

District and State Concert Music Performance Assessment

The Music Performance Assessment (MPA) is one of the best ways to raise the standards of musicianship in Middle School and High School orchestras around the State of Florida. The Florida Orchestra Association, Incorporated along with the Florida School Music Association provides Music Performance Assessment opportunities in which the students can hear other orchestras, receive constructive comments and be rewarded for their accomplishments and efforts. It is the belief of the Florida Orchestra Association, Incorporated that our growth as individuals is defined in terms of our ability to develop thinking capacities, motor skills, and affective responses. Music is unique in that it has the potential to develop people in all three areas, fostering performance skills, musical creativity and musical response.

1. General Application procedures and information

- A. The application for District and State Concert MPA is located on the FOA website. You can download the form directly to your computer using the "MPA" button. All applications need to be typed. (Note: You can type directly on the application and then print it out.)
- B. No refunds of registration fees for enrollment changes are allowed at either the District or State level. There are no exceptions to this FSMA rule. (*See FSMA Rules and Regulations 3.18*)
- C. Fines for late applications at both the District and State level are to be paid by separate checks and are as follows:
 - 1 to 7 days after postmark deadline = \$200.00
 - No applications will be accepted after the 7th day (05/13/05)

2. District Level Entries

- A. District assessment fees for each orchestra member are set by your District Chairman and are due when you turn in your application. Fees paid to your District must be in the form of a school check, booster check or money order. No personal checks or cash can be accepted.
- B. District deadlines for entry forms and assessments are set by your District. If there is a need for a correction on your application, it will be returned to you, and must be corrected and returned to your District Chairman by the application deadline. Failure to do so may result in fines being levied against your school. (*See section 1 – C.*)

3. State Level Entries

- A. State assessment fees for each orchestra/member are set by the Executive Committee and are posted on the website. Fees for your state Concert MPA are due to the Executive Director when your application is submitted. Fees paid for State MPA must be in the form of a school check, booster check or money order. No purchase orders, personal checks, or cash can be accepted.
- B. State deadlines for entry forms and assessments are set by the Executive Board and are available on the FOA website or from your District Chairman. If there are corrections that need to be made to your application or fees, the entire application will be returned to you. Corrections must be made and the application and fees returned by the postmarked deadline to the Executive Director. Failure to do so will result in a fine being levied against your school. (*See section 1 – C.*)

4. **School Eligibility Requirements for District and State**

A. District

- i. Any school entering District Concert MPA must be a member of the Florida School Music Association in order for your students to participate in this event.
- ii. Directors from multiple school orchestra programs may not combine their orchestras for performance. (*The Executive Committee may grant exceptions.*)
- iii. Any Middle School or High School orchestra may participate in their District Concert MPA as long as they have a minimum of twelve (12) members.

B. State

- i. Any school entering State Concert MPA must be a member of the Florida School Music Association in order for your students to participate in this event.
- ii. Only High School orchestras are allowed to perform at State Concert MPA, providing the following criteria has been met:
 - a. Directors are current members of the Florida Orchestra Association, Inc.
 - b. The orchestra performing at State Concert MPA must consist of the same membership as the orchestra that performed at District Concert MPA.
 - c. The orchestra must have received an overall rating of Superior when all four (4) scores were combined from District MPA. (05/11/07)

5. **Student Eligibility Requirements for District**

- A. Individuals listed on the orchestra application must be bona fide students of the school represented and must be a regular member in that school's music program. Only students on the orchestra's application may perform on stage and in sight-reading. Groups registered as Level E are permitted to use an adult piano accompanist for stage performance only. (05/14/04)
- B. Students at the Middle School level grades 6, 7, and 8 may participate in Concert MPA without any GPA restrictions. (GPA requirements at the Middle School level are up to each individual School District and their Director.)
- C. Students listed on High School entry forms must meet Florida Department of Education statutes and school district eligibility standards at the time of the MPA in which the students are entered or they will not be able to participate.
- D. The completed application certifying the eligibility of students must be signed by the Director and School Principal.
- E. At the high school level, individual students may not participate in more than two (2) orchestras on the same instrument. (05/11/07)

6. **Student Eligibility Requirements for State**

- A. Individuals listed on the orchestra application must be bona fide students of the school represented and must be a regular member in that school's music program. Only students on the orchestra's application may perform on stage and in sight-reading. (05/14/04)
- B. Students in Middle/Junior High School may not participate in State Concert MPA unless they are part of a regularly scheduled class in a combined Junior/Senior High School with one director and are members of a High School orchestra class.
- C. Students listed on High School entry forms must meet Florida Department of Education statutes and school district eligibility standards at the time of the MPA in which the students are entered or they will not participate.
- D. The completed application certifying the eligibility of students must be signed by the Director and School Principal.

- E. At the high school level, individual students may not participate in more than two (2) orchestras on the same instrument. (05/11/07)

7. **Music Requirements for District and State**

A. Classification

- i. The classification level entered by each orchestra is based on the choice of music, and is at the discretion of each Director. In order to participate at State Concert MPA, ensembles must perform at level CS/CF or higher. (05/12/06)
Each Director will choose one of the following classifications to enter:
Class A – Grade V or above literature
Class B – Grade IV literature
Class C – Grade III literature
Class D – Grade II literature
Class E – Grade I literature (*middle schools only*)
- ii. The adjudicators will judge each orchestra on all music performed.
- iii. If compositions selected from the FOA music list are from two classification categories, the easier selection will determine the class entered. (***Note: the difficulty level of each schools selection must be from the same class or one level higher.***)

B. Music Selection: Please make sure you read and understand all of the following criteria.

- i. Each orchestra must prepare three (3) compositions to be performed (varying in key, style, period, and tempo).
- ii. Schools entered in classes AS, BS, CS, DS, and ES must perform two (2) string orchestra compositions from the FOA Required Music List (available on the website). The third selection may come from any source.
- iii. Schools entered in classes AF, BF, CF, and DF must perform two (2) full orchestra compositions from the FOA Required Music List. The third composition may be either full orchestra or string orchestra and may come from any source.
- iv. Broadway show tunes, Pop tunes, and movie themes are not acceptable for an event of this type and will result in an orchestra being disqualified.
- v. Non-published (original music) may be used as the third selection (from any source) for both string and full orchestras.
- vi. Single movements from the same multi-movement composition may not be counted as separated pieces.

C. **Photocopied scores/parts are not permissible unless the director has received in writing a letter from the Publisher (not a vendor) giving permission to photocopy the score for that dated event. Directors must provide a copy of the letter for the judge. Failure to provide written notification from the publisher will result in disqualification of the event.**

- D. High School orchestras are not allowed to repeat music played at either District or State MPA the previous four (4) years. Middle School orchestras are not allowed to repeat music played at District MPA the previous three (3) years.
- E. All Concert MPA applications must have music titles listed. Any application turned in with TBA titles will be considered incomplete and returned to the Director for corrections. (*See section 1, C above*)
- F. Directors may change music titles by using the Title Change Form (on the website). Title Change Form must be sent to the District Chairman or Executive Director depending on the MPA event. Title changes must be postmarked twenty (20)

business days prior to the MPA event.

G. General Information

- i. Each Director will prepare three (3) separate envelopes (one for each judge) containing one score for each selection to be performed on stage with all measures numbered. (*Note: Failure to provide numbered measures will result in disqualification*)
- ii. Each envelope will be identified on the outside with the name of the school, classification entered, and the director's name. **There should be no other markings, personal notes or other school information contained in or on any part of the envelope or music.**
- iii. The stage will be equipped with stands, podium, bass drum, and a set of four (4) timpani. All other percussion equipment needed for full orchestra must be provided by the school performing full orchestra selections.

8. **Warm Up and Stage Performance Procedures District and State Level**

- A. Prior to entering the Warm Up room the Director must turn in the three (3) envelopes (*as mentioned in section 7C, 1 above*) and their **stage seating chart**.
- B. It is recommended that each orchestra in Class E, DF, DS, CF, and CS be given a minimum of thirty (30) minutes to tune and warm up. Orchestras in Class BF, BS, AF, and AS may be given forty (40) minutes to tune and warm up. The Warm Up room may not have any stands and should be away from the stage area as not to interfere with other performing ensembles.
- C. Ten (10) minutes prior to performance, each Director is asked to send one (1) student to help with stage set up. Approximately five (5) minutes before the scheduled performance the orchestra should be ready to move to the stage.
- D. Orchestras performing at District or State Concert MPA will be given a thirty (30) minute performance allotment. Orchestras may request a forty-five (45) minute allotment. This time is to include stage entrance, performance, and stage exit. Any orchestra going over their allotted time will have their overall final score lowered by one rating. (05/13/05)
- E. Directors should allow for a short pause (less than forty-five (45) seconds) between each piece to let the judges finish writing. The lead judge will indicate when to begin the next selection.
- F. Once an orchestra's stage performance is finished the orchestra should move quickly and quietly to the Sight Reading room. (See section 10)

9. **Scheduling of Concert Performances**

A. District Level

- i. Dates for Concert MPA are set by each District at their Spring meeting.
- ii. Scheduling procedures for each event are determined by each District Chairman. It is recommended the orchestras be given thirty (30) minutes for warm up and performance. Orchestras may request a forty-five (45) minute performance. (05/13/05) (However due to budgetary constraints of each District, that may not be possible.)
- iii. Schedules should be sent out, or be available to each school participating at least two (2) weeks prior to the event.

B. State Level

- i. Dates for State Concert MPA are set by the Executive Committee and are published on the FOA web site at the beginning of each school year.
- ii. Schools will be scheduled each day based on classification, distance traveled as well as size and number of orchestras. Special requests for performance

times may be honored on a first come first served basis providing there is a written request submitted with the orchestra application, and that the request is signed by the Director and Principal.

- iii. Schedules will be available on the FOA website two (2) weeks prior to the event.

10. **Sight Reading Requirements for District and State**

A. District Level

- i. Sight Reading at District Concert MPA is ~~not~~ mandatory at ~~this time~~ for Middle Schools. (05/11/07)
- ii. Sight Reading at District Concert MPA is mandatory for All High Schools. The Sight Reading score will be added into the performance score to arrive at an overall rating. (See chart below)
- iii. Each orchestra will Sight Read a composition one (1) classification lower than the classification entered for their performance. (Class BF on stage would sight read Class CF)
- iv. The District will be provided sight reading music from the State organization. (05/13/05)
- v. The Sight Reading room will have stands, bass drum and timpani.

B. State Level

- i. Sight Reading at State Concert MPA is mandatory for all orchestras and will take place immediately following their concert performance. Sight Reading scores will be averaged into the performance score. (See below)
- ii. Each orchestra will Sight Read one (1) classification lower than the classification entered for their performance. (Class BF on stage would sight read Class CF)
- iii. The Music Committee of FOA will select the sight reading material to be used at State MPA.
- iv. The Sight Reading room will have stands, bass drum and timpani.

11. **Sight Reading Procedures for District and State Level**

- A. Upon entering the Sight Reading room the judge will give the score to be sight read to the Director.
- B. The judge will then ask the students to place their folders under their seats as he/she explains the Sight Reading procedures to the orchestra. The Sight Reading envelopes will also be passed out to the orchestra.
- C. When all envelopes are handed out, the judge will indicate to the Director that he/she has five (5) minutes to study and discuss the music with the orchestra. The Director may do anything except demonstrate any part of the music on an instrument, or have the students play their parts. The judge will notify the Director when one (1) minute is left and will call time after the five (5) minutes have elapsed.
- D. Once the orchestra begins playing, the Director can only use his/her hands or baton to give meaningful conducting gestures. **(Note: The Director cannot sing, whistle, tap on the stand, yell out rehearsal marks, or call out any other instructions during the performance.)**
- E. The judge will then instruct the orchestra members to pass in the Sight Reading envelopes. Once it is verified that all music has been retrieved the orchestra will be dismissed from the Sight Reading room. *(Unless the orchestra has a Student Conductor)*

12. Student Conductor at District and State Level

- A. Student Conductors will take the podium immediately after the orchestra's Sight Reading is completed.
- B. Student Conductors need have two (2) original scores with measures numbered. (One score for the judge and the other for themselves.)
- C. Memorization of the Student Conducting score is not required.
- D. Results for the Student Conductor do not affect the orchestra's Sight Reading rating or the overall rating.
- E. Student Conductors receiving a Superior will receive a medal.

13. Results

The results of each school's Concert MPA participation at both the District and State level are published annually by FSMA with copies of this publication sent to all member schools.

A. District Level

- i. Overall results for Orchestras at the District level will be as follows: Superior (S), Excellent (E), Good (G), Fair (F), Poor (P), Comments Only (CO) and Disqualification (DQ). See chart below for computation and rating standards.
- ii. District level rules infractions will be dealt with by the District Chairman on an individual basis.
- iii. The posting of results during District Concert MPA is at the discretion of each Districts membership.

B. State Level

- i. Results for Orchestras at State will be as follows: Superior (S), Excellent (E), Good (G), Fair (F), Poor (P), and Disqualification (DQ). See chart below for computation and rating standards.
- ii. Rules infractions at the state level (both concert and Solo & Ensemble) will be dealt with by either the FOA President, Past-President, or President-Elect. In the event that none of these offices can be present at the event, the FOA President will appoint a voting member of the Executive Board to serve in this capacity. (05/14/04)
- iii. Any infractions of the rules at the State level may result in disqualification of an event.
- iv. Comments Only are not allowed at the State level as per 5/16/03 Board motion.

14. Standards for Performance

Superior: Outstanding performance with no serious flaws.

Excellent: Performance generally good, but lacking in small details of refinement.

Good: Fairly good performance, but some overall weaknesses.

Fair: Performance lacks many basic essentials of tone, intonation, balance, phrasing and accuracy of note values.

Poor: Performance poor in most respects.

AVERAGE OF THREE PERFORMANCE RATINGS IN EVERY POSSIBLE COMBINATION

Sup	Exc	Good	Fair	Poor
SSS	SEE	SGG	SFF	SPP
SSE	SEG	SGF	SFP	EPP
SSG	SEP	EGG	EFF	GPP
SSF	SEP	EGF	EFP	FPP
SSP	EEE	EGP	GFF	PPP
	EEG	GGG	GFP	
	EEF	GGF	FFF	
	EEP	GGP	FFP	

FINAL RATING

(Combined Stage Performance and Sight Reading Ratings)

Sup		Exc		Good		Fair		Poor	
<u>P</u>	<u>SR</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>SR</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>SR</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>SR</u>	<u>P</u>	<u>SR</u>
S	S	S	G	E	F	G	P	P	F
S	E	S	F	E	P	F	G	P	P
		S	P	G	E	F	F		
		E	S	G	G	F	P		
		E	E	G	F	P	S		
		E	G	F	S	P	E		
		G	S	F	E	P	G		