

CHORAL SIGHT READING PROCEDURES

- A. **Choral:** After the ensemble is seated the adjudicator will explain the sight-reading procedures and attendants will distribute the music. There will be no piano accompaniment at any time during the sight-reading. All performances will be sung a cappella. The piano/keyboard will ONLY be used by the director to establish tonality and give beginning pitches.

1. **Rhythmic Reading Instructions**

- a. Study Period. The ensemble will be given one minute to silently study the rhythmic example. During this time, they may not perform or practice any of the rhythms, but may talk about the rhythms among themselves.
- b. First Performance – Non-Adjudicated. At the cue of the adjudicator, the ensemble will perform the rhythmic example. The director will set and maintain the indicated tempo of the example. It will be the choir director's decision as to the method of rhythmic presentation (clap and say, say, or sing syllables). It is recommended that the director choose a method(s) that clearly demonstrate mastery of note duration.
- c. At the conclusion of the first performance the director has 1 minute to provide feedback to the ensemble. He/she may not perform any of the rhythms, but may talk about specific rhythmic figures and provide verbal direction for improvement.
- d. Second Performance – Adjudicated. The ensemble will then perform the example for adjudication, with the director setting and maintaining the tempo.

NOTE: The adjudicator has the option to waive the second performance if the first performance is of a Superior level.

2. **Melodic Reading Instructions**

- a. Study Period. The director will be given 5 minutes to study the melodic example with his/her ensemble; the director may elect to use less time. During these 5 minutes, the director will instruct the students as he/she would like, within the following guidelines:
 - 1) There is to be no vocalizing (singing or humming) of the melodic example, by the director or choir, during the five minute study period.
 - 2) The director may choose to have students read silently through the example without vocalizing. To facilitate this internal reading, the director may play the scale and tonic chord of the melodic sight-reading example followed by the beginning pitch for each section at anytime during the 5 minute study period.
 - 3) The establishing of tonality and giving beginning pitches will occur only once during the study period.
 - 4) During the study period the director may indicate key or time signatures. The director may also point out certain difficult passages and talk about them.
 - 5) The director may not LEAD the chorus through the example by any vocalization (singing or humming) or by using Curwen hand signs.
 - 6) The choir may practice the rhythms aloud and the melody silently and may use Curwen hand signs.
- b. First Performance – Non-Adjudicated. At the end of the study period, tonality will be re-established by the director, and each section will be given their beginning pitch. Students may hum their beginning pitch before starting to sing. During this performance the director will conduct the choir and may tap, snap, or clap a steady pulse, but may NOT sing, speak, tap, snap, or clap exact rhythms for the choir.
- c. At the conclusion of the first performance the director is allowed 1 minute to discuss problem areas with the choir, however, there is to be no vocalizing (singing or humming). At this time ONLY the director may use Curwen hand signs as a problem-solving tool.
- d. Second Performance – Adjudicated. Following the first performance and director's comments, tonality will be reestablished and each section will be given their beginning pitch. This second reading should be continuous. At the conclusion of the second reading, the choir will remain seated until all of the music has been handed in and counted.

NOTE: The adjudicator has the option to waive the second performance if the first performance is of a Superior level. If he/she chooses to waive the second reading, or after the second reading if deemed necessary, the adjudicator will give the ensemble feedback, identifying things they did well, areas for improvement and give suggestions for how to improve.

3. For both the rhythmic and melodic sight reading session, if a director, or any member of the ensemble breaks the no singing/clapping rule, the adjudicator is REQUIRED TO DEDUCT 5 POINTS from the total score and the adjudicator will designate that on the score sheet.