

Article XVI. Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessment

Section 1. The Purpose of ABA Music Performance Assessment

The purpose of the Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessment is to give bands the opportunity to be evaluated and critiqued by a panel of qualified adjudicators. The panel shall consist of three (3) concert adjudicators, with one (1) being the Head Adjudicator, and one (1) sight-reading adjudicator. The head adjudicator will be assigned to each MPA site by the ABA President and VP/President-elect. The remaining stage adjudicators and the sight-reading adjudicator for each site will be contracted by the District Chairmen. All Music Performance Assessment Adjudicators must be selected from the approved ABA Music Performance Assessment Adjudicators List.

Article XVI Section 2 Classification of Bands

- a.** *For the purposes of the ABA Music Performance Assessment, bands will be classified based on the level of the director's chosen selection:*
- i. Classifications*
- Level VI Bands will play a composition from the Level VI ABA Cumulative List*
 - Level V Bands will play a composition from the Level V ABA Cumulative List*
 - Level IV Bands will play a composition from the Level IV ABA Cumulative List*
 - Level III Bands will play a composition from the Level III ABA Cumulative List*
 - Level II Bands will play a composition from the Level II ABA Cumulative List*
 - Level I Bands will play a composition from the Level I ABA Cumulative List*
- ii. Sight Reading*
- Bands Classified as Level VI will sight read at UIL Sight Reading Level VI*
 - Bands Classified as Level V will sight read at UIL Sight Reading Level V*
 - Bands Classified as Level IV will sight read at UIL Sight Reading Level IV*
 - Bands Classified as Level III will sight read at UIL Sight Reading Level III*
 - Bands Classified as Level II will sight read at UIL Sight Reading Level II*
 - Bands Classified as Level I will sight read at UIL Sight Reading Level I*
- b.** *From the pieces chosen by the director for performance at Music Performance Assessment, one composition must be from the approved Alabama Bandmasters Association (ABA) Cumulative Music List.*
- c.** *If a band plays more than one composition off the ABA Cumulative Music Lists, bands will be classified by the director's chosen selection.*
- d.** *Any band may choose to sight read at a higher level. This request must be made at the MPA check-in table before their scheduled warm-up time.*
- e.** *Middle and Junior High School Bands that include no 9th graders will sight read at UIL Sight Reading Level 1.*

Section 2. Classification of Bands cont.

- i. No student may perform in multiple bands.
- j. An exception may be requested if the student(s) performing in multiple bands are officially enrolled in each of the band classes corresponding to the bands with which they are to perform. Directors may request an exception by submitting official school rosters with an administrator's signature to the Vice-President for approval no later than the third Friday in January. If approved, this request is valid for one year only and must be requested again for any exceptions during subsequent years.
- k. *If a director has a special need for a student playing in a second band, that director shall then appear before the Board of Directors at the AMEA In-Service meeting. The director shall present the facts and circumstances prompting the request to the Board at that time. The Board will decide whether to grant the request. The Board shall notify the director immediately after the meeting if possible, but if the situation warrants further study, the director shall be notified within seven (7) days.*

Section 3. Procedures

- a. *A band may play a maximum of twenty-five (25) minutes performing time. A program which consists of fewer than three selections must be at least twenty (20) minutes performing time. Any band which exceeds its allotted time will not be eligible to receive a "1" rating. A band playing a program of two (2) selections may request an extension of performing time, not to exceed ten (10) minutes. Requests for time extensions at ABA Music Performance Assessment must be received by the President for approval at least 20 days prior to the first day of the Assessment. No performing time extensions will be granted for programs consisting of three selections.*
- b. *Every band that performs for ratings at the Music Performance Assessment (MPA), must play at least one selection from the cumulative list for the band's classification. Directors may request a one year exception from this requirement by submitting the non-list request form found on the website no later than the third Friday in January. If approval is granted, the piece may be performed as a list piece for the current year only. Approval does not automatically place the piece on the cumulative list.*
- c. *Electronic instruments may be used if they are included in the score by the composer or with approval from the Chairman of the Music Selection Committee (Vice President). An electronic piano and necessary hardware, provided by the band performing, will be allowed to be used to substitute for a piano / celesta / harp part that is included in the score by the composer.*
- d. *Fees for ABA Music Performance Assessment shall be as found in the Alabama Bandmasters Association Board Policy Fee Schedule. ABA will provide recordings of adjudicators' comments. It is the director's responsibility to submit registration and fees to the District Chairman for the ABA Music Performance Assessment.*
- e. *The District Chairman will appoint an adult Stage Manager (who will be paid if necessary) and a Stage Crew for ABA Music Performance Assessment. The Stage Manager will be charged with maintaining the Assessment schedule. He will maintain efficient movement of bands from warm-up room(s) to the stage and from the stage. The Stage Manager and stage crew will set up the stage for each band according to a seating chart submitted by the band director with his application. (The band may take approximately one minute to adjust stands and chairs after being seated.) The band director will be responsible for his band entering and leaving the stage within a scheduled 30 minute time limit. Performing time will be determined by totaling the duration of each piece played. Stage time will be the total time the band is on the stage starting when the Stage Manager declares the stage prepared until the last student leaves the stage.*

- f. *The President has the authority to set a postmark deadline for submitting registrations for Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessment up to 30 days prior to the first day of the Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessment. Those not complying will not be allowed to participate in the ABA Music Performance Assessment.*
- g. *The Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessments will be held between the third Monday of February and the last day of March. There will be one (1) or more sites in each District. The dates and performance venues are to be selected by each District Chairman. Registration will be handled by the District Chairman. Exceptions for performing out of District may be granted by the ABA President. Considerations will include the following: Distance/Time (two hours travel time – change must improve travel time by one hour), scheduling difficulties, and emergencies/weather.*
- h. *MPA procedures will allow directors to enter bands for comments only. Registration fees will remain the same for comments only bands.*
 - 1) *Only students who are enrolled in their high school, junior high school, or middle school band are eligible to participate in the Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessment.*
 - 2) *Students who are being home schooled under guidelines established by the State Department of Education may participate in the Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessments as long as they meet the following prerequisite: Membership in an instrumental ensemble that meets on a regular basis to rehearse and perform traditional band literature, whose conductor meets all membership requirements of the Alabama Bandmasters Association.*

Section 4. Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessment Sight-Reading

- a) *The sight-reading portion of the Assessment immediately follows the concert performance. Bands which enter the ABA Music Performance Assessment must sight-read in their respective classifications. Comments only bands will be able to sight-read at the discretion of their director.*
- b) *All band members participating in the concert performance must be present and participate in the sight-reading assessment with the exception of percussion that may not be needed.*
- c) *Each band is required to sight-read a concert selection. The director of the band will have a period of time for score study and a period of time for instruction as set by the board of directors. Once the sight-reading folders have been distributed there can be no musical sound generated by any instrument during the instruction period. EXCEPTION: The tympani may tune.*
- d) *Only one (1) band director will be allowed to give instructions during the instruction period.*
- e) *Immediately after the instruction period, and prior to the performance, each band may play a brief warm-up to include any of the following:*
 - (1) Long tones*
 - (2) Scales*
 - (3) Chorale**This warm-up period will not exceed one (1) minute.*
- f) *In the event the director elects to stop the sight-reading performance, it must be for the sole purpose of designating a starting point. The director may not give further instruction.*

g) No recording devices of any kind are allowed in the sight-reading room.

h) One adjudicator shall be used for all entries and his/her rating will be final.

i) No audience is permitted in the sight-reading room except at the discretion of the adjudicator and with the permission of the director whose group is sight-reading.

j) After the playing of the selection, the adjudicator sheet of the group will be sent to the registration desk. The rating will be recorded and the sheet will be given to the band director.

Section 5. Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessment Ratings

Ratings shall be on a point system as follows:

Division I from one (1) adjudicator = 5 points

Division II from one (1) adjudicator = 4 points

Division III from one (1) adjudicator = 3 points

Division IV from one (1) adjudicator = 2 points

18 to 20 points - Division I or Superior

14 to 17 points - Division II or Excellent

10 to 13 points - Division III or Good

8 to 9 points - Division IV or Fair

All four adjudicator ratings are considered of equal value with the following exceptions:

- 1) No high school band, regardless of its point score, may receive an overall rating which is more than one division above its sight reading score, and all bands are required to sight read at the ABA Music Performance Assessment. Each band will sight read a concert selection.
- 2) In cases of I-I-III and II-II-IV ratings in concert one point will be added to a band's overall score.

Section 6. Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessment Awards

Plaques, trophies, and medals may be ordered following a band's Alabama Bandmasters Association Music Performance Assessment performance. All participating bands are eligible to order the participation plaque. Only those bands receiving an overall Superior (I) rating are eligible to order trophies and medals. All orders for ABA Music Performance Assessment medals must be sent to the Executive Secretary with the official ABA awards voucher, and must be accompanied by a check made payable to the Alabama Bandmasters Association, or a school purchase order. All orders for trophies and plaques must be completed through the contracted company. No outside company may be used to create ABA Music Performance Assessment trophies and plaques.