

ILMEA JAZZ DIVISION – VOCAL JAZZ ENSEMBLE

SENIOR LEVEL AUDITION PROCEDURES

Electronic Devices Prohibited: The student use of all electronic and/or mechanical devices to include, but not limited to, metronomes, tuners, cell phones, and audio/video recording devices is prohibited in all IMEA audition rooms.

These audition procedures are provided to help ensure that the methods of evaluating Vocal Jazz Ensemble Selectees are effective and consistent throughout the State. It is important that the District President, Vocal Jazz Ensemble Chair, Audition Chair and all Adjudicators are familiar with these procedures.

Please note the district and state auditions will include the following material, but there may be additional audition material in some districts. Please check your IMEA district website to see if there are any additional vocal jazz audition procedures that are required by your district.

The audition will consist of four parts, with 100 Points possible:

- 1) required selection(s)**
- 2) sight-reading**
- 3) scales**
- 4) improvisation**

The final score should be totaled, and the Adjudicator must then enter the student's rank within his/her section of like voices. The Adjudicator must sign and date the Audition Form.

TIE BREAKER - Should a tie occur between students, the INTERPRETATION (style) score will be used to break the tie. Should a tie still exist, TONE QUALITY will be used as the second determining factor.

1) Required Selection(s) - 65 Points possible: 10 Points given for each category except 5 points for Diction and 20 points for Tone Quality

A) At the time of auditions, the Adjudicator will receive a list of required passages of the two required numbers for each singer to sing A Cappella

B) The Adjudicator will evaluate: pitch accuracy (notes); intonation; rhythmic accuracy; diction; interpretation; and tone quality.

2) Sight-reading - 10 Points possible:

A) A special sight-reading sheet will be given each Adjudicator at the time of the auditions. This sheet will be previously prepared by the Vocal Jazz Ensemble Chair or his/her designee. In order not to compromise the sight-reading test, this material will be a controlled item and will not be distributed to Adjudicators until the time of the test.

B) All sight-reading material will appear in both treble and bass clefs.

C) The student will be asked to sight-read one swing rhythm pattern. The Adjudicator will use the same sight-reading examples for all students auditioning.

D) The Adjudicator will play a tonic chord and the starting note before a student begins to sing.

E) The student may use a neutral vowel sound, solfege syllables, numbers, or letter names. The student may beat time if desired; however, he/she may not hum the exercise.

3) Scales - 10 Points possible:

A) The student will sing a one octave half step scale, ascending and descending. The Adjudicator will give the starting pitch: Sopranos and Tenors begin on Eb; Altos and Basses begin on C. The student may use a neutral vowel sound, solfege syllables, numbers, or letter names.

B) The student will sing a one octave blues scale, ascending and descending. The Adjudicator will give the starting pitch: Sopranos and Tenors begin on Eb; Altos and Basses begin on C.

4) Improvisation - 15 Points possible:

A) The Adjudicator will play the Jamey Aebersold - Vol. I, Fifth Edition "A New Approach to Jazz Improvisation", Blues in Bb.

B) The student may listen to at least one chorus of the blues progression to hear the chord progressions before beginning.

C) Neutral syllables or any method of "scat" singing may be used. Humming is not permitted.

D) Each student should sing two or more choruses of the blues progression.

E) The Adjudicator will award points based on how well the improvisation fits harmonically with the blues progression and based on style.

GRADE LEVEL PARTICIPATION

Freshman and Sophomore students are eligible to participate in their District Vocal Jazz Ensemble, however only Juniors and Seniors are eligible to participate at the state level.

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