

# DISTRICT MMTA AUDITIONS

## Guidelines for Adjudicators

(revised August, 2006)

1. In the days and weeks prior to the auditions, please avoid to the degree reasonably possible meeting with participating teachers or students or hearing participating students perform. Teachers and students should, as far as reasonable, avoid meeting with adjudicators prior to the auditions or taking any action that might bias the adjudicator or have the appearance of doing so.
2. Please permit each contestant to begin the audition with the selection of his/her choice. All contestants should be allowed to play at least some of each work required.
3. Judges will rate contestants 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. **DO NOT USE PLUS OR MINUS RATINGS.** The 4 and 5 should be used only in rare circumstances such as unusual lack of preparation. No winners, runners-up, or honorable mentions are chosen at the District Auditions. Those receiving "1" ratings will proceed to the MMTA State Honors Auditions.
4. The level of difficulty of literature should not be a factor in determining the rating a student receives. When determining the rating given to a student, judges should be guided by the following criteria:
  - a. Is the performance musically convincing and satisfying?
  - b. Does the student convey the intent of the composer as presented in the notation?
  - c. Has the student solved the technical and musical problems presented by the repertoire performed?

Feel free to think of the "1" rating as representing a 90% fulfillment of the above criteria, a "2" rating 80%, etc. Although this is a rather subjective system of rating, we rely on our adjudicators to apply it fairly, yet in an encouraging manner.

5. Generally it is a good idea to withhold ratings until several contestants have been heard in a given category. The ratings you give reflect not only the potential of the talent you hear from the student, but also the expertise of the teacher. We want to recognize the innate ability of students and also the quality of teaching. Our goal is to encourage talented students and raise the quality of teaching throughout the state.
6. Students and teachers consider your comments to be one of the most valuable results of entering the auditions. In your comments, when possible, please use vocabulary and terminology to correspond to the level of students you are judging.
7. The District Chair will provide you with copies of the rules and repertoire requirements for each of the audition categories. Most questions regarding rules and repertoire requirements have been dealt with by the District Chair prior to the actual auditions. However, should any question about rules or repertoire requirements arise, please feel free to discuss it with the District Chair.
8. The MMTA Honors Auditions rules are established by the state Board of Directors. At the district level, only ratings are given; at the state level, a winner, runner-up, and honorable mention(s) are selected in each category.
9. Decisions of the judges are final and may not be questioned by participants, parents, or teachers.

THESE GUIDELINES SHOULD BE GIVEN TO ADJUDICATORS AND ALSO SENT TO THE TEACHERS OF STUDENTS ENTERED IN THE DISTRICT AUDITIONS.