



January 2021

Hello CT Music Educators!

Greetings from the Student Affairs Commission! I hope this letter finds you well, and hopefully able to navigate your way through these very challenging times. This letter is an update pertaining to the middle school regional auditions. Please read ALL of this carefully, as there is a lot of information.

At the end of this letter, you will find all of the requirements for middle school regional auditions BY REGION. If your region is working on a virtual experience for your students, your region directors will be getting that information to you.

The NEW CT Fest website is up and running. With High School auditions done, we have had some technical issues that have been resolved and should not be an issue for Middle School auditions. Please keep in mind, registration of students MUST be completed by MARCH 3, 2021 and video uploads MUST be completed by MARCH 10, 2021. NO late submissions will be accepted under any circumstance.

- IN THE VIDEO, there must be a visible clock in the frame. Edited videos are not allowed. The camera should be pointed at the student, without obstructions (like a music stand) so the judges can see and hear the performance as clearly as possible. Hands must be visible for the entirety of the video.
- Please have your student(s) say their first and last name ONLY at the beginning of the video. Please do NOT have them say which school they are from.

Please know that the new website can accept almost ANY video format. We have seen the list of the acceptable formats. Please do NOT worry, unless your students are using an extremely obscure video format (which they likely won't), the video will be accepted by the website.

Lastly, the following is the way in which videos SHOULD be recorded:

## **Western Region MS Vocal**

- **Voice:** Prepared Piece THEN scale (**NO sight reading for this year**).
  - PREPARED PIECE: "Shine On Me", by Rollo Dilworth (SAB)
    - Students will sing the entire piece for their audition
    - MUSIC MINUS ONE (MMO) tracks and PIANO ACCOMP track will be provided for students to practice with
    - Students can make their audition recordings with the MMO TRACK **or** the PIANO TRACK **or** A CAPPELLA
  - SCALES:
    - Soprano: E Major
    - Alto: D Major
    - Changing Male Voices: Any comfortable major scale
    - Scale prompt tracks for all keys are provided on the CMEA website
    - Please be sure to sing the scales in the correct CMEA tempo and rhythm, which can be found in the audition requirements on the CMEA website
  - **There is no sight reading component this year**

## Western Region MS Winds/Percussion

- **Winds and Mallets:** ONE Major Scale (Concert Eb has been selected, one octave with arpeggio, rhythm pattern as written on the requirements page), Concert Bb Chromatic Scale, prepared etude-*Carnival Dance* (30-point OR 15-point).
- **Snare & Accessories:** Rudiments (as indicated on Accessories Page), prepared etude-*Carnival Dance* (30-point OR 15-point).for Snare; prepared etude-*Carnival Dance* (30-point OR 15-point) for accessories.
- **Timpani:** Demonstrate tuning the timpani (F, Bb, C) using reference pitches as needed, and then play prepared etude-*Carnival Dance* (30-point OR 15-point) for Timpani
- **There is no sight reading this year**

## Western Region MS Jazz

- **Jazz Winds:** ONE Blues Scale: Concert Eb Blues has been selected; Concert Bb Chromatic Scale; prepared Etude A (Scerbology): Chorus one and four play the written melody, chorus two, play the ensemble hits, and chorus three improvise. Each student will play along with the recording found on the Cmea.org webpage.
- **Jazz Guitar/Piano/Vibes:** ONE Blues Scale: Concert Eb Blues has been selected; Concert Bb Chromatic Scale; prepared Etude A (Scerbology): Chorus one and four play the written melody. Chorus two, comp the chords. Chorus three, improvise. Each student will play along with the recording found on the Cmea.org webpage.
- **Jazz Bass:** ONE Blues Scale: Concert Eb Blues has been selected; Concert Bb Chromatic Scale; prepared Etude A (Scerbology): Chorus one and four play the written melody. Chorus two walk a bass line over the chord progression. Chorus three, improvise. Each student will play along with the recording found on the Cmea.org webpage.
- **Jazz Drum set:** Prepared Etude A (Scerbology): Chorus one and four play time. Chorus two set up and play the ensemble hits. Third chorus improvise. Perform entire etude 3 times, first swing, then latin groove, then a funk groove. Each student will play along with the recordings found on the Cmea.org webpage.
- **There is no sight reading this year for any of the jazz auditions.**

## Eastern Region MS Vocal

- **Voice:** Prepared Piece THEN scale (**NO sight reading for this year.**)
  - PREPARED PIECE:
    - Soprano-an arrangement of Mozart's *Alleluia* in the Key of E
    - Alto- an arrangement of Mozart's *Alleluia* in the Key of Bb
    - Tenor-an arrangement of Mozart's *Alleluia* in the Key of F or any other comfortable key
    - Baritone-an arrangement of Mozart's *Alleluia* in the Key of D
  - Students will sing the entire piece for their audition and solo will be performed acapella
  - Scales:
    - Soprano F above middle C
    - Alro A below middle C
    - Tenor/Bass Any scale below and including G

# Eastern Region MS Strings

- **Strings:** Major Scale (Violins and Bass G scale, Violas and Cellos, C scale), THEN entire solo.  
**Students will perform the whole etude.**  
**There is no sight reading this year.**

# Eastern Region MS Winds/Percussion

- **Winds:** Major Scale (Concert Ab one octave, no arpeggio, except horn players-Concert F major scale, one octave, no arpeggio), Chromatic Scale, prepared etude-*Carnival Dance*.
- **Percussion:** Rudiments (as indicated on the CMEA website), prepared etude-*Carnival Dance*
- **There is no sight reading this year**

# Eastern Region MS Jazz

- **Winds:** Prepared solo, THEN improvisation WITH recorded accompaniment
- **Rhythm Section** (vibes/guitar/piano/bass): Etudes, THEN improvisation WITH recorded accompaniment. Rhythm section, please be sure to check requirements on the CMEA website
- **Drums:** Etude AS WRITTEN, THEN improvisation, THEN supplemental requirement (performed IN ORDER as found on the CMEA website)

# Northern Region MS Vocal

- **Voice:** Prepared Piece THEN scale (**NO sight reading for this year.**)

Each student auditioning will be required to:

1. **Sing a solo selection a cappella.**

**Sopranos** (male or female) - an arrangement of Vivaldi's "Laudamus Te" in the key of F major.

**Altos** (male or female) - the same arrangement of Vivaldi's "Laudamus Te" in the key of C major.

**Tenors** (male) - the same arrangement of Vivaldi's "Laudamus Te" in the key of G major, or any other comfortable key, notated in these clefs:

**Baritones** (male) - the same arrangement of Vivaldi's "Laudamus Te" in the key of C major. This piece must be performed as written in the key of C major, bass clef.

PLEASE NOTE:

Tempo for Laudamus Te is Quarter Note= 90.

Males auditioning as soprano or alto must perform the Vivaldi piece in the assigned key for that vocal part so that they can demonstrate a full soprano/alto range.

Tenors auditioning in a key different from the arrangement must announce to the judges which key they will be singing in so that they receive the correct starting pitch.

A COPY of each solo selection is located on [www.ctfest.net](http://www.ctfest.net) and should be downloaded and copied for your students. Pieces chosen are in the public domain and copies are permitted. Singers must sing these exact arrangements of each piece.

2. **Sing a scale. PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING**

SECTION CAREFULLY so your students are properly prepared!

Starting pitches\* for the required scale and the scale itself are notated below for each voice part.

Tempo is = 92

Soprano E Alto C Tenor G (suggested)\* Bass C

This scale is to be sung once from memory using either solfeggio or a neutral syllable. Please be

sure to adhere strictly to the rhythm of the scale as this will be exactly what the judges will be listening for.

\*TENORS should sing the scale in whichever key is most comfortable and suited to their vocal range. Sopranos, Altos and Basses should sing the scale in the key stated above.

3. Sight-sing a 4-measure passage of music in 4/4 time.

Sopranos and tenors will sing in the key of F and altos and basses will sing in the key of D. The example

will be limited to the five pitches of Do-So; high Do is not included. All examples will start and end on "Do."

Students may sing the passage using solfège or a neutral syllable of their choice. The first two measures will be entirely step-wise motion; the last two will contain skips between Do, Mi, and So including ascending and descending leaps between Do and So. Rhythms will include half notes, quarter notes, quarter rests, and paired eighth notes. Students will have thirty seconds to practice the example and may practice silently or out loud.

Each school may bring an unlimited number of sopranos and altos to the audition as well as an unlimited number of tenors or baritones to the audition. Please encourage strong male singers with changed or changing voices to audition. The number of tenors and baritones who are accepted may affect the number of treble voices that can be accepted, as the choir must be balanced.

## Northern Region MS Strings

- Go to [CMEA.org/student-events/northern-region-middle-school/](http://CMEA.org/student-events/northern-region-middle-school/)
- **No Scales**
- Solo: As listed on CMEA website
- **There is no sight reading this year.**

## Northern Region MS Winds

- Go to [CMEA.org/student-events/northern-region-middle-school/](http://CMEA.org/student-events/northern-region-middle-school/)
- **Winds**: As listed on CMEA website
- **No Scales**
- **There is no sight reading this year**

## Northern Region MS Jazz

- Winds
  - **Saxes and Trumpets**: INTERMEDIATE Jazz Conception by Jim Snidero. Students will NOT play with the recorded accompaniment for the solo piece. Play "Confirmed". Saxes and trumpets will play measures 1-32 and stop before Chorus 2.
  - Jazz Scale, memorized as written on the CMEA website. Please be sure to play the scale that is listed for YOUR instrument.
  - Bb Concert Chromatic Scale, memorized, as written in the Winds audition requirements on the CMEA website.

- There will be NO sightreading this year.
- Improvisation:
  - *Students are asked to improvise with the Bb blues background track found on [this website: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHVxf2M20qQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHVxf2M20qQ)*
- **Trombone, Guitar, Piano, and Bass**
  - Jazz Scale, memorized as written on the CMEA website. Please be sure to play the scale that is listed for YOUR instrument. Guitarists should read the piano part in treble clef
  - Bb Concert Chromatic Scale, memorized, as written in the Winds audition requirements on the CMEA website.
  - There will be NO sightreading this year.
  - *Students are asked to improvise with the Bb blues background track found on [this website: https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHVxf2M20qQ](https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wHVxf2M20qQ)*
  - Piano comping, guitar comping, and bass line excerpts as listed on the CMEA website (These do not need to be memorized and does NOT apply to jazz trombone).
  - Solo piece "Morning Calm"- from EASY Jazz Conception by Jim Snidero. Trombone, piano, guitar, and bass students will play measures 1-32 and stop before Chorus 2.
- Jazz Drums:
  - *There are two editions of the "Jazz Drummer's Reading Workbook" by Tom Morgan.*
    - *The solo "Composite Exercises" can be found in the **old** edition (with the CD) on page 19, exercise #1.*
    - *The solo "Composite Exercises" can be found in the **new** edition (with the MP3) on page 20, exercise #1.*

## **Southern Region MS Vocal**

- **Voice:** Prepared Piece THEN scale (**NO sight reading for this year.**)

- PREPARED PIECE: Wayfaring Stranger
  - Students will sing the entire piece for their audition
  - This song will be sung A CAPPELLA
- SCALES including the arpeggio
  - Sopranos E major
  - Altos D major
  - Male voices can choose a comfortable key with help from their music teacher.

## **Southern Region MS Strings**

- **Strings:** Go to [CMEA.org/student-events/southern-region-middle-school/](http://CMEA.org/student-events/southern-region-middle-school/)
- **There is no sight reading this year.**

## **Southern Region MS Winds**

- **Winds:** Go to [CMEA.org/student-events/southern-region-middle-school/](http://CMEA.org/student-events/southern-region-middle-school/) As listed on CMEA website
- **There is no sight reading this year**

## **Southern Region MS Jazz**

- **Jazz:**
  - **Winds:** Etude, THEN improvisation WITH recorded accompaniment
  - **Rhythm Section** (vibes/guitar/piano/bass): Etudes, THEN improvisation WITH recorded accompaniment. Rhythm section, please be sure to check requirements on the CMEA website
    - **Drums:** Etude AS WRITTEN, THEN improvisation, THEN supplemental requirement (performed IN ORDER as found on the CMEA website)

We sincerely hope that your students take advantage of this opportunity, and will find it rewarding. We all are hoping to be back to “normal” as soon as possible. Stay strong, stay safe, and I hope to see you all in person whenever possible! If you have questions, please reach out to your region directors first, they have collaborated and created this document. Be well!

John Abucewicz  
Student Affairs Commission Chair