

State Music Festivals

Eligibility

The State Music Festival will be operated according to regulations governing District Large Ensemble Music Festivals with the following exceptions:

1. Participation will be limited to bands, orchestras and choruses having earned a I rating in concert and no lower than II in sightreading at the current year's District Festival or the preceding year's State Festival under the same director.
2. Any organization earning a I rating at State Festival must have the same director and same classification to be eligible the following year. Otherwise, this organization must qualify through District Festival.
3. Participation in both concert and sightreading events is required of all entries. Groups must enter in the same classification used at the qualifying District Festival.
4. Out-of-state groups may participate in the State Festival providing they follow the same regulations and eligibility prescribed for regular members of LMEA. In addition, each group must pay the non-member fee in lieu of LMEA membership.

Entry Form

Entries must be submitted on State Festival Forms. Forms may be found online or in the September edition of *The Louisiana Musician*. A separate form is to be submitted for each ensemble entered. Each entry form must be accompanied by a photocopy of the teacher/director's membership card or *The Louisiana Musician* magazine mailing label. Entries must be postmarked no later than the deadline specified on the entry form (April 1). Send entries to

Bruce Lambert, Executive Secretary
Louisiana Music Educators Association
PO Box 12046
Lake Charles, LA 70612

Participation Fees

Check current festival entry form for the specified event for the current fee schedule. These forms are found in the September edition of *The Louisiana Musician*. Included with the state entry form must be a photocopy of the teacher's or director's membership card or *The Louisiana Musician* mailing label. No refunds of fees will be given after May 15.

Student Teacher

A performance may be conducted by a student teacher in part or whole.

Accompanist

A competent accompanist will be provided for the choral sightreading event. A minimum honorarium of \$125.00 per day (state festival) will be paid by LMEA.

Ratings

Three Judges x Five Ratings—Every possible combination.

I	II	III	IV	V
I-I-I	I-II-II	I-III-III	I-IV-IV	I-V-V
I-I-II	I-II-III	I-III-IV	I-IV-V	II-V-V
I-I-III	I-II-IV	I-III-V	II-IV-IV	III-V-V
I-I-IV	I-II-V	II-III-III	II-IV-V	IV-V-V
I-I-V	II-II-II	II-III-IV	III-IV-IV	V-V-V
	II-II-III	III-III-III	III-IV-V	
	II-II-IV	III-III-IV	III-IV-V	
	II-II-V	III-III-V	IV-IV-V	

Awards

The State Sweepstakes trophy will be awarded to an organization receiving a rating of I in concert and I in sightreading.

1. A medal is available for purchase from the current supplier for individual members of groups achieving a superior in the State Festival.
2. A **plaque** will be awarded to organizations receiving a I in concert only.
3. A **plaque** will be awarded to organizations receiving a I in sightreading only.
4. A **certificate** will be awarded to organizations receiving a II in concert and no lower than a III in sightreading.
5. A **certificate** of participation will be awarded to all participating organizations.

Judges

Judges will be selected from out-of-state directors who are prominent in their respective fields. (exception: state orchestra judges may be hired from within the state). Bands and choirs may engage judges currently teaching in elementary, junior or senior high teaching. It is recommended that at least one of the instrumental judges be from the University level. It is recommended that at least one of the instrumental judges will have had orchestral teaching experience. Any music teacher who has taught in Louisiana or judged an LMEA District Large Ensemble Festival during the past year is not eligible to judge the State Music Festival (exception: orchestra as noted above). It is recommended that no more than two judges be secured from the same state.

Each State Music Festival adjudicator receives an honorarium of \$200.00 per day, reimbursement of actual expenses in the amounts of \$0.35 per mile or coach air fare, whichever is lower, \$25.00 per day for meals and actual motel room rate.

An LMEA Executive will brief the judges concerning adjudication guidelines, forms and policies established by the LMEA Board of Directors. The Executive Secretary, State Festival Chairperson, respective Division Chairperson, or their representatives, must be available during the entire festival to resolve any problems that may arise.

Performance Time Limits

Bands

1. Bands — Class 9A and below — 25 minutes (three selections)
2. Bands — Class C and above — 30 minutes (three selections)
3. Wind Ensemble — 30-40 minutes (three selections)
4. AAAA schools and schools playing a Grade 5 selection off the La. Prescribed Music List that lasts 18 minutes or longer – 45 minutes (three selections)
5. Warm-up time for large ensembles will coincide with performance time limits.

Choirs

1. Vocal Groups: 15-20 minutes (three selections)
2. Warm-up time for large ensembles will coincide with performance time limits.

Orchestras

1. Orchestras — Class 9A and below — 25 minutes (three selections)
2. Orchestras — Class C and above — 30 minutes (three selections)
3. Warm-up time for large ensembles will coincide with performance time limits.

A penalty of 1 division rating lower will occur for any violation to the above time limit which causes the festival to be delayed by 10 minutes or more.

Standards of Adjudication

Adjudicators must acquaint themselves with standards of performance which may be expected from school groups and soloists. The entire rating plan is based on this understanding. All groups earning the same rating should have attained approximately the same level of performance. Inclusion within the same division of groups of widely varying achievements is a misuse of the rating system. Expected levels of achievement may vary according to the scope and location of the festival.

Standards for ratings in the widely-used five division plan are quoted below, with some explanatory remarks. It is strongly urged that, when these ratings are used, no plus or minus signs or other means of qualifying the ratings be employed. It is essential that the adjudicator offer criticisms which support and clarify the rating.

Five-Division Plan for Performance

Rating I (Division 1) This rating reflects an outstanding performance. While the judge might have some minor points to criticize and make some helpful suggestion for further improvement, his/her comment sheet would have a preponderance of A's for each of the categories. His/Her remarks would generally be complimentary for outstanding work.

Rating II (Division 2) This rating reflects an outstanding performance in many respects, but not one worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects. It is a performance of distinctive quality. The player or group in this division usually shows the results of sound, fundamental training, but the performance lacks the polish and finesse necessary to qualify for Division 1. In the squares on this comment sheet there would be some A's but there would also be some B's. It is relatively easy for a judge to comment on such a performance because the weaknesses stand out clearly against a generally first-rate background, and suggestions can usually be focused on something specific and helpful.

Rating III (Division 3). This rating is awarded for a good performance, but one that is not outstanding. The performance shows accomplishment and marked promise, but is lacking in one or more essential qualities. This division indicates much room for improvement in any of the fundamental items listed on the adjudicator's comment sheet. Such a comment sheet might show a few A's and B's, but would show quite a few C's. There would probably not be time or space to record each separate error as it occurred, but the group would have some basically fine qualities, and there should be ample opportunities for the judge to make suggestions for general improvement in those fundamental factors in which the performance revealed weaknesses.

Rating IV (Division 4). This rating describes a performance that shows some obvious weaknesses. These may reflect handicaps in the way of instrumentation or lack of rehearsal time. This

classification represents a performance which is generally weak and uncertain. There are numerous errors and the performance reveals basic weaknesses in most of the fundamental factors listed on the score sheet. The judge's comment sheet will show a great many D's. He will probably not devote much space to pointing out specific errors in the works performed. His comments, however, will likely be encouraging and contain helpful suggestions for improvement. They might suggest such things as a more favorable screening of players. The judge might even make specific recommendations for ensemble or individual studies and exercises which would contribute to the development of a player or the group.

Rating V (Division 5). This rating indicates a performance which reveals much room for improvement. This division is rarely used even by the most critical of judges. It indicates a performance in which the players reveal almost a complete lack of preparedness and understanding. In some cases this may be due to immature students attempting music which is far too advanced for them. In others, it may be due to an accumulation of careless and bad playing habits, which only tend to become accentuated and more noticeable as the player becomes older. The judge's comment sheet will, of course, be filled with D's and E's. He must use a great deal of tact in his comments to soloists or groups in these lower divisions. If there are any commendable features in the performance, they may be singled out. Perhaps there is one outstanding player in the group. He could be held up as a model. Sometimes, only the stage deportment and appearance can be commented on favorably, but even this may be some comfort. Remarks should be honest, never sarcastic. They should make suggestions for improvement.

Five Division Plan for Sightreading

Rating I (Division 1). All the parts are played or sung accurately and with musical sensitivity. The secondary parts of instrumental compositions are played with confidence. Balance is maintained between voice parts of choral compositions. Where technical errors occur, they are quickly recognized by the performers themselves and the same mistake does not occur twice. The selection is not only performed with technical accuracy, but with good attention to its expressive features.

Rating II (Division 2). This is an authentic reading on the whole, but one which is marred by a considerable number of technical errors. The section leaders carry the group through well, but there is a lack of precision and solidity because many in the group are not performing with confidence. The playing lacks the fluency and finesse of a Superior performance. The rhythms are not always accurately performed. Instrumentalists are careless as to articulations. Singers fail to enunciate clearly. Expressive features are not carefully noted.

Rating III (Division 3). This is not a clean performance by any means. There are many wrong notes. Key signatures are not recognized; wrong intervals are sung; rhythmic patterns are not correctly performed. There is little attention given to expressional features. A few leaders hold the selection together, but there are many who frequently get lost and do not contribute to the performance. Stops may be necessary to rally wanderers to a fresh start. Such a group might show qualities which would enable it to give a fine performance of a prepared selection, but it obviously needs more experience and training in the reading of unfamiliar music.

Rating IV (Division 4). This performance is full of technical errors. Many students are lost a good deal of the time. It reveals weakness in the fundamentals of tone production, rhythm, articulation, enunciation, and other basic factors. There will probably be numerous stops or at least places which approach a complete breakdown. The judge's comment sheet will show many D's. It would be of little use for the judge to attempt to list specific errors. His comments should be encouraging and offer suggestions for a course of training which would prepare the students to read with greater confidence and assurance the next time they have the opportunity to read at sight.

Rating V (Division 5). This rating indicates a performance which reveals much room for

improvement. The director should check his methods, schedule, etc., with those of more mature organizations. This division is rarely used even by the most critical judges. It indicates a performance in which the students reveal almost a complete lack of preparedness and understanding. The students in such a group have probably been taught a few pieces largely by rote and even in those pieces have developed many undesirable habits. The selections they attempt at sight are barely recognizable and such a group will often give up before the test is completed.

Adjudicators

It will be the responsibility of the respective District Director to determine the number of and to secure adjudicators for various events, keeping in mind the desirability of securing adjudicators who are presently engaged in the teaching field in which they are asked to adjudicate. Judges will be chosen within a radius of 300 miles of the respective festival centers.

Each large ensemble (band, choir, orchestra, wind ensemble) in concert events will have three judges. An additional judge will be provided for the sightreading event. At least one adjudicator for chorus events should be engaged in elementary vocal or junior high teaching. If there is orchestra participation, it is recommended that one of these judges have orchestra experience.

All judges should have current experience in their area of adjudication. The music education goals of the district should be made to secure judges whose standards are in accordance with those sought by the participating directors.

It is recommended that no adjudicator be hired for more than three consecutive years in the same district.

Adjudicators

1. will not consult with anyone before placing the final rating on the adjudication sheet.
2. are advised to refrain from engaging in the recruiting of students for College purpose under penalty of being barred from adjudicating at LMEA festivals.
3. who do not approve of particular selections performed are reminded that the musical components listed on the adjudication sheet will be the only criteria for judgment. A personal note, separate from the adjudication form, to the director on the matter of musical taste in the selection of festival music is recommended, but adjudicators' tastes relative to selecting music is not to affect the rating.
4. are advised to be very professional about their comments on tapes and adjudication sheets.

Ratings

Three Judges x Five Ratings—Every possible combination.

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