

CHORAL SIGHT-READING CRITERIA

A guide to aid Indiana Choral Directors
as they prepare choirs for the
ISSMA High School Organization Auditions




This information is a compilation of the
Concert Organization Committee's Guidelines
to be used in conjunction with the ISSMA Rules and Regulations Manual.

Fall 2017

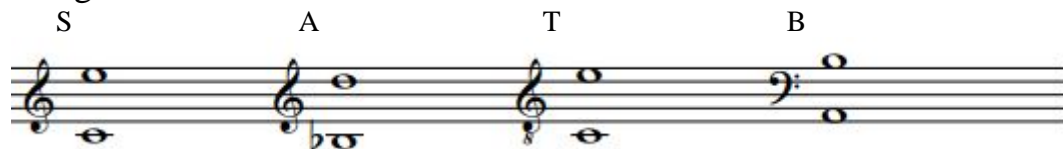
GROUP III

(GROUP IV Optional– For Comment Only)

General Guidelines – Beginning Difficulty

- Meter: 4/4 or Common Time, 2/4, 3/4
Keys: Major Tonalities – C, F, G, or B^b
(No key changes during exercises)
Rhythm: Any or all of the following figures:

Exercises: Unison and two part exercises (a cappella)

Vocal Range:



Rhythmic Exercise – Unison

- Length: 16 measures
Composition: Predictable rhythm patterns, simple syncopation possible
Execution: Clapping, counting, singing, or reciting on neutral syllables
Time Limit: One minute preparation – Performance to follow immediately.

Melodic Exercise – Unison

- Length: 16 measures
Composition: Tonic as starting pitch, stepwise motion, small intervallic skips up and down. Based upon chordal movement and using Group III prescribed rhythmic figures.
Execution: Singing on a neutral syllable, numbers or solfege
Time Limit: Two-minute preparation; optional 30 seconds to establish tonality. Performance to follow immediately.

Harmonic Exercise – 2 Part

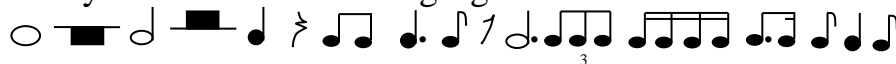
- Length: 16 measures
Voicing: At director's discretion – any combination, Mixed/TB, SA
Composition: Stepwise motion, small intervallic skips up and down. Based upon chordal movement and using Group III prescribed rhythmic figures, no use of accidentals.
Execution: Singing on a neutral syllable, numbers or solfege
Time Limit: Two-minute preparation; optional 30 seconds to establish tonality. Performance to follow immediately.

GROUP I

General Guidelines – Advanced Difficulty

Meter: 6/8, 3/4, 4/4 or Common Time, 2/4
Keys: Major Tonalties – C, F, B, E, G, D, A, or B^b
(No key changes during exercises)

Rhythm: Any or all of the following figures:



Exercises: Unison and three-four part exercises (a cappella)

Vocal Range:



Rhythmic Exercise – Unison

Length: 16 measures
Composition: Non-predictable rhythmic patterns, duration and syncopation
Execution: Clapping, counting, singing, or reciting on neutral syllables
Time Limit: One minute preparation – Performance to follow immediately.

Melodic Exercise – Unison

Length: 16 measures
Composition: Some stepwise motion, small to intermediate skips up and down, intervals of sixth and seventh possible, melodic patterns outlining diatonic chords and chromatic usage more frequent. Traditional composition techniques will be employed combined with prescribed Group I rhythmic figures.
Execution: Singing on a neutral syllable, numbers or solfege
Time Limit: Two-minute preparation; optional 30 seconds to establish tonality. Performance to follow immediately.

Harmonic Exercise – SSA/TBB/SATB

Length: 16 measures
Voicing: As entered – SSA/TBB/SATB
Composition: Some stepwise motion, small to intermediate skips up and down. Intervals to sixths and sevenths possible. Traditional composition techniques will be employed combined with prescribed Group I rhythmic figures, limited use of accidentals at composer's discretion.
Execution: Singing on a neutral syllable, numbers or solfege
Time Limit: Two-minute preparation; optional 30 seconds to establish tonality. Performance to follow immediately.