association).*

*Why is it a good idea to participate in the NYSSMA festival?*

*Learning a NYSSMA solo is a great way to improve your overall musicianship, discipline, time management, and goal setting skills. NYSSMA is also a great extra curricular activity to include on your college applications no matter what your major is going to be! When individual students take on the extra curricular challenge of performing a solo during a NYSSMA festival they show that they are serious about both music and the Guitar.*

*What do students perform during the NYSSMA festival?*

*1. Solo:*

*The first thing each student will prepare for the festival is their solo. There is a standard NYSSMA manual that is updated every five years. YOU MUST PERFORM A PIECE DIRECTLY FROM THE NYSSMA MANUAL. Our teachers have multiples copies of this manual on hand and will help you during the process. Many music stores also have access to the manual.*

*2. Improvisation:*

*Improvisation is a requirement for instrumental Jazz soloists performing for a rating. Each performer must provide a compact disc with the accompaniment for this portion of the performance. CD playback equipment will be provided at the festival, but performers are encouraged to bring their own compatible playback equipment (portable stereo). Please see page 9-3 in the NYSSMA manual to select the appropriate accompaniment for your level.*

*3. Sight Reading:*

*Each student will have a short musical example that he/she will be reading for the first time during the NYSSMA festival. The best way to prepare is by sight-reading new music on a regular basis as part of your practice routine. See Mr. Virgilio for a sight reading handout. The difficulty of your sight-reading example is directly related to your NYSSMA level.*

*Please see Mr. Virgilio with any other questions you may have ☺*