

MUSIC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

SUCCESS or *STRESS*

Compiled by Andrea Tobin
Teague Middle School
Altamonte Springs
for the
Florida Bandmasters Association
rev. 2003

There are many ways in which you can insure that your students have a positive experience at Concert Music Performance Assessments:

1. Read your FBA Handbook under Music Performance Assessment.
2. Seek out experienced directors who can share helpful hints to assist you and your students to be prepared.
3. Assessment preparation begins at the beginning of the school year. Begin with proper fundamentals.

FORMS / PAPERWORK

Meet Deadlines: (AVOID FINES!)

Check the FBA Handbook.

Check with your District Chairperson.

1. Send in your Classification form. Classification is determined by school enrollment, not band enrollment. Your classification determines the minimum grade level of music to be performed (from the FBA Music List) and your sight reading grade level.
2. Send in your MPA Entry Form and Entry Disk from the Festival Program to your District Chairperson.
3. Forms must be signed by the **Band Director** and **Principal**.
4. Title change form (meet deadlines).

ELIGIBILITY

1. There are specific grade requirements. Check with your District Chairperson and read the FBA Handbook. Check with your county. You are responsible for making sure that your performing students are eligible.
2. The director needs to check report cards. Only eligible students may perform.

FINANCIAL RESPONSIBILITY

1. The entry fee per student (assessment) for Music Performance Assessment varies from district to district. Your district chairperson will let you know the entry fee amount.
2. Include a check made payable to: **Florida Bandmasters Association**, with your entry form and entry disk.

MUSIC REQUIREMENTS

1. A march and two concert/overture selections. (See Handbook) **THE CONCERT SELECTIONS MUST BE ON THE OFFICIAL FBA MUSIC LIST.**

MUSIC SELECTION

1. Select music which enhances the strengths of your band, yet helps them to grow through preparation.
2. Reading pieces at the beginning of the school year will help you select appropriate Performance Assessment literature.

ADJUDICATOR SCORES

1. Each of the three adjudicators needs a conductor's score for each selection being played on stage.
2. Allow a minimum of three weeks to receive these scores after you order them from your music supplier.
3. No photocopies are permitted and make sure to number measures. (Inappropriate music and/or scores will compromise your rating or disqualify your band).

TRANSPORTATION TO ASSESSMENT

1. Order buses early (3-4 weeks in advance).
2. Confirm your buses a few days before the event.
3. Allow plenty of travel time so that you are not rushed upon arrival at the Music Performance Assessment site.

CHECK IN AT THE FBA OFFICE

1. Provide a seating chart to indicate the number of chairs and stands. A diagram is helpful.
2. Judges' scores should be prepackaged with your school name and band name to be handed in at this time. (Original Scores: see FBA Handbook)

WARM-UP ROOM

1. The allotted time is thirty minutes, however this needs to include the time taken to get your students seated and settled. Bands who enter quietly save valuable time. Also, allow time to get your band to the stage in time to start your performance as scheduled.
2. Use this time to warm-up, tune, and focus (get everyone on task); do not play through your performance selections.
3. Do not leave anything in the warm-up room unless instructed to do so by your host.
4. Sometimes, there is a place to leave cases until after sight reading. (Check with the site Host.)
5. Percussionists will be leaving the warm-up area early to begin setting up their equipment. Advise them in advance how to set up. They are responsible for bringing their own snare drums and stands, mallets, bells, auxiliary equipment and sticks. Only large equipment is provided by the host of the Festival. (Check w/ your District Chairperson or site host as to which instruments will be provided.)

PERFORMANCE

1. All students enter the stage in order and quietly.
2. All students have his/her music in hand.
***Many directors prefer to carry the music for Assessment in a box, so that individual parts do not disappear before the performance; especially percussion.** (This is given to students in the warm-up room.)
3. Your band will be announced, then look to the center judge for signal to begin.
4. It is no longer necessary to wait for the judges between selections.
5. After your final selection, you will be escorted to the sight reading room.

SIGHT READING

Recording of any kind is strictly prohibited in the sight reading room. Advise your band parents.

1. Enter the room quietly and orderly. The judge's first impression is how the students enter the room.
2. Once students are settled, instruct them to place their music folders under their chair. The sight reading music will then be distributed to them. Advise them beforehand what parts you would like for them to play for sight reading. (i.e.: perc. distribution, how many on each part if there are two trumpet parts rather than three, bass or treble clef euphoniums, etc.)
3. The adjudicator will instruct you when to remove the music from the folder.
4. You will have three minutes to discuss and study the march with your students.
 - a. Point out critical changes (key, time, repeats, etc.)
 - b. Your students may finger, count aloud, hiss rhythms, tap feet. Make this an organized routine for the students.
They may not play their instruments.
 - c. If requested, the judge will give you a warning one minute before instruction will end. Play the selection without stopping (careful not to count off).
 - d. Once the band begins to play, the conductor may only utilize appropriate baton techniques. **Inappropriate** techniques include, but are not limited to: counting off at any time, foot tapping, singing, beating time on the stand, snapping fingers, conductor vocalization, etc.
 - e. Replace the music into the folder when finished.
 - f. You will have five minutes to discuss & study the overture. Repeat steps a-e..

STUDENT CONDUCTOR

You may have a talented young conductor in your band. Read your FBA Handbook about music requirements for the student conductor. The student conductor will be evaluated at the end of the sight reading evaluation by the sight

reading adjudicator. Have the appropriate conductor score, numbered for the adjudicator.

LOGISTICAL CHECKLIST

- Review all procedures concerning the MPA with your students.
- Tell them what is on the evaluation form for which they will be adjudicated.
- All music should have the measures numbered (adjudicators' scores, director's scores, and students' music).
- Maps for parents, bus drivers, director.
- Music for performance.
- Tuner.
- Judges' scores & Director's scores.
- Percussion equipment.
- Seating chart for the stage.
- Extra reeds, oil, screwdriver, French horn string. (Mini Repair Kit)
- Conductor's Baton.

THROUGHOUT THE YEAR

1. Talk about the educational purpose of the Music Performance Assessments with students and parents.
2. Practice sight reading weekly. Practice the procedure of instruction, group participation, and time limits with your students. Sight reading should not be frightening, but fun.
3. Approximately 2 weeks before the MPA, have a Pre-Assessment Concert. Invite other directors to give comments. Promote the event to parents. Give the students a chance to perform the music without constantly starting and stopping. You will be amazed at what you will learn from this procedure. Tape record this event.
4. Arrive early and/or stay late to listen to other bands. Teach your students how to be good audience members and how to listen thoughtfully.
5. Directors need to listen to other bands. Support your fellow middle & high school directors.