

Solo Festival Information

Step by Step Guide on what to do the night before, the morning of, and what to expect when you arrive.

Friday, March 8th (the night before)

- Take a few minutes to run through your solo one last time, to help familiarize yourself with everything before tomorrow.
 - Lay out your performance clothes – have you tried them on? Have you tried performing in them? Do they feel comfortable (ie. not restraining your arms, neck, etc.) when you play your instrument?
 - Make sure your clothes are next to your instrument and items needed for tomorrow:
 - Do I have my instrument?
 - Do I have my music?
 - **Do I have the judge's copy?**
 - Do I have everything I need for my instrument? (ligature, reeds, cork grease, slide grease/cream, drum sticks/mallets, both set of percussion stands, cleaning rag/rod, etc.)
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Saturday, March 9th (The morning of)

BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE HOUSE:

- Do I have my instrument?
 - Do I have everything I need for my instrument?
 - Do I have my music?
 - **DO I HAVE THE JUDGE'S COPY?**
 - Am I dressed appropriately?
 - Do I know what time my solo/ensemble is?
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IT IS RECCOMENDED YOU ARRIVE 30 MINUTES PRIOR TO YOUR SCHEDULED TIME

When you arrive.....

Frassati Catholic Academy
316 West Mill Street
Wauconda, Illinois 60084

1. Immediately upon entering the school, there will be a sign in table. Please sign in with the directors/administration to receive your name badge. This tag will have your name, your time slot for your solo, and what room you'll be performing in. You will have two tags if you're in an ensemble.
2. Head down to the gym. Here is where everyone warms up. It is loud, hot, and people are nervous. Don't let this distract you. Find a space to yourself, and get set up calmly and start to warm up your instrument.
 - a. Suggestions for warming up: Run through the scales you know you'll be asked to play (including the chromatic) – or your rudiments (for

- percussion) – this would also be a good time to run through any difficult part of your solo you may still be struggling with.
- b. Suggestions on what NOT to do: DON'T play all the high notes (brass....) – DON'T play things you don't need to play – and DON'T do a FULL run through of your solo. You are nervous – your muscles are weakened when this happens – and you won't be able to play to the best of your ability when you get into the room for the judge.
3. Approximately 10 minutes prior to your solo, start heading down to the room you'll be performing in. You are not allowed to play outside the gym, so this is your time to focus on getting ready for when you walk into the room.
 - a. You may be summoned early, if the judge is running ahead. You may also be asked to wait, if the judge is running behind. Either way, be flexible.
 4. Upon entering the room, you will see your judge and the accompanist, along with anyone you wish to be in the room with you. You have the ability to not allow anyone else in the room, if that is what you wish.
 - a. Walk up to the judge, and greet yourself. "Hello – my name is (Sharon) and I will be playing (name of solo)." – hand them their copy of your solo.
 - b. The judge will ask you to play your scale/s – see note for percussion:
 - i. **Percussion:** You can start on either your bells or snare (your choice) – I recommend starting with your stronger instrument. Whichever you start with, you will be asked to play your rudiments, and/or scales for bells. You will then have time after your first solo to swap out your snare/bells for the other. You have double the amount of time in the room because of both solos. I would bring someone in the room just to help you transition your equipment with you.
 - c. After your scales are done, it's time for your solo! You got this – play passionately!! Enjoy the moment!! :D
 - d. After you are done, your judge will give you some comments – areas that went well, and areas of opportunity. Your judge may ask you to re-perform an area of the music, if needed. Listen to their comments, and **THANK YOUR JUDGE BEFORE YOU LEAVE THE ROOM!**

You're done! Hurrah! Huzzah! Go ask Mom or Dad to go buy you a cookie while you wait for your results. ☺

Results are posted in the hallway between the registration table and the cafeteria approximately 20 minutes after you are finished performing.

If you are in an ensemble.....

- Once you and your partner/s are done with your solos – time permitted – meet up in the gym again and run through your duet/trio one more time. Make sure you head in together to your scheduled room, and give the judge their copy. Same routine as your solo....listen to the judge's comments and make sure to thank them once you're done.
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What is appropriate to wear to Solo Festival?

No jeans – No t-shirts - no sneakers.

Leggings are not pants.

Ladies: Nice dress (make sure it's below the knee, or right above) – nice dress pants and shirt – jewelry is fine – make sure your hair is neatly combed (I recommend pulling it back, but that is my preference.) – I would also recommend wearing flat ballet slippers, or a very low rise heel. Remember...you're standing while playing – so you don't trip over yourself with your shoes.

Gentlemen: Nice dress shirt (or polo shirt) and dress pants. Some boys wear suits/ties/bow ties.....which is fine, too.

Some people opt to wear their concert black/whites – that's fine, too.

I am SO proud of each and everyone one of you for attending – no matter what the out come, be PROUD that you decided to do this for yourself to become a better musician. Cheers! ☺ - Ms. Walker

Scales Requirement (Memorized):

Beginners: B Flat

Beginner Percussion Rudiments: Flam Tap, Flam Tap/Paradiddles

Intermediate: B Flat, A Flat, E Flat

Intermediate Percussion Rudiments: Flam Tap, Flam Tap/Paradiddles, 5 & 9 Strokes

Advanced 1: B Flat, A Flat, E Flat, F, C – Chromatic

Advanced 2: B Flat A Flat, E Flat, F, C, G – Chromatic

Advanced 3: All Scales – Chromatic