

**Below is updated information reflecting our decisions at the July meeting concerning the new Music Literacy Evaluation. This information can be shared and discussed with other directors.**

The TMAA Sight Reading Revision Committee met at the 2018 Summer Conventions and the discussion of possible changes to the Sight-Reading (Music Literacy) evaluation process continues to evolve. We would like to thank all the directors who have provided input either individually or for your region. Your suggestions and ideas have helped us rethink some aspects and develop a procedure that we feel will fit the needs of all divisions (band, choir & orchestra) and all classification of schools across the state.

Since the information we released at the spring region meetings, we have made some significant adjustments due to your input. Below is the framework we developed after our meeting at the summer convention in July

**Score Study Period**

- The score study period was added back into the process.
- Band and orchestra conductors will have a three-minute score study period.
- Choir conductors will have a one-minute score study period for middle school ensembles and a two-minute score study period for high school ensembles.
- During the score study period, music/folders will be distributed to the students, but they will not be able to view or study the music during this period.

**Instruction/Rehearsal Period**

- Length of instruction/rehearsal period
  - The total instruction time for Band & Orchestra will remain the same as in the current system, but there will only be one instruction/rehearsal period.
  - Varsity and non-varsity choirs will have 10 minutes. Sub Non-Varsity choirs will have 11 minutes.
- Instrument Use
  - Only one director may instruct/rehearsal the ensemble.
  - The director may not play an instrument.
  - Band & Orchestra students may play instruments individually, in small groups or with the full ensemble.
  - Choir only – The piano may be used to play the tonic triad (broken or unbroken) throughout the instruction/rehearsal period. The director and/or students cannot play parts on the piano.
  - All students may count, clap and tap rhythms.
- Directors and students may sing parts during the Instruction/Rehearsal period.

**After the Instruction/Rehearsal Period and before the Performance**

- Band & Orchestra: If a director chooses, a sustained note (unison or chord), of the director's choice may be played immediately following the instruction period and prior to the performance. No further warm-up, instruction or communication of any kind is permitted by your conductor, including the use of verbal counting to initiate the reading.
- Choir: At the completion of the instruction period, the choir will be given the tonic chord, in block or broken chord style. At that time, the students and the director may reproduce the tonic chord, utilizing their preferred method (numbers, syllables, etc.). Starting pitches then may be given, which each section and the director, may sing, again utilizing their preferred method. After the choir has sung the starting pitches, no further warm-up or musical instruction of any kind is permitted by the director, including the use of verbal counting to initiate the reading. The music will then be sung without piano accompaniment and using the group's preferred method. The director may choose to read the piece in the printed key or any other key suitable for the group. In the event the director elects to halt the performance, it should be for the sole purpose of designating a starting point. No further instructions may be given.

## **Judges**

- One judge will remain in the room to ensure compliance with the procedures for the instruction/rehearsal period of the Music Literacy Evaluation. This judge will rotate among the panel but must be a TMAA Provisional or Active member.

We still want input from directors, so please don't hesitate to contact one of the committee members with additional thoughts or suggestions. We plan to present the new procedures with demonstration groups at the 2019 summer conventions.