

**MSHSAA Prescribed Graded Music List  
Vocal Matrix**

**VOCAL SOLOS**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Grade C</b>	<b>Grade B</b>	<b>Grade A</b>
<b>Vocal Range</b>	The range is primarily within an octave – moderate tessitura.	The range frequently exceeds an octave – moderate tessitura.	The range frequently exceeds an octave and/or has extreme tessitura.
<b>Melodic Design</b>	Simple strophic or binary form; average phrase length 2-4 measures; melody uses mostly stepwise movement.	Complex strophic or binary form; average phrase length 4 measures; melody uses some disjunct movement.	Through-composed or advanced forms; average phrase length 4 or more measures; melody frequently uses disjunct movement.
<b>Dynamic Range</b>	Primarily within two dynamic levels.	Uses more than two dynamic levels and/or utilizes contrasting levels.	Frequent dynamic changes and/or utilizes extreme levels.
<b>Tempo</b>	Moderate pace with minimal tempo changes.	Employs some tempo variations within the sections.	Utilizes multiple variations in tempo and/or uses extreme tempo markings.
<b>Text</b>	Uses minimal or repetitive text.	Moderate length of text; diction is more challenging.	Text is moderate to extended in length; diction is extremely challenging.
<b>Harmonic Structure</b>	Mostly built on basic chord progressions; with limited or no variation in tonal center.	Some use of altered chords and/or use of related tonal centers.	Frequent use of altered chords and/or atypical modulations.
<b>Rhythmic Elements</b>	Simple rhythm and meter with limited metric changes.	Use of compound meter and more complex rhythms.	Asymmetrical or mixed meters or extensive use of complex rhythms.
<b>Accompaniment</b>	Mostly doubles or harmonically supports the melody.	Moves more independently from the melody.	Independent from or in contrast to the melody or is a cappella.
<b>Definitions</b>	Moderate Tessitura – most of the notes lie within the area of a perfect fifth and in the center of the vocal range.	Extreme Tessitura – most of the notes lie closer to the extremes of the vocal range.	

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**VOCAL ENSEMBLES**

<b>Criteria</b>	<b>Grade C</b>	<b>Grade B</b>	<b>Grade A</b>
<b>Vocal Range</b>	Each part is primarily within an octave; moderate tessitura.	One or more voices frequently exceed an octave; moderate tessitura.	Most voices frequently exceed octave; two or more voices have extreme tessitura.
<b>Melodic Design</b>	Simple strophic or binary form; average phrase length 2-4 measures; melody uses mostly stepwise movement.	Complex strophic or binary form; average phrase length 4 measures; melody uses some disjunct movement.	Through-composed or advanced forms; average phrase length 4 or more measures; melody frequently uses disjunct movement.
<b>Dynamic Range</b>	Primarily within two dynamic levels.	Uses more than two dynamic levels and/or utilizes contrasting levels.	Frequent dynamic changes and/or utilizes extreme levels.
<b>Tempo</b>	Moderate pace with minimal tempo changes.	Employs some tempo variations within the sections.	Utilizes multiple variations in tempo and/or uses extreme tempo markings.
<b>Text</b>	Uses minimal or repetitive text.	Moderate length of text; diction is more challenging.	Text is moderate to extended in length; diction is extremely challenging.
<b>Harmonic Structure</b>	Mostly built on basic chord progressions; with limited or no variation in tonal center.	Some use of altered chords and/or use of related tonal centers.	Frequent use of altered chords and/or atypical modulations.
<b>Texture</b>	Homophonic and homorhythmic; with no divisi.	Simple polyphony and/or mostly homophonic and/or homorhythmic; some divisi.	Advanced polyphony and/or frequent divisi.
<b>Rhythmic Elements</b>	Simple rhythm and meter with limited metric changes.	Use of compound meter and more complex rhythms.	Asymmetrical and mixed meters or extensive use of complex rhythms.
<b>Accompaniment</b>	Mostly doubles or harmonically supports the voices.	Moves more independently from voice parts and/or is a cappella.	Independent from or in contrast to voice parts and/or is a cappella.
<b>Definitions</b>	Moderate Tessitura – most of the notes lie within the area of a perfect fifth and in the center of the vocal range.	Extreme Tessitura – most of the notes lie closer to the extremes of the vocal range.	