

# GENERAL GUIDELINES

## MMTA DISTRICT EVALUATIONS AND PRE-COLLEGE FINALS

### I. DISTRICT EVALUATIONS

#### A. Requirements & Scheduling

Teachers entering students in the MMTA Pre-College Evaluations must be members of the Mississippi Music Teachers Association and Music Teachers National Association. Membership dues must be paid by the date established by the MMTA Board to be eligible to enter students in any Evaluations or Competitions. Teachers entering students must work at District Evaluations or pay a fee to be determined by the district. Teachers who have students in Finals must work a minimum of ½ day or pay \$35 or the fee determined by the MMTA Board. Teachers will provide a list of students who will play at State Finals to the V.P. of Pre-College Competitions.

District Evaluations will be held the first and second Saturdays in April. If this conflicts with Easter, the Evaluation dates will be scheduled at the discretion of the V. P. of Pre-College Evaluations, with District Evaluations in March and/or April, and Finals in May. Dates for Evaluations and Finals should be confirmed in May for the following year. Districts will be divided into two groups with one group holding evaluations on the first designated Saturday, the other on the later date.

**Group A:** Goodman, Hattiesburg, Jackson, Meridian, and Tupelo will audition first in even-numbered years.

**Group B:** Columbus/Starkville, Ellisville, Gulf Coast, Oxford, and Vicksburg will audition first in odd-numbered years.

Students who cannot attend MMTA Evaluations in their own district may participate in a different district. No other make-ups are allowed.

#### B. Guidelines for District Evaluations

Each entrant shall be judged by a qualified adjudicator who will give a written evaluation and a numerical rating. Evaluation shall include commendations for elements well-done, and constructive comments where attention is needed. Ratings are SUPERIOR (90-100), EXCELLENT (80-89), GOOD (70-79), NEEDS IMPROVEMENT (60 – 69). There will be no scores below 60. Judges will be carefully instructed in procedures prior to beginning adjudications.

*Performance:* Repertoire requirements are listed separately for each instrument and level under “Requirements.” Time limits are strictly observed.

Vocal and Piano students are required to have repertoire memorized.

Memorization is optional for Brass, Guitar, Strings and Woodwind students.

*Sonata/Sonatina:* Judges will hear entire sonata or sonatina consisting of at least 2 movements.

Memorization required of pianists.

*Theme & Variations:* Judges will hear entire work. Memorization required of pianists.

*Ensemble:* Students will perform one duet, duo or other ensemble composition with no repeats. Each ensemble must enter the level of the student who is in the highest Grade/Level. Memorization is NOT required.

**DISTRICT EVALUATIONS** (continued)

*Technical Skills:* Judges will listen to designated requirements from each area within the allotted time on Adjudication sheet. Time limit includes writing of comments.

*Sight Reading:* (Optional for Voice) Judges will listen to three (3) short examples provided by V.P. of Evaluations. Testing of Sight Reading should not exceed five (5) minutes, including writing of comments.

*Written Theory:* (Optional for Voice) Students in the same Level will be tested as a group whenever possible. Students may repeat the test at the same level as long as they are permitted by grade in school to remain on that level.

**C. Solo Performance Time Limits at Evaluations:**

**Piano**

Prep (grades 3 & below): *4 minutes*  
Levels 4, 5, & 6: *5 minutes*  
Levels 7, 8: *8 minutes*  
Levels 9 & 10: *10 minutes*  
Levels 11 & 12: *15 minutes*

**Sonata/Sonatina** (consisting of at least 2 movements, all movements)  
All levels: *10 minutes*

**Theme & Variations:** (entire set of variations)  
All levels: *8 minutes*

**Ensemble:** All levels: *5 minutes*

**Brass & Woodwinds**

Grades 7 & Below: *6 minutes*  
Grades 8 & 9: *10 minutes*  
Grades 10, 11 & 12: *15 minutes*

**Strings – Solo Performance**

Grades 2 & below: *4 minutes*  
Grades 3, 4, 5 & 6: *5 minutes*  
Grades 7 & 8: *8 minutes*  
Grades 9 & 10: *12 minutes*  
Grades 11 & 12: *15 minutes*

**Guitar -- Solo Performance**

Grades 3 & below: *4 minutes*  
Grades 4, 5, & 6: *5 minutes*  
Grades 7 & 8: *8 minutes*

**Voice – Solo Performance**

Grade 9: *8 minutes*  
Grade 10: *10 minutes*  
Grade 11: *12 minutes*  
Grade 12: *15 minutes*

**II. SPECIAL INFORMATION**

**A. Levels/Grades:** Students are encouraged to participate at their school grade level. Students who have skipped a grade level academically may choose to enter at that grade level or at the level that their birth year reflects.

**B. Non-Competitive:** “Non-competitive” students are those who participate at any level lower than their grade in school. Their evaluation scores are based on the student’s performance, regardless of their level or years of study, but they are *not eligible* to perform at State Finals. Non-competitive students will receive adjudication forms and a certificate.

**SPECIAL INFORMATION** (continued)

**C. Accelerated Levels:** Students who enter a level *higher* than their grade in school are eligible for Finals, but if they win that level they must move up a level the following year to be eligible for Finals in that year.

**D. Finals Winners** must move up a level the following year. A student may not be a winner at the same level for two years, with the exception of the Prep (grades 3 and below) and Level 12. These advancement rules apply to Solo Performance only.

**E. Special Needs:** "Special Needs" applies to a student who needs special exceptions to the "General Guidelines." A student of any age may require assistance in reading the written theory test or need more time to complete the test. A physical condition may require special considerations such as wheelchair accessibility, or scheduling. The District Chair will work with the student's teacher to determine how MMTA can best serve these students. "Special Needs" students performing at their "grade level" may participate in Finals if their scores meet eligibility requirements. No words or markings will appear on adjudication forms or certificates that indicate "special needs."

**F. Multiple Ensemble Registrations:** To register in more than one Ensemble Division, a student must be eligible for EACH Division entered, and play *different* repertoire with a new partner.

**G. Duplication:** Students performing in Sonata/Sonatina and/or Theme & Variations Divisions may NOT program any part of those works in Solo Performance at District Evaluations or State Finals.

**H. Divisions:** Students entering Sonata/Sonatina, Ensemble and Theme & Variations will be grouped into Divisions, according to their level.

***Piano Only:***

- Division A: Levels 3 & below & 4
- Division B: Levels 5 & 6
- Division C: Levels 7 & 8
- Division D: Levels 9 & 10
- Division E: Levels 11 & 12

***Others:***

- Division A: Level 3 & below
- Division B: Levels 4, 5 & 6
- Division C; Levels 7 & 8
- Division D: Levels 9 & 10
- Division E: Levels 11 & 12

**I. Repertoire Changes:** Students will be allowed to change repertoire up to 7 days prior to the **District Evaluations**. If they choose to do so, it is the *teacher's responsibility* to provide a replacement application 7 days prior to District Evaluations. The new application must be in the District Chair's hands 7 days prior to the Evaluations entered. **Students may NOT change repertoire between the Evaluations and State Finals**. If a student changes repertoire at that time, he/she will be declared *ineligible* for competition but will be allowed to play and receive a rating and certificate. Original repertoire will appear in the State Finals Recital Book.

**J. Recourse Policy:** If an error in Grading or Computation is found on either Written Theory or Technical Skills the teacher must notify the District Evaluations Chair within 24 hours of the end of the Evaluations, with the exception of students playing outside their district. Otherwise, there can be no recourse for errors made. When students play outside their district, the chair must allow time for teacher's receipt of the student's evaluation forms.

**K. Deadlines:** Published entry deadlines for Evaluations must be adhered to without exception. There will be no refunds in case of cancellation.

**SPECIAL INFORMATION** (continued)

**L. Outstanding Achievement Award:** This award recognizes the pre-college student who has demonstrated excellence in music and perseverance through participation in the MMTA Pre-college Student Evaluations. Applicants must have been *eligible* for MMTA Finals eight different years (not consecutive). Five of these years must be in Solo Performance. State eligibility in multiple categories within the same year will count as ONE year. Recipients shall receive an engraved plaque and a monetary award at Finals. A student whose *first year* of participation in Evaluations is as a Non-Competitive student may apply that successful participation toward the OAA if their scores meet Finals requirements. This would apply to a 4<sup>th</sup> grader who enters at Level 3, or a 5<sup>th</sup> grader who enters at Level 3 or Level 4 their first year.

Procedure: Teachers recommending students for this award must submit to the District Evaluations Chair the completed application and documentation of student's seven years of eligibility no later than the date of the current year's Evaluations. (Copies of Adjudication sheets, Certificates, SSRR, or State Finals programs are acceptable.) The District Chair will send the application and documentation to the V.P. of Pre-College Performances with the results of the current year's Evaluations. Students may receive this award only once.

**III. PRE-COLLEGE FINALS**

**A. Date:** The Pre-College Finals will usually be the first weekend in May. Refer to the MMT for the exact date and place.

**B. Eligibility:** To be eligible for Finals, students must achieve the required ratings for their level as stated for each performance category and/or medium entered in the District Evaluations. Students must receive a Superior rating in various combinations of the 4 basic categories: Solo Performance, Technical Skills, Written Theory and Sight-reading. Requirements to be eligible for Finals for each level and medium are listed below.

**PIANO:**

Level 3: Superior in Performance, Technical Skills & Written Theory.  
Levels 4, 5, & 6: Superior in all four Basic Categories.  
Levels 7, 8 & 9: Superior in Performance + 2 other basics.  
Levels 10, 11 & 12: Superior in Performance + 1 other basic.

**STRINGS:**

All Levels: Superior in Performance + 1 other basic.

**VOICE:**

All Levels: Superior in Performance.

**BRASS & WOODWINDS:**

Grades 6, 7 & 8: Superior in Performance + 1 other basic.  
Grades 9, 10, 11 & 12: Superior in Performance + 2 other basics.

**GUITAR:**

Division B: Superior in Performance + 2 other basics.  
Division C: Superior in Performance + 1 other basic.

**SONATA/SONATINA:** Superior in Sonata/Sonatina + 1 basic.

**THEME & VARIATIONS:** Superior in Theme & Variations + 1 basic.

**ENSEMBLE:** Superior in Ensemble + 1 basic.

**C. Solo Performance Time Limits:**

Students in Solo Performance will perform two contrasting pieces as indicated on the Evaluations Application. If no repertoire is checked, the first two compositions listed will be programmed. If repertoire exceeds the time limit, the student will be stopped by the monitor. Teachers and students must be aware that *both pieces are to be heard* by the judge(s) within the time limit allowed that level. Otherwise, the student will be ineligible for an award. Students are advised to play the shorter piece first. Taking repeats is discouraged. A Timekeeper will stop any student exceeding the limit, but students stopped during the second piece *will not* be penalized.

**PIANO:**

Levels 3, 4, 5 & 6	<i>3 minutes</i>
Levels 7 & 8	<i>5 minutes</i>
Levels 9 & 10	<i>8 minutes</i>
Levels 11 & 12	<i>10 minutes</i>

**STRINGS:**

Division A	<i>4 minutes</i>
Division B	<i>5 minutes</i>
Division C	<i>6 minutes</i>
Division D	<i>8 minutes</i>
Division E	<i>12 minutes</i>
Division F	<i>15 minutes</i>

**VOICE:**

Levels 9 & 10	<i>8 minutes</i>
Levels 11 & 12	<i>10 minutes</i>

**BRASS & WOODWINDS:**

Levels 7 & below	<i>6 minutes</i>
Levels 8 & 9	<i>10 minutes</i>
Levels 10, 11 & 12	<i>15 minutes</i>

**GUITAR:**

Division A	<i>4 minutes</i>
Division B	<i>5 minutes</i>
Division C	<i>8 minutes</i>

**SONATA/SONATINA:** *10 minutes*

At State Finals the student will *play only two contrasting movements*. (No repeats except for da capo.) If more than two movements are played, the student will be disqualified from the Sonata/Sonatina competition. Students eligible in Sonata/Sonatina may not program any movement of the Sonata/Sonatina for the Solo Performance.

**THEME & VARIATIONS:** *8 minutes*

Student will play a complete Theme & Variations, no repeats. However, should the composition exceed the time limit, the student may choose contrasting variations that will fill the allotted time. No portion of this composition may be programmed for Solo Performance.

**ENSEMBLE:** *5 minutes*

Students will perform one duet, duo or other ensemble composition with no repeats. Each ensemble must enter the level of the student who is in the highest Grade/Level.

**D. FINALS REPERTOIRE RESTRICTIONS:**

Students are not allowed to use the same repertoire which they performed at previous Evaluations or Finals. They must perform the repertoire indicated on their application form. In the event of a discrepancy with the program booklet, the announcer will verify the piece(s) with the Workroom before awards are presented. If the student has actually performed the wrong piece he/she will be disqualified from receiving an award.

**E. ACCOMPANISTS:**

Students whose pieces require accompaniment may provide their own accompanist, or MMTA will provide contact information of available accompanists for State Finals at the request of the teacher.

**F. MMTA FINALS AWARDS**

**MEDALS:** Medals shall be awarded to the winner(s) in each Level or Division recital at Finals. The student receiving the highest averaged score in each Level/Division recital shall be declared winner. In case of a tie, duplicate awards shall be given. (Pre-College Concerto and Original Composition winners' medals will be presented at the MMTA State Conference.)

**RIBBONS:** Ribbons shall be awarded to all students who receive an average of 95 or higher. Scores above 95 will be ranked in descending numerical order, with ribbon awards being given to Second, Third and Fourth places. All other students who are non-winners, but receive a rating of 95 or higher in their performance shall be awarded Honorable Mention. Students whose scores tie will receive duplicate awards.

**CERTIFICATES:** Certificates of Participation shall be awarded to students who participate in any category of the Pre-College Finals.

**PLAQUES:** An engraved plaque shall be awarded to the student(s) who receive(s) the highest composite score in the four basic categories for each level.

**360 (270) CERTIFICATES:** Students who receive a composite score of 360 or higher in the local auditions will receive a special Certificate at MMTA Finals. Students in Level 3 will receive Certificates for 270 or higher.

**OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT AWARD:** See requirements under District Evaluations.

#### IV. JUDGES' GUIDELINES: MMTA Pre-College Finals.

Students performing at Finals have already participated in District Evaluations where they were judged Superior in Performance for their event and met other stringent qualifying tests which vary by level and medium.

At Finals, one judge shall adjudicate each recital in Guitar, Brass & Woodwinds, Strings, Voice, or Piano. For Solo Finals events, each student must perform the two memorized selections designated on their Evaluations Application Form, within a specified time period, which varies by level and medium.

Judges shall give each student a numerical grade (1-100). The student with the highest grade will be declared winner in each Level and Division. In case of a tie, duplicate awards will be given. Students who receive a grade of 95 or higher will be ranked 2nd, 3rd, 4th Place, or Honorable Mention in descending order from the winner. Certificates of Participation will be awarded to each student who plays in any category of Finals.

Score sheets will be collected at the conclusion of each recital and delivered to the workroom for ranking and record keeping.

*Sonatina/Sonata* division performances will perform only two movements.

*Theme and Variations* must be played in its entirety. (Should the Theme & Variations exceed the time limit, the student may choose contrasting variations to fill the approximate time limit.)

*Ensemble* entrants are *not* required to play by memory.

Each performance will be timed; a timekeeper will stop any student exceeding the limit, but student will NOT be penalized. However, a student *must play at least portions of two selections* to be eligible for an award. Judges should note on scoring sheet if only one piece was performed. Likewise, a student playing three movements of a sonata/sonatina will be ineligible for an award. The purpose of our State Finals is to support and encourage music study by every student in the recitals. Please keep in mind that you are adjudicating Pre-college students. Only a small number will be of outstanding ability and perhaps continue to advanced music study. Many are not musically gifted but demonstrate diligent preparation. We seek to recognize and reward their commitment by presenting several awards in each recital.