



# Sight Reading Composition Criteria for First Orchestra (String and Full)

The composition criteria for MSHSAA sight reading selections were **revised** in 2002-2003, when music expanded from four to five classes. As a result, the committee determined that it would be beneficial to music directors throughout the state to have this criterion available to assist in preparations for sight reading. With this information in hand, directors will have a better understanding of the difficulty of the selection that will be used and will know what to expect in regard to rhythms, ranges, time signatures, etc.

## Key Signatures

- Key Signatures will be limited to the following:  
C, G, D, A, F, Bb major and relative natural minors.
- There should be at least **one** key signature change per piece.

## Meters

- Meters will be limited to the following:  
2/4, 3/4, 4/4, Cut Time, 6/8, Mix Meters (7/8 3+2+2)

## Tempo

- Tempi will be no slower than 60 beats per minute and no faster than 120 beats per minute.
- For continuous pieces, there will be at least **one** tempo change, but **no** more than **two**.

## Clefs and Transpositions

- Viola can have limited use of treble clef.
- Cello can have limited use of tenor clef.
- Bassoon and trombone will use bass clef only.
- All French horn parts will be in F.
- All clarinet parts will be in Bb.
- All trumpet parts will be in Bb.

## Position Work for Strings

- 3<sup>rd</sup> position and minimal use of 5<sup>th</sup> position may be used in the violin 1 part only.
- Minimal 3<sup>rd</sup> position work may be used in the violin 2 and viola parts.
- Half, 2<sup>nd</sup>, 3<sup>rd</sup> and 4<sup>th</sup> position work may be used in the cello part.
- Half position to thumb position work may be used in the bass part.

## Divisi

- Limited use of divisi parts may be written.

## **Repeats**

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> endings may be used.
- D.C. and D.S may be used.
- Fine may be used.
- All signs and instructions will be clearly marked.

## **Bowings**

- Refer to a standard level two method book for appropriate bowing use. (i.e. Essential Elements for Strings [Hal Leonard]).
- For example: detache, staccato, slurs, hooked bowing.

## **Rhythm**

- Whole, half, quarter, eighth, including dotted values, and straight 16<sup>th</sup> note patterns will be used.
- Simple Syncopation and limited use of tied notes over bar lines may be used.

## **Length of Piece**

- The piece will be 3-5 minutes in length.

## **General Page Layouts**

- All directions will be clearly marked.
- Music will be of published type-set or computer generated quality.
- There will be **no** page turn problems.



# Sight Reading Composition Criteria for Second Orchestra (String and Full)

The composition criteria for MSHSAA sight reading selections were **revised** in 2002-2003, when music expanded from four to five classes. As a result, the committee determined that it would be beneficial to music directors throughout the state to have this criterion available to assist in preparations for sight reading. With this information in hand, directors will have a better understanding of the difficulty of the selection that will be used and will know what to expect in regard to rhythms, ranges, time signatures, etc.

## Key Signatures

- Key Signatures will be limited to the following:  
C, G, D major and relative natural minors.
- There should be at least **one** key signature change per piece.

## Meters

- Meters will be limited to the following:  
2/4, 3/4, 4/4, Cut Time

## Tempo

- Tempi will be no slower than 60 beats per minute and no faster than 108 beats per minute.
- For continuous pieces, there will be at least **one** tempo change, but **no** more than **two**.

## Clefs

- Viola will use **only** alto clef.
- Cello and Bass will use **only** bass clef.

## Position Work for Strings

- Minimal 3<sup>rd</sup> position work may be used in the violin 1 part only.
- Minimal 4<sup>th</sup> position work may be used in the cello.
- Minimal half position work and 5<sup>th</sup> position work may be used in the bass.

## Divisi

- There will be **no** divisi parts written.

## Multiple Stops

- Multiple stops will be limited to all open strings or open strings with one finger used.

## Repeats

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> endings may be used.
- D.C. and D.S may be used.
- Fine may be used.
- All signs and instructions will be clearly marked.

## Bowings

- Standard high school grade 4 bowings may be used (i.e. detache, staccato, slurs, hooked bowing, spiccato, etc.).

## Rhythm

- Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenths, including dotted value note patterns will be used.
- Rhythmic patterns that are tied over the bar line, mixed values with 16<sup>th</sup> and dotted 8<sup>th</sup> notes may be used. Dotted 8<sup>th</sup> and 16<sup>th</sup> notes may be used in syncopation.

## Length of Piece

- The piece will be 3-5 minutes in length.

## General Page Layouts

- All directions will be clearly marked.
- Music will be of published type-set or computer generated quality.
- There will be **no** page turn problems.

## Instrumentation

- Flute – 1,2; flute 3 may be written, but with no essential soloistic passages.
- Oboe – 1 part. Oboe 2 may be written, but with no essential soloistic passages.
- Clarinet – 1 and 2 part
- Bassoon – 1 part. Bassoon 2 may be written, but with no essential soloistic passages.
- Horn – 4 parts
- Trumpet – 3 parts
- Trombone 3 parts
- Tuba
- Percussion – snare drum, bass drum, cymbals and tympani. Optional mallet percussion and harp may be written.