

All State Bands

First-round all state auditions begin in September across our state. I am excited about many of the changes and innovations that we have implemented in the last year to make our auditions more streamlined and the calculation of scores more accurate and their distribution to directors and students faster. There were several changes implemented last year that impact the selection of students at both first and second round this year. Here are some reminders of those changes:

The LMEA board voted to reinstate the Bass Trombone audition with the following stipulations:

First-Round Auditions:

- Students auditioning for “Bass Trombone” must audition on an actual bass trombone as defined by its bore size, configuration of rotor(s)/tubing, and ability to play the full range of all excepts in the four-year audition cycle (low G).
- District first-round allotments will revert to previous quota of four tenor trombones and one bass trombone.
- In the event a district produces no bass trombone auditions or none qualify per the above rule, no bass trombone will advance to the second-round from that district.

Second-Round Auditions:

- Students auditioning for “Bass Trombone” must audition on an actual bass trombone as defined by its bore size, configuration of rotor(s)/tubing, and ability to play the full range of all excepts in the four-year audition cycle (low G).
- Student’s score must rank within the range of the tenor trombone scores in the particular ensemble or be next in line in order to be placed in that ensemble.
- In the event that there is no bass trombone audition score ranking within the range specified, an additional tenor trombone will be placed in the ensemble.
- Instrumentation will return to previous allotments as follows unless altered by music requirements:
 - Symphonic Band: 6 Tenor Trombones, 1 Bass Trombone
 - Concert Band: 8 Tenor Trombones, 1 Bass Trombone
 - Orchestra: 2 Tenor Trombones, 1 Bass Trombone

Low Clarinet All-State Auditions have been changed to the following:

Advanced Studies, from the works of Julius Weissenborn, adapted for Alto and Bass Clarinet, by William E. Rhoads (Southern Music Company publication)

Set I

Pg 15 #19 Eb major (qtr = 138)

Pg 7 #11 D minor (andante/tranquillo - qtr = 84/allegro - qtr = 156)

Set II

Pg 5 # 7 A minor/major (dotted qtr = 84)

Pr 18 #24 G major (qtr = 88)

Set III

Pg 2 # 4 B minor (qtr = 116)
Pg 6 #10 Bb major (qtr = 88)

Set IV

Pg 3 # 5 C minor (half = 72)
P 25 #32 C# minor (dotted qtr = 48)

In addition to this music, the WRITTEN “D” and “Db/C#” scales for the low clarinets will be played in only one octave. All other scales will be performed in two octaves.

New for this year is the stipulation for selection to all-state ensembles for winds and percussion. Any student who qualifies and auditions for second round all-state on multiple instruments will declare his/her choice of instrument by rank (1st choice, 2nd choice, etc.) upon the conclusion of first-round auditions. This choice will be noted on the district allotment form.

First-round auditions must be completed by September 30th. District Directors must verify two documents before a student is allowed to audition for first-round: NAFME membership for each participating director and a “Release of Information” form for each student. Additionally, it is crucial that we have senior preferences for band or orchestra so that students may be placed accordingly. If no preference is indicated, senior students will simply be assigned in the order they place. All first-round results need to be delivered to me via email no later than noon Monday, October 1st. Please look for an email with the current allotment form in the near future.

Of course, please contact me if you have any questions on any procedure for first or second-round auditions, and I will be happy to help you.

All State Band Clinicians

We have a fantastic line-up of clinics, demonstration groups, concerts, exhibits, and social events for our band division members. Please make every effort to attend our conference.

This year’s clinician for our All-State Concert Band is Dennis Llinas of the University of Oregon, and the clinician for the All-State Symphonic Band is Richard Clary of Florida State University.

Band Division Meeting

Our annual band division meeting will be held on the Sunday during our conference. Please attend and consider offering nominations for future all-state clinicians and state assessment adjudicators. Also, please bring to the table suggestions for ways we can make LMEA better serve our band division membership. I want to be sure your voice is heard on the LMEA board.

Please contact me or your district director if you need any assistance in pursuing this for your program.

I am honored to serve you as band division chairman. It is my goal to see the bands in Louisiana continue to grow in size and quality. Please let me know how I can serve you and make your experience with LMEA a truly rewarding one. Don’t hesitate to email me at joseph.nassar@apsb.org.