



Festival Definition of Classifications

MUST READ

CMEA Central Section includes a Classification System for our ensembles registering for Festivals. This classification helps our adjudicators and determines the level of music in the Sight-Reading room.

Directors have the discretion to determine the classification under which their groups will be evaluated. Please read the descriptors to choose the classification that best fits your ensemble. The rubric may also help you to decide. It is acceptable to register multiple groups within the same classification.

For the 2023 Festival Season, directors are encouraged to perform their Sight Reading in their classification but allowed to perform their Sight Reading in a classification 1 ½ to 2 grades lower if they so choose. This policy will be reviewed each festival season by the Sight Reading Coordinator.

The Sight-Reading room is closed to the public. The Scoresheet is not numerical - small captions are rated (I, II, III) only. The Sight-Reading rating is not included in the overall rating. The Sight-reading rating is recorded for Central Section records but never distributed to anyone. CMEA Central strives for the sight-reading experience to be positive and encouraging.

CLASS I: Elementary School; Middle School Beginning or Intermediate

Class I Sight-reading music level are grades .5 and 1

Elementary School Ensembles (grades 4-6)

- All elementary school ensembles

Middle School Beginning Level Ensembles (grades 6-8)

- MS ensembles in which the majority of students began playing/singing in the fall or have less than one full year of experience

Middle School Intermediate Level Ensembles (grades 6-8)

- MS ensembles in which the majority of students have 1-2 years of experience
- An intermediate level MS ensemble from schools that offer a sequential program
- MS ensembles with incomplete instrumentation
- MS ensembles that rehearse fewer than 3 hours per week
- MS ensembles performing grade 1-2 music
- MS ensembles that are the only group of its kind offered at the school

CLASS II: Middle School Advanced; High School Novice or Intermediate

Class II Sight-reading music level are grades 1.5 and 2

Middle School Advanced Level Ensembles (Grades 6-8)

- Advanced level MS ensembles from schools that offer a sequential program
- MS ensembles with complete or nearly complete instrumentation
- MS ensembles playing more challenging repertoire (Grade 2, 3, 4)

High School Novice and Intermediate Level Ensembles (Grades 9-12)

- Novice level HS ensembles in which most students have less than 3 years experience
- HS ensembles comprised mostly of freshman (Grade 9)
- Ensembles from small high schools
- HS ensembles with incomplete instrumentation
- HS ensembles performing less demanding repertoire (Grade 3 and below)
- Intermediate level HS ensemble from schools that offer a sequential program
- HS ensembles that are the only group of its kind offered at the school

CLASS III: High School Advanced*Class III Sight-reading music level are grades 2.5 and 3***High School Advanced Level Ensembles (grades 9-12)**

- Advanced level HS ensembles from schools that offer a sequential program
- HS ensembles performing advanced level repertoire (grade IV, V, VI)
- HS ensembles with complete or nearly complete instrumentation
- Open Classification: Director elects to have a group evaluated at a highest level

Festival Classification Rubric

ITEM	CLASSIFICATION I	CLASSIFICATION II	CLASSIFICATION III
School Level	Elementary Middle School: Beginning	Middle School: Advanced High School: Novice or Intermediate	High School: Advanced
Size of School	Up to 499	500 - 999	1000 and up
Size of Program	Small	Medium	Large
Number of Groups	Elementary: 1 or more Middle School: 2 or more	Middle School: Only Group Middle School: 2 or more High School: 2 or more	High School: 2 or more
Placement in Program	Elementary: All Groups Middle School: Intermediate	Middle School: Only Group High School: Freshman High School: Intermediate	High School: Highest of all
Instrumentation/ Voicing	Partial	Nearly Full	Full
Music Level Performed	Grade 1 -2	Grade 2 - 3	Grade 4 and Up
Days of Rehearsal per Week	1 - 2	3 - 4	5
Hours of Rehearsal per Week	1 - 3 hours	3 - 5 hours	5 hours and up
Predominate Grade Level	Elementary: All Middle School: 6 - 7	Middle School: 7 - 8 High School: 9 - 10	High School: 11 - 12
Percent Taking Private Lessons	Under 25%	25% - 50%	50% or higher
Ensemble Festival Experience	0 - 1 years	2 years	3 or more years
Director's Years of Experience	1 - 3	4 - 6	7 or more

*Select the Classification that best describes the ensemble for each item.
The classification most selected should determine the ensemble's classification.*