

As we start every new year, many exciting things begin to happen in the band world. Everyone begins planning for our Spring concert season. Honor Bands across our state are in full swing. And, of course, preparations for upcoming Large Ensemble Assessment are underway. With this in mind, I have been working with the LMEA Board and band directors across the state to put into place some new initiatives to make our assessments more consistent from district to district, and to open up some new opportunities to expand the repertoire for bands at every level.

We have also been working to update the all-state audition process for the past several years. Just this past week, the board approved several changes which I feel will continue to improve the overall quality of the all-state ensembles.

### **Low Clarinet All-State Auditions**

For the past two years, I have been working with clarinet specialists to revise the all-state low clarinet etudes and scales. These revisions will be in effect beginning with the 2019-2020 school year.

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.

### **All-State Etude Scoring**

After speaking with the second-round judges every year, the overwhelming consensus has been that the scoring process for all-state etudes has been cumbersome and ineffective for the purposes of a seven-minute audition. With that in mind, the board approved the following changes:

**Prepared Materials** Each student auditioning on a wind instrument must prepare all audition etudes in entirety. Judges may elect not to hear an entire etude but must hear the same section for each student who auditions. The student may use his/her own music for the audition. Prepared materials constitute forty percent of the total audition score. *Each etude will be scored independently with a maximum of 20 points each. The following areas will be considered when scoring each individual etude: Tone, Intonation, Technique, Interpretation, and Musical Effect.*

### **All-State Auditions on Multiple Instruments**

In the past, students who auditioned for and made an ensemble on multiple instruments for second-round were placed on the instrument in which their highest chair was earned. We have now amended that policy to allow a student to declare their choice of instrument before auditioning:

Any student who qualifies and auditions for second round all-state on multiple instruments will declare his/her choice of instrument by rank (1<sup>st</sup> choice, 2<sup>nd</sup> choice, etc.) upon the conclusion of first-round auditions. This choice will be noted on the district allotment form.

### **Bass Trombone Auditions**

Finally, after much discussion over the past several years regarding the all-state bass trombone auditions, I introduced the following proposal to reinstate the bass trombone auditions and positions in the all-state bands and orchestra as previously allowed beginning with the 2019-2020 school years with the following revisions and provisions:

#### **First-Round Auditions:**

1. 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).
2. District first-round allotments will revert to previous quota of four tenor trombones and one bass trombone.
3. 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:**

1. 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).
2. 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.
3. 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.
4. Instrumentation will return to previous allotments as follows unless altered by music requirements:
  - a. Symphonic Band: 6 Tenor Trombones, 1 Bass Trombone
  - b. Concert Band: 8 Tenor Trombones, 1 Bass Trombone
  - c. Orchestra: 2 Tenor Trombones, 1 Bass Trombone

It is my pleasure to serve as your band division chair. Please contact me any time if you have any questions or concerns or need help with anything. My email address is [joseph.nassar@apsb.org](mailto:joseph.nassar@apsb.org).