

# SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION ORCHESTRA DIVISION SIGHT READING COMPOSITION PROJECT

Greetings and thank you for your interest in composing music for South Carolina's Adjudicated Orchestra Festival. The purpose for this project is to provide original compositions annually for young string orchestras to sight read that accurately follow guidelines set for each specific graded level of technical and musical difficulty.

Specific information about string orchestra composition requirements for grade levels .5 - 4 can be found on the subsequent pages. Pieces that do not follow the requirements will be discarded or possibly sent back to the composer for revision.

**8 pieces will be selected: 1 of grade .5, 2 of grade 1, 2 of grade 2,  
2 of grade 3, 1 of grade 4**

When submitting, the composer must designate what grade level(s) the piece is intended for. By entering the piece in multiple grade levels, the judges have flexibility to use the piece where it fits best in the grading scale.

Submissions must be submitted electronically through the following Google Form Link by November 1, 2019. A committee of 3 string educators will review and vote on selections. Selections will be made and winning composers will be notified by Dec. 1. If selected, the composer will be awarded a \$500 honorarium. The piece of music will be used by the South Carolina Music Educators Association-Orchestra Division until May 1 of the following year. During that time, the work must remain unpublished or distributed in any way except for use in the State Performance Assessment.

Scores and parts should be included. Composer name CANNOT be visible on any parts or scores. Composers may submit as many compositions as they wish. Compositions may be resubmitted the following year if not chosen.

- Composers should sign the agreement included in this packet and submit with each composition.
- Not required but suggested: an electronic copy of the piece in music notation software such as Finale or Sibelius

Questions and concerns can be to the attention of Rich Harbison, chairperson of the State Performance Assessment Festival Sight Reading Committee. [harbisonbass21@gmail.com](mailto:harbisonbass21@gmail.com)

Google Link: <https://forms.gle/6GfgjJ3AyvxNxfd5A>

SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION  
ORCHESTRA DIVISION  
SIGHT READING COMPOSITION PROJECT

**AGREEMENT 2019-2020 SCMEA Sight Reading Composition Contest**

This Agreement is entered into on this \_\_\_\_ day of \_\_\_\_\_, 20\_\_\_\_, by and between South Carolina Music Educators Association, (hereinafter referred to as "SCMEA") and \_\_\_\_\_ (hereinafter referred to as "Composer").

1. Consideration. In consideration of the Agreement herein contained, SCMEA shall pay the sum of Five Hundred Dollars (\$500.00) to Composer.
2. Musical Composition. The musical composition known under the title of \_\_\_\_\_ is hereinafter referred to as "Composition".
3. Ownership Rights. The Composer shall retain all copyrights and all other rights controlled by them in the Composition. Composer acknowledges that the Composition shall be distributed and performed for the purpose of the Sight Reading Festival.
4. License. The Composer grants SCMEA the right to use the Composition for performance during the Sight Reading Festival and not after May 1, 2020.
5. Distribution and Publication. The Composer agrees to refrain from distribution and publication of the Composition from the time of submission to the conclusion of Sight Reading Festival (on: date of submission- May 1, 2020).
6. Warranty. Composer warrants that the Composition and associated copyrights are the rightful and exclusive property of Composer. Composer hereby warrants and represents that the Composition is Composer's sole, exclusive and original work, of which the music was written and composed by Composer. Further, that the Composition is new and original and does not infringe any other copyrighted works, that Composer has the full right and power to enter into this Agreement, that the Composition has not been previously published.
7. Indemnity. Composer shall indemnify SCMEA against any claim, demand, or recovery sustained in any suit that may be brought against SCMEA by reason of any violation of propriety right or copyright regarding the Composition.
8. Governing Law. This agreement shall be governed by the laws of South Carolina.

By signing below I hereby accept the terms of this Agreement.

  
\_\_\_\_\_  
**Representative of SCMEA**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Composer**

Date 7/30/2019

Date \_\_\_\_\_

# SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION ORCHESTRA DIVISION SIGHT READING COMPOSITION PROJECT

Guidelines and rules presented in this document provide criteria for originally composed music appropriate for sight reading repertoire two (2) levels lower than prepared music at the South Carolina Adjudicated Orchestra Festival. Music submitted for approval must adhere to these guidelines for grade levels .5 - 4 string orchestra music.

*Compositions that are chosen by the judging committee are most likely to err on the side of simplicity within the allowed guidelines in regards to musical elements such as key signature, tempo change, and instrument ranges. If a piece contains musical elements that are on the extreme difficulty level in one area, maintain simpler ideas in other elements. Example: Avoid changing from the key of D major to A major with accelerando and pushing a section into an extreme upper range with shifting. All of these elements might be acceptable under the guidelines, but combined create music that is impractical for sight reading performance.*

## **General rules for all submissions:**

- No D.S. or D.C. al fine; repeats and 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> endings are acceptable
- Only commonly used terms and tempo markings such as: Presto, Vivace, Allegro, Allegretto, Andante, Moderato, Largo and Adagio
- Only commonly recognized articulation symbols such as:



- Only commonly used expressions such as:









- A bowing marking should be indicated after every rest in grade level .5, 1, and 2.
- There should be rehearsal markings (Letters or Numbers) frequently throughout the selection
- Suggested page lengths for parts:  
Grade .5 and 1: 1 page    Grade 2: 1 or 2 pages    Grade 3 and 4: 2 pages

Conductor score pages are not limited.

- Solo passages should be avoided or offered as choice of solo or soli
- Tonalties can be major, minor, or modal with key alterations appropriate to grade levels as indicated on subsequent pages.


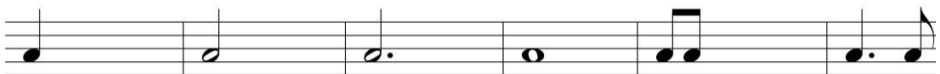
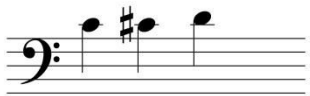

# SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION ORCHESTRA DIVISION SIGHT READING COMPOSITION PROJECT

## Grade Level .5 (Beginner)

Key	Keys with 1 or 2 sharps with no key changes.
Meter	 <p>No meter changes No tempo changes</p> <p>Tempo options: allegro, moderato, andante, largo</p>
Rhythm	 <p>and corresponding rests</p>
Length	<p>1 page parts (score pages not limited)</p> <p>Maximum of 2 minutes</p>
Left hand concerns/ Shifting/ Range	<p>Mark in appropriate/optional use of 4<sup>th</sup> finger in violin and viola parts.</p> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;">Acceptable violin range and pitches</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;">Acceptable viola range and pitches</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;">Acceptable cello range and pitches</div> </div> <div style="display: flex; align-items: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;">Acceptable bass range and pitches</div> </div>
Bowing Technique	No slurs, hooks, or ties.




# SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION ORCHESTRA DIVISION SIGHT READING COMPOSITION PROJECT

## Grade Level 1

Key	Keys with 1 or 2 sharps with no key changes.
Meter	 <p>No more than 1 meter or tempo change. Tempo options: allegro, moderato, andante, largo</p>
Rhythm	
Length	<p>1 page parts (score pages not limited)</p> <p>Maximum of 2 minutes</p>
Left hand concerns/ Shifting/ Range	<p>Shifting only in Double Bass to:</p>  <p>Mark in appropriate use of 4<sup>th</sup> finger in violin and viola parts.</p> <p>Extended finger patterns are not acceptable for Violin, Viola or Cello.</p> <p>½ position F natural is not acceptable on bass.</p>  <p>Violin pitches to avoid      Viola pitches to avoid      Cello pitches to avoid      Bass pitch to avoid</p>
Bowing Technique	<p>Slurs, hooks, ties are acceptable but not over barlines.</p> <p>Avoid slurred string crossings.</p>




# SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION ORCHESTRA DIVISION SIGHT READING COMPOSITION PROJECT

## Grade Level 2

Key	<p>C major or relative key, and keys with up to two (2) sharps and two (2) flats and no more than 1 key change.</p> <p>Minimal use of accidentals is acceptable.</p>
Meter	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;">  <p>No more than 2 meter changes</p> </div>
Rhythm	
Length	<p>1 or 2 page parts (score pages not limited)</p> <p>Maximum of 3 minutes (can be multi-movement)</p>
Left hand concerns/ Shifting/ Range	<p>Shifting only in Double Bass- pitches- same as Grade 1</p> <p>Mark in appropriate use of 4<sup>th</sup> finger in violin and viola parts.</p> <p>Extended finger patterns are acceptable in 1<sup>st</sup> position:</p> <div style="text-align: center;">   </div>
Bowing Technique	<p>Slurs, hooks, ties are acceptable (over barlines as well).</p> <p>Slurred string crossings are acceptable.</p>

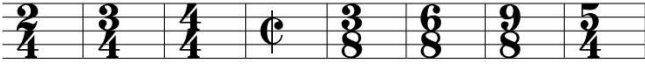
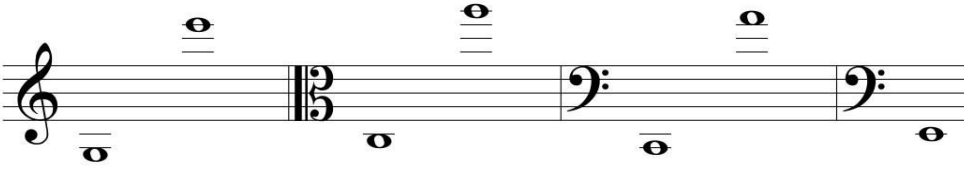
# SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION ORCHESTRA DIVISION SIGHT READING COMPOSITION PROJECT

## Grade Level 3

Key	<p>C major or relative key, and keys with up to three (3) sharps and three (3) flats and no more than 2 key changes.</p> <p>Key alterations (accidentals) are acceptable. No double sharps or double flats.</p>
Meter	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: center;">  <div style="margin-left: 20px;">No limit on meter changes.</div> </div>
Rhythm	
Length	<p>1 or 2 pages (score pages not limited)</p> <p>Maximum of 3 minutes (can be multi-movement)</p>
Left hand concerns/ Shifting/ Range	<p>Violin and Viola parts can require shifting to III position</p> <p>Cello part can require shifting to III, III 1/2 and IV positions</p> <p>Double Bass can require shifting no higher than: </p> <p>No alternate clefs or 8va for any parts</p> <p>Natural harmonics may be used</p>
Bowing Technique	Same as above Grade Levels

# SOUTH CAROLINA MUSIC EDUCATORS ASSOCIATION ORCHESTRA DIVISION SIGHT READING COMPOSITION PROJECT

## Grade Level 4

Key	<p>Keys with up to four (4) sharps and Four (4) flats and no more than 3 key changes.</p> <p>Key alterations (accidentals) are acceptable. No double sharps or double flats.</p>
Meter	<div style="display: flex; align-items: center; justify-content: space-between;">  <p>No limit on meter changes.</p> </div>
Rhythm	
Length	<p>1 or 2 pages (score pages not limited)</p> <p>Maximum of 4 minutes (can be multi-movement)</p>
<p>Left hand concerns/Shifting/Range</p> <div style="text-align: center; margin-top: 20px;">  <div style="display: flex; justify-content: space-around; margin-top: 10px;"> <span>Violin Range</span> <span>Viola Range</span> <span>Cello Range</span> <span>Bass Range</span> </div> </div> <p>Harmonics can be used. Artificial harmonics may be used sparingly.</p>	
Bowing Technique	Same as above Grade Levels