

Orchestra

Large Ensemble Performance Assessment

The Large Ensemble Performance Assessment is planned to serve the students of teachers who are members in good standing of the LMEA. Teachers who are non-members may enter their students in the large ensemble assessment upon payment of a non-member fee, along with the regular student entry fee.

An entry may participate in only one LMEA District Large Ensemble Assessment for a rating.

Events

1. Large Instrumental Ensemble (Orchestra with no minimum number)
2. Training Groups (2nd Groups)*
3. Student conductor

*A training group is defined as a group whose membership is comprised of students who have not attained a level of musical maturity to warrant membership in the top performing group. Students may not perform in both training groups and top performing groups (exception: instrumentalists performing on different instruments).

Eligibility

Only students within the participating school, unless certified as a parish group or combined group taught by the same teacher, may participate in the large ensemble performance assessment.

If an accompanist is required for an instrumental ensemble, the accompanist must be a student from the participating school (except elementary/middle strings.)

A high school student may not participate in a junior high (middle school) or elementary ensemble, nor may a junior high (middle school) student participate with an elementary ensemble. An elementary student may participate with a middle school or high school group, but will not be eligible to also perform with their own elementary group. A middle school student may participate with a high school group, but will not be eligible to perform with their own middle school group.

A regular member of a first concert organization may participate in a second or cadet organization of the same type provided he/she plays a different instrument.

Student Teacher

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

Entry Form

All entry forms for the Large Ensemble Assessment must be certified by the signature of the principal. Parish groups must be certified by the signature of the parish superintendent or his/her representative.

Large Ensemble entry forms are included in the September issue of *The Louisiana Musician* or may be downloaded at the LMEA website. In order to participate in the assessment, these forms must be returned to the assessment chairperson postmarked no later than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the assessment.

Each teacher or director is required to submit the large ensemble entry form with the proper fee(s) attached. Each ensemble must be on a separate entry form with fee(s) attached.

Participation Fees

Check current assessment entry forms for the specific event fee(s). These forms are found in the September issue of *The Louisiana Musician* and on the LMEA website. Included with the large ensemble entry form must be a photocopy of the teacher's or director's NAFME/LMEA membership card.

Scores

Conductors of large ensembles must provide three original scores of each selection for the adjudicators. These scores must have each measure numbered. Duplicated scores will be accepted only if accompanied by written permission from the copyright owner. Directors with illegal material will not be allowed to participate.

Classifications

Any group from a single school may enter a higher classification. A group may select its required music from a higher grade without changing its classification.

The official enrollment of the school will be certified by the principal and determined by the enrollment at the time of the assessment entry.

High School (9-12, 10-12, 11-12, 12)

Classifications of high schools will be as follows:

- Class AAAA:** enrollment of 1,800 and above.
- Class AAA:** enrollment of 1,150 through 1,799.
- Class AA:** enrollment of 700 through 1,149.
- Class A:** enrollment of 400 through 699.
- Class B:** enrollment of 1 through 399.

Junior High, Middle, and Elementary Schools

Classification in this section will be determined by the total enrollment of the school. Grades represented must be indicated on the entry form in the space provided.

- 9-A School enrollment of 1,000 and up with 9 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 9-B School enrollment of 450-999 with 9 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 9-C School enrollment of 1-449 with 9 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 8-A School enrollment of 1,000 up with 8 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 8-B School enrollment of 450-999 with 8 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 8-C School enrollment of 1-449 with 8 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 7-A School enrollment of 1,000 up with 7 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 7-B School enrollment of 450-999 with 7 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 7-C School enrollment of 1-449 with 7 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 6-A School enrollment of 1,000 up with 6 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 6-B School enrollment of 450-999 with 6 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 6-C School enrollment of 1-449 with 6 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 5-A School enrollment of 1,000 up with 5 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 5-B School enrollment of 450-999 with 5 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 5-C School enrollment of 1-449 with 5 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 4-A School enrollment of 1,000 up with 4 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 4-B School enrollment of 450-999 with 4 as the top grade represented in the performing group.
- 4-C School enrollment of 1-449 with 4 as the top grade represented in the performing group.

Other Classifications

Second Groups: Second or training organizations will be classified as second groups. A second group in AAAA high school for example will be designated as Class AAAA Second Group. Members of a school's first group may not participate in second or training groups (exception: students performing on different instruments). Second groups may not participate without participation from the first group (exception: State/Regional Assessment).

CLASS F: combined schools taught by the same director in an itinerant position. This classification must carry the top grade represented. (Example: 8-F, 9-F.) Performance requirement in F Classification will be taken from the enrollment of the largest school. (Example: School 1 = 200 enrollment, Class B; School 2 = 425 enrollment, Class A. Performance is required from Class A). Total school programs (same teacher at high school and junior high) may use students from the junior high with the high school and will use the high school classification. (Example: Class B, Class A etc.) Junior high students used with the high school are not eligible to perform at LMEA Assessment with the junior high group.

CLASS G: 100% beginners. In class G, sight-reading will not be required at the district level unless the group plans to participate in the state/regional music assessment.

CLASS H: Youth Symphonies and All-City Orchestras. In Class H, the organization must rehearse on a regularly scheduled basis and each student must be a member of the school's instrumental music program. In a situation where there is no like program in the school, the student must be certified by the conductor of the performing organization. The conductor of this performing organization must be a member of LMEA or pay the nonmember LMEA fee. This classification must carry the top grade represented. (Example 9-H, 11 -H, 8-H. etc.)

CLASS I: Parish or local honor group. Class I will carry a classification one level higher than the largest school represented (example: a group with the largest school being Class A will be classified I-AA). The group will perform and sight-read Class AA. Students performing with Class I honor groups will not lose eligibility in their own school program.

Performance Requirements

All orchestras classified 6-12A, B, C, F, H; A, AA, AAA, AAAA must perform three selections, two of which may be chosen from any source. The third or required selection must be chosen from the current Texas UIL *Prescribed Music List for Orchestra*

The following plan will determine the selection of the required number:

Class

AAAA, 11-12H	Grades IV and V
AAA, 11-12F, 9-10H	Grades III and IV
AA, 9-10F, 9-12A or B	Grades II and III
6-8A, B, C, F, or H	Grades I and II
4-5A, B, C, F, or H	3 Selections from any source
4-12G (1st year all beginners)	3 Selections from any source

No group will be allowed to perform more than one selection by the same composer.

Any orchestra not covered above must perform three selections chosen from any source.

All full orchestras must play one selection for strings only. If the same string section is also entered as a string orchestra, this requirement does not apply.

Second groups (training groups) should be so designated on the entry form (example: AAA-second group). Second groups may choose the required selection from the classification **two grades lower** on either list above. A third group may perform music classified **one grade lower** than the second group.

Performance Time Limits

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 assessment performance to be delayed by 10 minutes.

Sight-reading Requirements

Sight-reading is required for all orchestras in classes AAAA, AAA, AA, A, B, F, and all groups with a 7, 8, or 9 preceding their classification. Sight-reading is optional for all other groups. However, in order to qualify for State/Regional Assessment participation, groups must sight-read at the district assessment. This includes class G with 100% beginners.

A group that performs in the concert event but does not receive a rating is not eligible for a rating in sight-reading.

Sight-reading events will be closed events. Spectators not directly connected with the performing group are not permitted in the sight-reading area. All like groups will sight-read in the same room.

Class F groups will sight-read music from the classification of the largest school represented in the ensemble.

Class G will read the lowest classification.

Second groups (training groups) will sight-read two grades below the first group's classification; third groups one grade below the second group. Wind ensembles will sight-read one grade higher than the first group.

The sight-reading music and the assignments for all classifications will be selected by the respective Division Chairperson and sent to the respective assessment chairperson.

Sight-reading Procedure

Eight minutes will be allowed for the examination and discussion of the music. Neither the director nor the students may look at the music until directed to do so by the adjudicator. The director may utilize the allowed time as he/she sees fit. Students may ask the director questions and the director may call attention to key and meter changes, difficult rhythms, repeat signs, etc. Directors may sing phrases to illustrate how they should be played, but no student may play his part during the discussion period or at any time prior to the beginning of the performance.

At the end of the eight-minute examination period, the judge will ask the director to conclude his/her remarks and to begin sight-reading. The director is prohibited from giving any further verbal instructions during the sight-reading performance. Violations by the director and/or the students will result in lowering of the rating one division.

A one-minute warm-up, with sight-reading music face down, is allowed before or after the eight-minute discussion period. It must be an organized warm-up consisting of a chorale or scale and chord exercise, etc.. It will not be any part of the sight-reading material. A verbal count-off is allowed to begin the performance.

Student Conductor

The student conductor event is limited to one student conductor per large ensemble. This event is conducted in the sight-reading room after the group has completed sight-reading. An original score of the selection must be given to the sight-reading judge.

Recordings

Recorders for adjudicators' comments, including sight reading, are required at all LMEA Large Ensemble Assessments. These recorders will be furnished by LMEA.

Awards

The following awards will be given by LMEA during the large ensemble assessment:

1. A **certificate** to each orchestra rating II in Concert and no lower than III in Sight-reading.
2. A **plaque** to each orchestra rating I in Concert and lower rating Sight-reading.
3. A **plaque** to each orchestra rating I in Sight-reading and lower rating in Concert.
4. A **sweepstakes trophy** in lieu of a plaque to each orchestra rating I in both Concert and Sight-reading.
5. A **blue medal** to each Student Conductor rating I.

Additional engraving of the metal plate on each plaque or trophy will be the responsibility of the recipient.

Medals for individuals of orchestras rating I in Concert, Sight-reading or Sweepstakes may be purchased by each director from the current supplier. Each order must be certified by the appropriate assessment chairman. For further information contact:

Bruce Lambert, Executive Secretary
P.O. Box 12046
Lake Charles, La. 70612
318-436-5099

Disqualification

If an individual, organization, or director violates any of the above rules and regulations, except for penalties for individual events already stated elsewhere, the entry will be disqualified from the event in which the violation occurred.