

Vocal

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 Performance Assessment for a rating.

Events

1. Large Choral Ensemble (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 assessment.

Accompanists for vocal ensembles are **not** required to be a member of the participating school.

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.

Student Teacher

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

Accompanist

A competent accompanist will be provided for the choral sight reading event. A minimum honorarium of \$75.00 per day (district assessment) will be paid by LMEA.

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* and on the LMEA website. In order to participate in the assessment, these forms must be returned to the assessment chairman postmarked no later than thirty (30) days prior to the opening of the performance 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 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.

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 Performance 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 be required.

CLASS H: Youth Choruses and All-City Choruses. In Class H, the organization must rehearse on a regularly scheduled basis and each student must be a member of the school's choral 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.

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

Performance Requirements

All choruses classified B, A, AA, AAA, AAAA must perform three selections, two of which may be chosen from any source. The third or required number must be chosen from the current Texas UIL *Prescribed Music List for Regional Competition*.

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

Class	Texas UIL Prescribed List
AAAA	Grades IV and V
AAA	Grades III, IV, and V
AA	Grades II, III, IV, and V
A	Grades I, II, III, IV, and V
B	Grades I, II, and III

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

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 the current Texas UIL *Prescribed Music List for Regional Competition*.

All middle school/junior high school choruses entering in 6, 7, 8, 9 or G classifications must perform one selection from any grade on the Texas UIL *Prescribed Music List* or *The Louisiana Junior High Supplemental List* published in the September issue of *The Louisiana Musician*, and two other selections chosen from any source. Elementary school choruses up through grade 6 must perform three selections chosen from any source. At least half of one selection must be in harmony in two or more parts.

To acquire a copy of the current Texas UIL *Prescribed Music List*, request a copy of *Prescribed Music for Regional Competition* from the following address:

**Publications Order Library
University Interscholastic League
Box 8028, University Station
Austin, TX 78712**

Performance Time Limits

The Large Ensemble Performance Assessment is subject to the following time limits:

Vocal Groups: 15-20 minutes (three selections)

Warm-up time for large ensembles will coincide with performance time limits.

Sight Reading Requirements

Sight reading is required for all choruses in classes AAAA, AAA, AA, A, B, F, and all groups with a 7, 8, or 9 preceding their classification. Ensembles that opt for *Comments Only* on stage will be required to sight-read for *Comments Only*. They will have the option to sight-read one level below the required selection, if one exists. 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 choirs will read the minimal required voicing within the group's grade level classification.

Second groups (training groups) will sight read two grades below the first group's classification; third groups one grade below the second group. Madrigal, chorale, or other specialized choral groups must not sight read the same music as the concert choir from the same school.

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

Sight Reading Procedures

Elementary Classification

4C 4B 4A 5C 5B 5A and F G H I with 4 or 5 as highest grade represented

Voicing required: Unison

6C 6B 6A and F G H I with 6 as highest grade represented

Voicing required: 6th Grade 2-Part

THE UNISON SELECTION WILL BE SUNG ONCE WITH A PIANO ACCOMPANIMENT

THE 6th GRADE 2-Part WILL BE SUNG ONCE WITH THE PIANO

Upon entering the sight reading area, the judge will give the required selection to the choir and the director. For the unison selection the director will also receive the piano accompaniment. For 6th Grade 2-Part, the piano will accompany the choir by playing the voice parts. Neither the director nor the choir may look at the music until directed to do so by the judge. The current director will be the only person instructing or conducting the choir during the sight reading event. The director and choir will receive eight minutes to examine and discuss the selection as follows:

Within the eight minutes the director **MAY**:

1. receive the **key note** and have the choir sing the scale and I-IV-V7 cadence in blocked chords or arpeggios (NOT BOTH).
2. ask and answer questions.
3. call attention to difficult rhythms, repeat signs, etc.
4. clap or tap or have the choir clap or tap rhythm patterns.
5. say or have the choir say the words in rhythm.
6. sing or play up to five different intervals which may be “echoed” by the choir.

The director may not sing WITH THE CHOIR at any time during the sight reading event.

At the conclusion of the eight minutes of instruction the director shall remain at the podium to conduct the reading of the selection.

At the end of the eight minutes the judge:

1. WILL ask the director to conclude his/her remarks, receive starting pitches, and begin sight reading.

At the end of the eight minutes the director:

1. MAY NOT give any further verbal directions.
Violations by the director and /or the choir will result in lowering one division in its rating.
2. MAY STOP the choir **once** during sight reading, receive the pitches, then resume singing **without penalty**. If stopped more than once, the choir **will be penalized** one division in its rating.
3. MAY have the choir sing the text or solfege syllables.

The choir must sing the text of the song if the director conducts with hand signs. The choir is allowed to sing with syllables only if the director does not conduct with hand signs.

If an accompanist is provided for district or state assessment, ALL CHOIRS must utilize said accompanist.

Middle School Classification

6C 6B 6A 7C 7B 7A 8C 8B 8A 9C 9B 9A

F G H I with 6, 7, 8, or 9 as highest grade represented

All choirs in this division are required to sight read in at least two parts.

Voicing required for 6C – 6A classification: 6th Grade 2-Part

Voicings required for 7C – 8A classification: MS-SA; MS-SSA; MS-SC; MS-SB; MS-TB; MS-SAB; MS-SAC; MS-SATB

Voicings required for 9C – 9A Treble: MS-SA; MS-SSA

Voicings required for 9C – 9A Mixed: MS-SAB; MS-SAC; MS-SATB

THE SELECTION WILL BE SUNG ONCE WITH THE PIANO.

Upon entering the sight reading area, the judge will give the required selection to the choir and the director. The director may choose to sing minus one voice performed in concert but not less than two parts. Neither the director nor the choir may look at the music until directed to do so by the judge. The current director will be the only person instructing or conducting the choir during the sight reading event. The piano will accompany the choir by playing the voice parts. The director and choir will receive eight minutes to examine and discuss the selection as follows:

Within the eight minutes the director **MAY**:

1. receive the **key note** and have the choir sing the scale and I-IV-V7 cadence in blocked chords or arpeggios (NOT BOTH).
2. ask and answer questions.
3. call attention to key and meter changes, difficult rhythms, repeat signs, etc.

4. clap or tap or have the choir clap or tap rhythm patterns.
5. say or have the choir say the words in rhythm.
6. sing or play up to five different intervals (MAY NOT be “ECHOED” by the choir).
7. have changed voices sing the soprano and/or alto part an octave lower than written.

The director may not sing WITH THE CHOIR at any time during the sight reading event.

At the conclusion of the eight minutes of instruction the director shall remain at the podium to conduct the reading of the selection.

At the end of the eight minutes the director:

1. MAY NOT give any further verbal directions.
Violations by the director and/or the choir will result in lowering one division in its rating.
2. MAY STOP the choir **once** during sight reading, receive the pitches, then resume singing **without penalty**. If stopped more than once the choir **will be penalized** one division in its rating.
3. MAY have the choir sing the text, neutral syllables, solfege syllables, or numbers.

The choir is required to sing the text of the song if the director conducts with hand signs. The choir is allowed to sing with syllables only if the director does not conduct with hand signs.

If an accompanist is provided for District or State/Regional Assessment, ALL CHOIRS must utilize said accompanist.

High School Classification

B A AA AAA AAAA

F G H I with 10, 11, 12 as highest grade represented

Treble and Men’s choirs in this division are required to sight read music with the same voicing, or minus only one voice part from the concert performance, but no less than two parts.

Treble voicings required: HS-SA Training; HS-SA #1; HS-SA #2 (Select Group); HS-SSA Training; HS-SSA #1; HS-SSA #2 (Select Group).

Men’s voicings required: HS-TB; HS-TTB; HS-TBB; HS-TTBB.

Mixed choirs in this division are required to sight read music with the same voicing, or minus only one voice part from the concert performance, but no less than three parts.

Mixed voicings required: HS-SAB Training; HS-SAB #1; HS-SAB #2 (Select Group); HS-SATB Training; HS-SATB #1; HS-SATB #2 (Select Group).

High School choirs composed of only 9th grade students will follow the Classification 9C – 9A sight reading rules for Middle School.

THE SELECTION WILL BE SUNG ONCE WITH THE PIANO THEN ONCE A CAPPELLA.

Upon entering the sight reading area, the judge will give the required selection to the choir and the director. Neither the director nor the choir may look at the music until directed to do so by the judge. The current director will be the only person instructing or conducting the choir during the sight reading event. The piano will accompany the choir by playing voice parts for the first singing of the sight reading selection. The second reading must be a cappella. The director and choir will receive eight minutes to examine and discuss the selection as follows:

Within the eight minutes the director **MAY**:

1. receive the **key note** and have the choir sing the scale and I-IV-V7 cadence in blocked chords or arpeggios (NOT BOTH).
2. ask and answer questions.
3. call attention to key and meter changes, difficult rhythms, repeat signs, etc.
4. clap or tap or have the choir clap or tap rhythm patterns.
5. say or have the choir say the words in rhythm.
6. choose one of the following:
 - a. to **STOP THE CLOCK** at any time during the eight minute instruction period and have the choir sing the selection once with the piano, then **START THE CLOCK** and use the remainder of the eight minutes for further examination before singing the selection a cappella.....OR
 - b. to utilize the entire eight minute instruction period to examine and discuss the selection, then have the choir sing the selection once with the piano, then sing the selection a cappella.

The director may not sing AT ANY TIME during the sight reading event.

At the conclusion of the eight minutes of instruction the director shall remain at the podium to conduct the reading of the selection.

Within the eight minutes of examination the choir:

1. MAY NOT hum or sing except for the scale and cadence.

Within the eight minutes of examination the piano:

1. WILL NOT be played except for the key note.

At the end of the eight minutes of examination the judge:

1. WILL ask the director to conclude his/her remarks, receive starting pitches, and begin sight reading.

At the end of the eight minutes the director:

1. MAY NOT give any further verbal directions.
Violations by the director and/or the choir will result in lowering one division in its rating.
2. Will receive the pitches and have the choir sing the selection once with the piano; then, receive the pitches and have the choir sing the selection a cappella.
3. MAY stop the choir if necessary during singing of the song, pitches may be obtained and singing resumed **WITH THE UNDERSTANDING** that the choir **will be penalized** one division in its rating.
4. May have the choir sing the text, neutral syllables, solfege syllables, or numbers.

The choir is required to sing the text of the song if the director conducts with hand signs. The choir is allowed to sing with syllables only if the director does not conduct with hand signs.

If an accompanist is provided for district or state assessment, ALL CHOIRS must utilize said accompanist.

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 Performance 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 choral group rating II in concert and no lower than III in sight reading.
2. A plaque to each choral group rating I in concert and a lower rating in sight reading.
3. A plaque to each choral group rating I in sight reading and a lower rating in concert.
4. A sweepstakes trophy in lieu of a plaque to each choral group rating I in both concert and sight reading.
5. A blue medal to each Student Conductor rating 1.

Additional engraving of the metal plate on each Plaque or Trophy will be the responsibility of the recipient.

Medals for individuals of bands, choirs, and wind ensembles 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.