

# The NYSSMA Solo Festival on Classical Guitar

## FAQ 's

*What is NYSSMA?*

NYSSMA is an acronym that stands for New York State School Music Association. Their website homepage is [www.nyssma.org](http://www.nyssma.org). 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. Scales:

The amount of scales each student prepares for the festival is directly related to that students NYSSMA level.

Levels 1-2 will prepare three scales in one octave from memory

Levels 3-4 will prepare seven scales in two octaves from memory

Levels 5-6 will prepare all fifteen major scales from memory

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 for this is to sight-read new music on a regular basis as part of your practice routine. 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 ☺