

# Arkansas School Band and Orchestra Association



## SIGHTREADING PROCEDURES/SCRIPT – Updated August 2022 For Hosts and Judges

### Performance Rules

- All organizations entering the concert contest must sight-read. Bands participating in region concert assessments that fail to participate in the sight-reading portion of the event will not receive any ratings, comments, or awards.
- All groups entered will be given a rating.
- All members of the concert organization who participate on stage will participate in the sight-reading event. EXCEPTIONS to this rule are:
  - (1) If no part is published for the particular instrument;
  - (2) If there are more percussion players than parts, or
  - (3) Equipment called for is not available - the director then may select the players to play.

### Music Requirements

- UIL sight-reading selections will be utilized for concert assessment. Classification requirements are clearly listed below so the directors know the level their group will be required to perform. The entire piece will be mandatory (ABA 2020) to increase the rigor of the concert sight-reading process.

ASBOA Bands & Orchestras	Classification	UIL Sight-Reading Level
Junior High/Middle School	N-8EE	Level 1
Junior High/Middle School	8EEE-8EEEE, 9E-9EE	Level 2
Junior High/Middle School	9EEE-9EEEE	Level 3
Senior High	1A/2A	Level 2
Senior High	3A	Level 3
Senior High	4A	Level 4
Senior High	5A/6A	Level 5
Senior High	7A	Level 6

- Senior high school second organizations will read 2 levels lower than the classification of their first ensemble.
- Junior high/middle school second organizations will read 1 level lower than the classification of their first ensemble.
- Third, fourth, and fifth organizations will read 3 levels lower than the classification of their first ensemble.

### Judging Criteria

Sight-reading will be judged on the preparation period, accuracy of reading, adherence to style, interpretation and musicianship.

## Instruction Period

The director of a participating organization will be allowed the following time limits to study the score and instruct the organization:

5A, 6A, 7A - 10 Minutes

4A - 9 Minutes

All others - 8 Minutes

## Director Limitations

Only one director may instruct and direct an organization in sight-reading. The director in charge of the group, adjudicator, students, additional directors from that school, and the parents of students in the organization (ABA 2015) will be allowed in the sight-reading room during the instruction and performance. The other directors and monitors may assist with logistics, but the monitors must leave the room when the instruction time begins. No other audience is allowed.

**Be certain that each step is completed before moving to the next portion of the procedure.**

## When the Conductor Enters the Room:

- Approach the conductor with a professional greeting.
- Confirm that the conductor received the instrumentation information which should have included the instrumentation for the sight-reading selection to be performed. If not, provide him/her with a copy of the email or mailing that was sent to all participants.
- Remind the conductor of the timpani pitches (have them on the board if possible). Also, remind the conductor that the timpani needs to be tuned prior to the beginning of the general explanation period. An assistant conductor may assist with timpani tuning, if necessary. Once the explanation begins no one other than the primary conductor explaining the selection will be allowed to assist the timpanist with tuning or any other form of instruction.
- Remind the conductor of the percussion requirements of the selection to be performed. Also, the part distribution for 1st/2nd parts for instruments.
- Have the conductor select their time "Warning" (ex. One minute then 30 seconds, etc.).

## Student instructions:

- After a brief professional greeting to the ensemble, introduce yourself to the students and say the following: **"Please place your folders and other belongings under your chair. We will now pass out your folders/parts for the Sight-reading portion of your assessment. Please place your part face down on your stand."**
- Show the conductor the selection to be performed and ask the following question verbatim: **"This organization will be reading (title of selection) which has been chosen for classification \_\_\_\_\_. Is this the correct classification for your organization?"**
- Have the students open their folder and remove the parts for the correct selection they are to read for the groups classification. Then ask the following: **"Does everyone have the correct part, including part assignment, correct key, and correct clef for your instrument? Then turn it face down on your stand again."** The judge should then solve any problems that might exist.
- After any problems are resolved and all is confirmed, the judge will proceed to the following question.
- Ask the conductor the following question verbatim: **"Has this organization or any of its student members heard, read, rehearsed or performed this selection (indicating the music) at any time prior to this evaluation?"** If the answer is yes the next level piece higher will be handed out.

**\*\* Read the following information to the students and conductor:**

“During the instruction period (10, 9, 8 minutes) your conductor may use the time as he/she wishes by incorporating any combination of silent study and/or conductor’s explanation. During this time period your conductor may point out specific performance problems, demonstrate how ritards, fermatas, etc. will be conducted, call attention to accidentals, identify unique characteristics of the music (i.e., who has the melody, important passages for certain sections, the presence of repeats, etc.) and answer your questions. At the conductor’s discretion, you may finger passages at any time during the general explanation period. The conductor and students may count, sing, finger musical passages, or audibly reproduce the music in any fashion (including fake play, also called airing or ghost play) except playing their instrument during the explanation period. The conductor may not play music on any instrument or play a recording of the music. No one is to make any markings on the music. Immediately following the instruction period and prior to the sight-reading performance music the group may play a warm-up tone. Once the performance has begun, the conductor will not be allowed to give further vocal instruction other than rehearsal letters or major rehearsal numbers, not individual measure numbers.

**Are there any questions regarding the procedure?”**

**At the Conclusion of the Performance:**

- Thank the students and ask that they pass their music to their first chair to return them to the folders.
- Once all the music is taken up, remind the students to be sure to take all their personal items with them as they leave the room.

**Updated August 2022**