
SCMEA Orchestra Division

Rules Governing Concert Performance Assessment

Sponsorship is the same as for All-State/Region Orchestras:

All students must be enrolled for 1 unit of credit in their school string orchestra class if the same is offered at the school they attend. Only students enrolled in the school orchestra class are eligible to participate.

Sponsorship for Orchestra Division activities, including Concert Performance Assessment, is the responsibility of the school string orchestra class teacher. The Concert Performance Assessment is an orchestra event for participants that are members of an orchestra directed by a sponsoring SCMEA member.

All sponsoring string teachers will serve as chaperones for their students at all activities: NO EXCEPTIONS. Adequate supervision for nonperforming students when directors are working with other groups is imperative.

1. All performing groups must submit registration and have paid all fees to the Concert Performance Assessment State Chair by the registration deadline. A late fee of \$25 will be assessed after the registration deadline. Information concerning deadlines and registration can be found on the www.scorchestra.net website.
2. Directors will be notified of their region's Concert Performance Assessment itinerary mid-February. Directors will be expected to submit information (Performance Assessment Teacher Form) requested by the Region Site Chair. This form can be found on the www.scorchestra.net website.
3. Concert Performance Assessment performing groups shall consist of nine or more performers. Smaller groups should register for Solo and Ensemble.
4. All students must be enrolled in their school string or orchestra class if such a class is offered in the school they attend.
5. The director must indicate performance level at the time of registration. If the director indicates a "split level," sight reading will be designated by the higher level.

6. Directors must present **two** original scores for each performance piece at the registration table upon arrival at the orchestra performance assessment site. Scores must have measures numbered. Photocopies will not be accepted unless accompanied by a “permission for use” letter from the publisher.

7. No adults may perform with the group, except for piano or percussion accompaniment.

8. Ensembles shall perform two varied selections, one must be selected from the graded music list. The list is available at <http://www.scmea.net/divisions/orchestra-division/> . If neither selection can be found on an approved graded music list, director must submit an “Application to Perform Repertoire not Found on Approved State Lists” form found on the website by the application deadline.

9. Performing groups have the option of receiving a rating or registering for comments only. The Concert Performance Assessment Evaluation form can be viewed at <http://www.scmea.net/divisions/orchestra-division/> .

Ratings for Performance Assessment :

- I. Superior- Trophy or Plaque with “Superior”
- II. Excellent- Trophy or Plaque with “Excellent”
- III. Good- Trophy or Plaque with “Good”
- IV. Fair- Comments Only
- V. Poor- Comments Only

10. Groups will be allowed 20 minutes for warm-up and 20 minutes for performance of the concert portion (entry, performance, and exit).

11. Groups will receive the Performance Assessment Evaluation Form and recorded commentary from each judge.

12. The decisions of the judges are final.

13) In the event of a violation of one of the Rules Governing Concert Performance Assessment during the concert portion of the event, the judges will reach a consensus as to the severity of the violation and determine whether a warning should be given or if the group should be disqualified. In the event of a disqualification, the group’s assessment will convert to a “Comments Only” assessment and will not receive a final rating.

SCMEA Orchestra Division

Rules Governing CPA Sight Reading

1. Depending on the venue, some groups will remain in the same hall for sight reading, others will proceed to another location. If a move is required, groups are allowed 7-10 minutes for entry (Regional Chairperson's discretion), seating, and tuning, 10 minutes for score study, and 5 minutes for performance. If remaining in the same hall, groups are allowed 5 minutes for tuning, 10 minutes for score study, and 5 minutes for performance.

2. Middle School and Junior High groups have three options with sight reading:

- Option A : No sight reading
- Option B : Sight reading for comments only
- Option C : Sight reading for rating

3. High School groups are required to sight read.

4. Groups will sight read 2 grade levels below their highest performance level. If a group is registered as a "split level," they will sight read 2 levels below the highest level.

5. One judge will be provided for the sight reading portion of the festival.

6. No students will read the same piece more than once. (This pertains to directors bringing more than one group playing at the same sight reading level.)

7. Students from other groups will be prohibited in the sight reading area until their turn.

8. Music will be distributed by room monitors and students will not be allowed to view the music until directed by the room monitor or judge.

9. During the score study and preparation phase, director and students are to make no audible instrument sounds. The director may use the time as he/she sees fit, including singing phrases, demonstrating rhythmic figures or reviewing elements of the music with singing and/or counting. The conductor may not perform the music on any instrument or allow students to perform any part of the music on their instruments. Students may shadow bow, clap, or sing.

10. The director will be advised when five minutes have passed, and then directed to begin performance after ten minutes.

11. Once the performance has begun, the director shall not stop or give any vocal instruction to the group.

12. Sight Reading selections will be approved by the committee appointed by the state sight reading chairperson and supplied to the site chairpersons. Sight Reading difficulty levels will be determined by the criteria contained in the "Orchestra Division Sight Reading Criteria" document.

13. In the event of a violation of one of the Rules Governing CPA Sight Reading during the sight reading assessment, the judge will determine the severity of the violation and determine whether a warning should be given or if the group should be disqualified. In the event of a disqualification, the group's assessment will convert to a "Comments Only" assessment and will not receive a final rating.

14. No recording equipment, other than that used by the sight reading judge, will be allowed in the sight reading room at any time.

15. Sight reading judges must follow the procedures outlined in the "Sight Reading Procedure for the South Carolina Concert Performance Assessment" during the sight reading portion of the Concert Performance Assessment.

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