

2016 CMEA BAY SECTION INSTRUMENTAL SIGHT READING PROCEDURE

Introduction

- Sight-reading music shall be chosen by a committee, assembled by the CMEA Bay Section Executive Board and overseen by the Adjudication Director.
- All have the option to sight-read for a rating, sight-read for “comments only”, or to have a clinic in lieu of sight-reading.
- All instrumental groups must receive four superiors (three in performance and one in sight-reading) to be eligible for the Unanimous Superior distinction.
- For Band/Orchestra festivals two separate sets of Sight-Reading Folders shall be assembled, one for Concert Band one for String/Full Orchestra. A single folder will be assembled for Jazz Bands.
- The Concert Band and Jazz Band Folders shall contain seven selections:
 - One grade 1 selection for Class 1 groups at the Elementary level
 - One grade 2 selection for Class 1 groups at the Middle School level
 - One grade 2 selection for Class 2 groups at the Middle School level
 - One grade 3 selection for Class 2 groups at the High School level
 - One grade 3 selection for Class 3 groups at the High School level
 - One grade 4 selections for Class 3 groups at the High School level
- The Orchestra Folders shall contain six selections:
 - One grade 1 selection for Class 1 String Orchestra at the Elementary level
 - One grade 2 selection for Class 1 String Orchestra at the Middle School level
 - One grade 2 selection for Class 2 String Orchestra at the Middle School level
 - One grade 3 selection for Class 2 String Orchestra at the High School level
 - One grade 3 selection for Class 2 Full Orchestra as the Middle/High School level
 - One grade 4 selection for Class 3 String Orchestra at the High School level
 - One grade 4 selection for Class 3 Full Orchestra at the High School level
- The group will perform the selection assigned to them by the Adjudicator, based on the classification and level of the group.
- It is permissible for a Director to perform the same sight-reading selection with multiple groups from the same school, as long as the groups are registered in the same classification. This is permissible because the responsibility for interpreting notes and rhythms is placed solely on the students.

Procedure

1. Groups shall be responsible for seating themselves. When the group is settled, the Director should signal the SR Adjudicator who will alert the room assistant to distribute the music folders to the group. While this is happening, the Adjudicator shall read and explain the following statement to the group:

“Do not open the folder of music you are about to receive until instructed to do so. Failure to follow this procedure will result in a 5-point deduction from your total sight reading score.”

The folders are distributed. If procedure is not followed, the Adjudicator will deduct points from the Group Discipline category.
2. The Adjudicator shall explain to the group that the Director will have 2 minutes to study the score before the group opens their music folders. The group must maintain silence during this period. On signal from Adjudicator, the Director shall begin the 2-minute study period. Stopwatch time kept by Adjudicator.

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3. At the end of the study period (sooner if the Director is ready and has informed the Adjudicator), the Adjudicator shall read the following statement to the group:

“I will tell you when to open the folder containing your music. You will have 5 minutes for your Director to talk you through this selection. Your Director cannot sing or clap rhythms to you; however, you may finger your parts and sing them back, or clap rhythms if requested. You may not play your instrument at any time during this five-minute period. Any infraction (student playing or director singing/clapping) will result in a 5-point deduction from your total sight reading score.”
4. The Adjudicator shall ask if there are any questions, after which he/she shall instruct students to open the folder and the five-minute period shall begin.
5. At the end of the 5-minute period, the Adjudicator reads the following statement:

“While you are performing, your Director may call out rehearsal marks, sing lines with sections — do almost anything to keep the group going. It is acceptable to regroup by stopping and restarting, but a group doing this will NOT score as high as one going from start to finish without stopping.”
6. The group performs the sight-reading selection. During the performance the Adjudicator evaluates the performance using the Sight Reading Performance Rubric.
 - a. Particular attention should be given to the ability of the group to learn while reading, i.e., the correction of an error on a repeat, correction of improper balance through listening, recovery after a trouble spot, etc.
 - b. Refinements such as fine tone, crisp attacks, attention to dynamics, etc., will be considered by the Adjudicator.
 - c. There will be no specified penalty for calling out rehearsal numbers while performing, but the Adjudicator will be aware of an inability of the group to read at sight without such help.
 - d. A group finding it necessary to stop and begin again displays a weakness that must be taken into consideration by the Adjudicator.
7. Upon completion, the Adjudicator may give brief clinical comments to the group regarding their performance. Comments should pertain to highlights of the musical performance (positive and negative), tips related to sight-reading, procedural issues, etc. However, the clinic should not involve a rehearsal of the selection.
8. At the end of the session, the Adjudicator shall instruct students to put the music back in the folder, close the folders and pass them into the room assistant.