



## **Music Performance Assessment**

### **Sight Reading Procedures**

The following document was written to provide clarity and better understanding of the procedural expectations for ABA State MPA sight reading adjudicators. ABA recognizes that each adjudicator will approach the sight reading procedure differently, but adhering to these basic procedural steps will assure that directors, students, and adjudicators experience the best possible outcomes.

#### **When the Conductor Enters the Room:**

- Approach the conductor with a professional greeting. Refrain from personal conversations with conductors.
- Allow the conductor to arrange the room (within reason) to suit their ensemble's needs.
- Verify with the Conductor the UIL Sight reading Level they are performing and remind them of the "General Instruction" time allowed for their Level. This needs to also be verified with the Official Program or with a list provided by the District Chair.
- Remind the conductor of the timpani pitches (have them on the board if possible). Also remind the conductor that the timpani needs to be tuned prior to the beginning of the general explanation period. A conductor / assistant conductor may assist with timpani tuning, if necessary. Once the explanation begins no one other than the primary conductor explaining the selection will be allowed to assist the timpanist with tuning or any other form of instruction.
- Remind the conductor of the percussion requirements of the selection to be performed.
- At this point, it is acceptable to provide the conductor with the score for study. He/She may not make any markings in the score in preparation of the performance. However, the use of paper clips, sticky notes, etc. is acceptable if they are removed immediately following the performance.
- Introduce yourself to the students and welcome them to the Sight reading Room. If the group is accompanied into the room by any other adults (administrators, staff, etc.), remind those visitors that no videos are to be taken of the sight reading procedure or group's performance. If a school has more than one band directed by multiple directors that will read the same level sight reading, only the primary conductor for that band will be allowed in the room.
- With the assistance of room helpers, pass out the music folders.

- Have the students open their folder and remove the parts. Verify that students have the correct part, including part assignment, correct key, and correct clef for their instrument. Have the students turn the music over so it is not available for viewing. The adjudicator should then solve any problems that may exist.
- During the General Instruction Period, the conductor may instruct as he or she sees fit, including singing phrases, demonstrating rhythmic figures or reviewing ritards and fermatas with singing and/or counting. However, the conductor may not perform the music on any instrument or allow students to audibly reproduce any part of the music in any fashion, with the exception of singing. “Breath accent” / sizzling is permissible. However, no pitches can be produced from any instrument. (specifically flutes)
- Immediately following the General Instruction period and prior to the sight-reading performance music will be turned face down. Each performing group may then play or sing a brief warm-up of no more than 1 minute. The warm-up may not reproduce rhythmic or melodic excerpts from the sight reading piece.
- Remind the conductor that no further instruction or verbal communication of any kind is permitted during the performance, and that he/she is not allowed to count, sing, tap, call out measure numbers, or persist in any other non-customary conducting techniques.
- If the conductor must stop the ensemble during the performance, the only acceptable instruction is the indication of a new starting point.

### **At the Conclusion of the Performance:**

- Thank the ensemble and ask them to return the music to the correct folder. You may give short feedback to the group, as long as it does not exceed the group’s time. Adjudicators are not to “rehearse “or otherwise instruct the group on their performance.
- Remind them to be sure that they take all their personal items with them as they leave the room.
- Sight reading ratings sheets are to be sealed in an envelope and sent to the District Chair, or his/her designee for recording.