

Dear Region #10 Families:

The Lewis Mills High School Music Department is proud to announce that Region10 will be hosting the 83rd New England Music Festival, March 18-20, 2010. The New England Music Festival attracts top student musicians from all over New England. Over 450 high school musicians will take part in this memorable music experience for our community. Many of our own Lewis Mills students have participated in the Festival over the years, bringing home memories that will last a lifetime. This is a great honor and opportunity for all of us in Region #10!

One of the most unique features of the New England Music Festival is that students stay with host families in the local community during the festival. This is where you come in! We are looking for Region #10 families willing to house two or more of these great kids. This will involve two nights housing and two breakfasts. The kids don't have to have a bed - sofas, sleeping bags, and cots, even the floor, are perfect.

Please consider opening your home to these students. They are the cream of the crop of their high school music departments. This great experience is open to everyone - retired folks, parents with kids of any age, empty-nesters, couples with no kids - anyone with an extra room, a pull-out couch, an inflatable bed, or just a little extra space for these musicians to lay their heads on Thursday and Friday nights. We know the community spirit is alive and well in District #10, so sign up today!

It is so easy to join the Host Family Madness. Simply complete the "Host Family Form" and mail it to NEMFA c/o Kathy Wesolowski, 39 Partridge Lane, Burlington 06013. If you have any questions or need more information, call Kathy Wesolowski (675-3190) or email Kathy ([wesolowskik@region10oct.org](mailto:wesolowskik@region10oct.org)).

Thank you for your help in making this event a success!

John Deeb  
Lewis Mills Band Director

Kathy Wesolowski  
NEMFA Housing Chair

**Host Family Commitment Form**  
83rd New England Music Festival  
March 18-20, 2010

Last Name \_\_\_\_\_ First Name(s) \_\_\_\_\_

Home Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Work Phone \_\_\_\_\_ Cell Phone \_\_\_\_\_

Street Address \_\_\_\_\_

City, Zip \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail address \_\_\_\_\_

**Note:** Your email address is important; it will be used for most of our communications.

**Number of students you are willing to house (we ask that you house at least two students):** # \_\_\_\_\_ male students # \_\_\_\_\_ female students

Are there any smokers in your household? Y N

Do you have any pets? Y N If yes, please list: \_\_\_\_\_

Does your family have special dietary requirements? Y N

If yes, please describe: \_\_\_\_\_

Would you feel comfortable providing for students with a special diet when they are in your home, i.e. vegetarian, food allergies, etc.? Y N

**Return form to:**  
**Kathy Wesolowski, 39 Partridge Lane, Burlington CT 06013**

**Host responsibilities are as follows:**

Thursday, March 18:

- Attend Host Family Meeting at Lewis Mills High School
- Pick up students in the gym following the meeting for overnight stay.

Friday, March 19:

- Provide breakfast & drop students off at Lewis Mills (no school in Region 10 on Friday).
- Pick up students in evening for overnight stay.  
Hosts are welcome to stay and listen to rehearsals.

Saturday, March 20:

- Provide breakfast & drop students off at Lewis Mills in the morning.

**If you have any questions, please contact Kathy Wesolowski (675-3190 or wesolowskik@region10ct.org)**

**NOTE: We will be in touch about housing assignments by March 1.**

## **ABOUT THE NEW ENGLAND MUSIC FESTIVAL ASSOCIATION**

The New England Music Festival Association, Inc. (NEMFA) is an organization made up of over 150 music educators who are interested in the promotion and maintenance of quality educational experiences in music for students of the six-state region comprising Connecticut, Maine, Massachusetts, New Hampshire, Rhode Island and Vermont. The NEMFA strongly believes that music is an integral part of a person's total education, and the Association provides experiences and opportunities for the young people of New England to grow musically outside of the boundaries of their own home school districts.

The process begins for the students at the beginning of each school year. Students and their music teachers examine the year's Solo List and find a selection that seems to fit the performing ability of the student. Then the process of practicing and preparing the selection starts for the next year's Solo and Ensemble Festival performances. When completed, the students' performance ratings are used to select the highest achievers to form a Wind Ensemble, Orchestra, and Concert Chorus. These students are sent their music and spend hours preparing for the advent of rehearsals. Each year a different community in the six New England states hosts the Festival, housing students in local homes, and providing space and an environment that is conducive to quality music making. Conductors of national and international stature are contracted to lead these students in rehearsal and performances. The result is a high level of music making and a musical experience that will last a lifetime.