

The All State Committee is making changes to the choral All State Sight Reading this year. We would like to make sure the sight reading serves as an effective measurement tool to determine the music reading ability of each student. After several rotations of the current sight reading, it was decided that we are ready for a new set. We have asked a conductor/composer from out of state who is aware of the North Dakota All State audition process to create examples for the next four years.

Many teachers have asked for information on how to prepare for students adequately for the All State sight reading. This year we will provide practice examples and have asked that the examples be written in the key of D for the altos and basses and the key of F for sopranos and tenors. Each student will be asked to sight read two examples. The first example will be a melodic progression with smaller intervals allowing capable students to establish a tonal center. The second example will be more challenging and will feature larger intervals and more complicated rhythm patterns while maintaining a melodic line.

Here are two examples to assist you in preparing students to have a successful sight reading experience during their upcoming All State auditions. Begin working with them now.

Example #1- Notice the stepwise progression with occasional skips of 3rds; The rhythmic pattern is not difficult; Pay close attention to where the melody line changes direction.



Example #2- Notice the common descending interval of the 4th and ascending skips of 3^{rds} and 4^{ths}; Notice the combination of steps and thirds in the same lines; There are several repeated notes; The rhythmic pattern is a bit more difficult than the first example; Be sure to hold dotted half notes for 3 beats each; Set a steady tempo.

When students get nervous they tend to overshoot smaller intervals, change tempos throughout the exercise, and miss repeated notes. Help them take time to prepare by showing them what to look for. Spending some time working with students on reading rhythms and patterns independently and identifying intervals on a regular basis will benefit the students in the long run. It is helpful to work on individual sight reading in addition to the daily sight reading done within your choir.

As students prepare each example, some suggestions include:

- 1) Establish a tonal center in the designated key.
- 2) Look for steps and skips, and larger intervals throughout the example.
- 3) Look for repeated notes or frequently visited notes within the example.
- 4) Look for rhythm patterns. Find similarities and differences.
- 5) Notice any accidentals which indicate notes that are outside of the current key.
- 6) Set a steady tempo.

Good luck on All State auditions this coming January.