

Middle Tennessee Vocal Association  
Mid-State and Freshmen Honor Choir  
Sightreading Guidelines and Procedures

### Procedures

- The sightreading portion of the audition will follow the singing of the prepared material.
- Upon completion of the prepared portion of the audition, one judge will place the sightreading sheet on a music stand. This judge will stay in full sight of the student through the completion of the sightreading portion of the audition. The judge will ensure that the student does not write on the examples or duplicate the examples with digital media.
- Sopranos and Altos will be given examples in treble clef.
- Basses will be given examples in bass clef.
- Tenors will be given two sheets, one in the octave treble clef (♭) and one in bass clef.
- The same set of examples will be used in each room.
- **Written instructions for sightreading will be posted in the common areas of the audition location and posted online. The instructions will include information about procedural order of the sightreading audition, clef information (with special instructions for tenor rooms, where two sheets will be made available), and all other pertinent information. The Mid-State/All-State Chair should oversee the creation and posting of these materials.**
- **Once the sheet is placed on the music stand, verbal instructions will be given to the student via a pre-recorded sound file (.mp3, CD, etc). The recording will instruct the student which excerpt he/she will sing and give the opening pitch. The recording will read as such:**  
    **“You are now being handed the sightreading examples. You will sightread Example Number \_\_\_\_.**  
    **(Opening pitch, then 30 second pass). After you hear the first pitch and a count-off, please sing the excerpt. (note, click, click...)**
- **After the opening pitch, a voice will say “One, two, ready, go” in tempo, concurrently with the preparatory clicks. The clicks will continue for the four measures of the exercise, plus an additional two measures of clicks.**
- Students may sing the example on solfege or a neutral syllable of his/her choice. Please avoid “oo” vowels for the sake of volume. If the student cannot be heard the excerpt will be judged as incorrect.
- The student will be given the first pitch prior to having 30 seconds to review the material. During this time, students **are encouraged** to vocalize.
- Upon completion of the sightreading portion of the audition, the judge will take the sightreading sheet and the student may leave.
- **Past examples of sightreading materials can be made available online for perusal and study.**

### Sightreading Example Guidelines

- Each example will be equal in difficulty.
- Each example will not exceed four measures in length.
- Each example will begin and end on the root of the key (DO).
- **The first pitches will not exceed D-natural for Soprano/Tenors; C-natural for Bass/Alto.**
- Each example will be in common time.
- The metronome marking of each example will be between **60-100** bpm.
- Each example can include the following rhythmic elements:
  - Quarter notes, half notes, whole notes, eighth notes
  - Dotted quarter notes, dotted half notes
  - Quarter rests, half rests.
- Each example will include stepwise melodic motion.
- Each example will include leaps of a third **and/or leaps within the tonic triad.**

- Examples will not stray from the diatonic major scale.
- Melodies can ascend higher and descend lower than the tonic.
- The overall range of the example will not exceed one octave. For example, if an example descends below the tonic to the fifth scale degree, it will not exceed in range the fifth scale degree above the tonic.
- The Mid-State/All-State Chair will, in consultation with the MTVA Board, appoint someone to write the sightreading excerpts each year and create the corresponding sound files. This person can, but does not have to be, a member of MTVA.

### Sightreading Judging Guidelines

- Each adjudicator will judge the students on two separate indicators – rhythmic accuracy and pitch accuracy. Each will be equal in value. Both indicators will be assessed on the same four-measure excerpt.
- Judges will bubble in the Excerpt Number on the tally sheet for each student.
- The highest and lowest sightreading scores for each student will be dropped and the average of the remaining three will contribute to the student’s mean score.
- The performance and sightreading indicators will change in value according to the following schedule.

2013	Performance					Sightreading	
	Pitch	Tone	Rhythm	Diction	Musicality	Pitch	Rhythm
9	25%	25%	25%	13%	12%	0%	0%
10-12	24%	24%	24%	12%	11%	2.5%	2.5%

2014	Performance					Sightreading	
	Pitch	Tone	Rhythm	Diction	Musicality	Pitch	Rhythm
9	25%	25%	25%	13%	12%	0%	0%
10-12	23%	23%	23%	11%	10%	5%	5%

2015 and forward	Performance					Sightreading	
	Pitch	Tone	Rhythm	Diction	Musicality	Pitch	Rhythm
9	24%	24%	24%	12%	11%	2.5%	2.5%
10-12	22%	22%	22%	10%	9%	7.5%	7.5%