



# THE SUDLER FLAG OF HONOR

An International Award Recognizing High School Concert  
Bands of Outstanding Musical Excellence, administered by the  
John Philip Sousa Foundation

## APPLICATION FORM \_\_\_\_\_ Year

Smaller schools (under 1,000 students in grades 9-12) will be evaluated independent of other entries

HIGH SCHOOL INFORMATION			
High School Name:		School Enrollment (9-12):	
Mailing Address:			
City:		State:	Zip:
DIRECTOR INFORMATION			
Name:		School Phone:	
Home or Cell Phone:		Email:	
Years in current position (including this year)?		Total years teaching band?	
RECORDING INFORMATION			
March	Title	Composer	Recording Date
Band Work	Title	Composer	Recording Date
Transcription	Title	Composer/Arranger	Recording Date

Application materials must be submitted prior to the **October 1, 20** deadline. Great care should be taken in the preparation and submission of materials. ***Adherence to the guidelines detailed on the following pages is required for consideration.***

If you have questions, please contact Roy Holder at 703-470-8042 or [royholder1@gmail.com](mailto:royholder1@gmail.com).

## REQUIREMENTS FOR SUBMISSION

- A. **Recording.** Provide 2 audio CDs and a digitally accessible mp3 recording of three selections. Recordings must have been made AFTER January 1 of the year preceding your application year. At least one of the concert selections (not the march) must have been recorded AFTER January 1 of your application year. A quality, UNEDITED, representative recording is of primary importance. In order for an application to be considered, the following selections are required:
1. A standard military style march. Circus marches, novelty selections and other non-military style marches are not appropriate. Performing great standard military style marches teaches skills that expand and refine our ensembles. These gems are studies in style, melody, balance and phrasing that require careful, detailed preparation and offer musical value to the performers and the audience. These selections help us meet our need to expose our students to a wide variety of musical styles and to our musical heritage. As this award is part of an array of awards sponsored by the John Philip Sousa Foundation the committee will respond positively to a well performed standard Sousa march.
  2. 20th or 21st century band work. Must be written for band by the original composer—not a transcription.
  3. A Transcription for band of an orchestral composition in the classical or romantic style. This is not an absolute date-of-composition requirement. However, it is our belief that teaching our ensemble members to perform original band works at a sophisticated level is simply not enough to meet the total educational needs of our students. We are responsible for teaching them a wide variety of styles and music performance skills. While contemporary literature can, in some cases, require sophisticated melodic interpretation, solo exposure and phrase development, these and other important musical elements, from style to sonority and balance, are different in transcriptions that mirror the writing in classical and romantic literature. Not only are the skills learned from performing this type of literature necessary to the musical development of our young musicians, it is our curricular responsibility to expose our students to our great musical heritage. The ability to perform the technical and musical elements contained in great orchestral transcriptions from the required styles is often the defining characteristic of successful “Flag” applications. The committee will not respond favorably to submissions that do not include a transcription that requires the students to demonstrate mastery of the afore mentioned skills.

All three selections will be evaluated for quality of performance, as well as quality of literature selected. The literature chosen should represent a comprehensive music education regarding the opportunities afforded students and the standard of excellence achieved in their presentation to live, active listeners. Importantly, while the merit of technical rigor is a factor, the elements of ensemble clarity, tonal sonority, intonation, accuracy, finesse and maturity of musical expression is given higher esteem than technical demand. Show your ensemble at their musical best. Applicants are encouraged to contact Roy Holder with questions concerning whether a particular march or transcription meets the stylistic expectations.

- B. **Video.** One of the recordings must include a video of the performance. A video recorded on phone is acceptable. It should be saved on DVD or data CD.
- C. **A loose-leaf notebook** containing all required documentation. The notebook should be **no more than 1.5 inches in thickness**, and should contain 8 tabbed sections in the following order:
1. **General Information.** Include application form, instrumentation list of the performing group, director resume, director photo, band photo.
  2. **Documentation of Literature.** Include a list of ten major works performed by the group in the past **three** years, as well as several printed programs from the last **five** years.
  3. **Letters of Recommendation.** Include 3 letters in support of your band’s application for this award. The letters must be on either school or personal letterhead of the author, and should be written by nationally recognized conductors who are familiar with your program.
  4. **Documentation of State Assessment.** Include copies of adjudication sheets from district and state level concert events for 3-5 years.
  5. **Documentation of Distinguished Performances.** Include programs from state or national clinics or conventions such as The Midwest Clinic, NBA Convention, NAFME Convention, etc. Any special programs you have organized for a unique and positive musical experience may be documented here as well. Include newspaper articles here.

6. **Documentation of District/State Honor Group Participation.** Include programs for district/state/regional honor bands in which your students participate for 3-5 years. Underline names of students from your program.
7. **Documentation of Solo/Ensemble Participation.** Include a list of students participating in district or state solo/ ensemble contest with ratings for 3-5 years.
8. **Documentation of Marching Band Involvement.** Include copies of adjudication sheets from district and state level marching events, or other documentation demonstrating student involvement in a marching program.

CDs, video disk, and notebook should be mailed to: *Roy Holder, 1225 Brighton Drive, Alcoa, TN 37701* Be sure to obtain a tracking number for your package. Please DO NOT request a receiving signature.

**The mp3 recording (or a download link) should be emailed to: *royholder1@gmail.com* Please keep copies of all submissions as no materials will be returned.**

Questions concerning literature or any other elements of this process should be addressed to [royholder1@gmail.com](mailto:royholder1@gmail.com)