

DISTRICT MMTA AUDITIONS

Guidelines for Adjudicators

(revised September, 2020)

1. MMTA Honors Auditions rules are established by the MMTA Board. At the district level, only ratings are given; at the state level, a winner, runner-up, and honorable mention(s) are selected in each category.
2. The District Chair will provide you with copies of the rules and repertoire requirements for each of the audition categories. Most questions regarding rules and repertoire requirements have been dealt with by the District Chair prior to the actual auditions. **Should any question about rules or repertoire requirements arise, please discuss it with the District Chair or other competition officials rather than disqualifying the competitor.**
3. In a live performance, we permit each contestant to begin the audition with the selection of his/her choice. You may want to review the selections in the order that they are listed/sent to you. The required time limit varies based on the grade level, but there should not be more than 20 minutes of recording total. It is up to you if you want to listen to only part of a selection, but please make sure to review at least some of each piece.
4. Judges will rate contestants 1, 2, 3, 4, or 5. **DO NOT USE PLUS OR MINUS RATINGS.** The 4 and 5 should be used only in rare circumstances such as unusual lack of preparation. No winners, runner-ups, or honorable mentions are chosen at the District Auditions. Those receiving “1” ratings will proceed to the MMTA State Honors Auditions.
5. The level of difficulty of literature should not be a factor in determining the rating a student receives. When determining the rating given to a student, judges should be guided by the following criteria:
 - a. Is the performance musically convincing and satisfying?
 - b. Does the student convey the intent of the composer as presented in the notation?
 - c. Has the student solved the technical and musical problems presented by the repertoire performed?
6. You may think of the “1” rating as representing a 90% fulfillment of the above criteria, a “2” rating 80%, etc. Although this is rather subjective, we rely on adjudicators to apply it in a fair and encouraging manner.
7. The quality of the video recording (video quality, audio quality, camera angle, size of file, etc.) should not be a factor in determining the rating a student receives. Please keep in mind that this might be the first time that many competitors have made a video recording and that the quality of microphones, recording equipment, instruments and performance spaces may vary based on location, access, and resources.
8. The teachers and competitors have been instructed to produce a video that shows enough of them that you are able to make pedagogical comments. In cases where memorization is required (vocal music; piano music, other than 20th century repertoire), the video should demonstrate without a doubt that there is no sheet music present. Many of them have already asked about this, but if there are videos where this may be an issue, feel free to comment on that. If you feel there is a serious issue (sheet music being used, the possibility of editing within a selection, etc.), please notify the District Chair, who is in charge of the competitions.
9. Generally it is a good idea to withhold ratings until several contestants have been heard in a each category. The ratings you give reflect not only the potential of the talent you observe but also the expertise of the teacher. One of our goals is to recognize the innate ability of students and the quality of teaching by encouraging students and quality teaching throughout the state.
10. Students and teachers consider your comments to be one of the most valuable results of entering the auditions. In your comments, when possible, please use vocabulary and terminology to correspond to the

level of students you are judging. Be sure to include both positive comments that affirm specific aspects of the student's work and suggestions for improvement.

11. Decisions of the judges are final and may not be questioned by participants, parents, or teachers.
12. In the days/weeks prior to the auditions, please avoid (as much as possible) meeting with participating teachers or students or hearing participating students perform. Teachers and students should, as far as reasonable, avoid meeting with adjudicators prior to the auditions or taking any action that might bias the adjudicator or have the appearance of doing so.
13. Please refer to the guidelines given to you by the District Chair regarding how to return the judges sheets to them, as well as the deadline for doing so. The teachers/competitors are used to having live auditions and getting results back on the same day, so they will be anxious to receive your comments and to find out if they have advanced to the State level. Returning the sheets/results on time (or even sooner) will really help to ensure that we keep things moving smoothly this year. Thanks so much for being willing to adjudicate for our competitions during these unique and unusual times!

THESE GUIDELINES ARE GIVEN TO ADJUDICATORS AND SENT TO TEACHERS OF STUDENTS ENTERED.