



Sight Reading Composition Criteria for String Orchestra Class 5

The composition criteria for MSHSAA sight reading selections were **revised** in 2013-14. 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, 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

Tempo

- Tempi will be no slower than 72 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.

Position Work for Strings

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

Divisi

- Limited use of divisi parts may be written.

Repeats

- 1st and 2nd 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

- detache, staccato, slurs, hooked bowing, marcato, spiccato, loure

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 16th and dotted 8th notes may be used. Dotted 8th and 16th notes may be used in syncopation. However, continual syncopation patterns that are ever changing cannot be used (i.e. 2 measures one pattern, and then next 2 measures pattern changes, etc.).

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:

- Violin 1
- Violin 2
- Violin 3 (Viola TC)
- Viola
- Cello
- Bass



Sight Reading Composition Criteria for String Orchestra Class 3 and 4

The composition criteria for MSHSAA sight reading selections were **revised** in 2013-14. 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 72 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 3rd position work may be used in the violin 1 part only.
- Minimal 4th position work may be used in the cello.
- Primarily 1st position with minimal 4th position work 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

- 1st and 2nd 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

- detache, staccato, slurs, hooked bowing, spiccato, marcato, loure.

Rhythm

- Whole, half, quarter, eighth, including dotted values, and straight 16th note patterns will be used.
- Limited use of tied notes over bar lines may be used.
- Simple Syncopation may be used; however, continual syncopation patterns that are ever changing cannot be used (i.e. 2 measures one pattern, and then next 2 measures pattern changes, etc.).

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

- Violin 1
- Violin 2
- Violin 3 (Viola TC)
- Viola
- Cello
- Bass



Sight Reading Composition Criteria For String Orchestra Class 1 and 2

Key Signatures

- Key Signatures will be limited to the following:
C, G, D major and relative natural minors.
- There shall be **no** key signature change in the selection.

Meters

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

Tempo

- Tempi will be no slower than 72 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

- Recommend cello and bass stay primarily in 1st position.

Divisi

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

Repeats

- 1st and 2nd endings may be used.
- D.C. may be used – No D.S.
- Fine may be used.
- All signs and instructions will be clearly marked.

Bowing

- detache, staccato, legato and detached slurs, etc.; **No spiccato.**

Rhythm

- Whole, half, quarter, eighth, including dotted values, and straight 16th note patterns will be used.
- Limited use of tied notes over bar lines may be used.

- Simple Syncopation may be used; however, continual syncopation patterns that are ever changing cannot be used (i.e. 2 measures one pattern, and then next 2 measures pattern changes, etc.).

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

- Violin 1
- Violin 2
- Violin 3 (Viola TC)
- Viola
- Cello
- Bass