



CMEA Bay Section

Festival Definition of Classifications

Beginning in 2016, adjudicators used a new evaluation form that combines performance rubrics with a three-tiered sliding scale for the purpose of providing more objective evaluations. The evaluation scale is adjusted to accommodate groups at various levels.

Directors have the discretion to determine the classification under which their groups will be evaluated. Please read the descriptors to choose the classification that best fits your ensemble. There is a chart on the back of this page that may also help you. It is acceptable to register multiple groups within the same classification.

CLASS 1: Elementary School; Middle School Beginning or Intermediate

Elementary School Ensembles (grades 4-6)

- All elementary school ensembles

Middle School Beginning Level Ensembles (grades 6-8)

- MS ensembles in which the majority of students began playing/singing in the fall or have less than one full year of experience

Middle School Intermediate Level Ensembles (grades 6-8)

- MS ensembles in which the majority of students have 1-2 years of experience
- An intermediate level MS ensemble from schools that offer a sequential program
- MS ensembles with incomplete instrumentation
- MS ensembles that rehearse fewer than 3 hours per week
- MS ensembles performing grade I-II music
- MS ensembles that are the only group of its kind offered at the school

CLASS 2: Middle School Advanced; High School Novice or Intermediate

Middle School Advanced Level Ensembles (grades 6-8)

- Advanced level MS ensembles from schools that offer a sequential program
- MS ensembles with complete or nearly complete instrumentation
- MS ensembles playing more challenging repertoire (grade II, III, IV)

High School Novice and Intermediate Level Ensembles (grades 9-12)

- Novice level HS ensembles in which most students have less than 3 years experience
- HS ensembles comprised mostly of freshmen (grade 9)
- Ensembles from small high schools
- HS ensembles with incomplete instrumentation
- HS ensembles performing less demanding repertoire (grade III and below)
- Intermediate level HS ensemble from schools that offer a sequential program
- HS ensembles that are the only group of its kind offered at the school