Choral Music Staff Meeting

Tri-Cities High School, Fulton County

January 10, 2012

LGPE Review

Dates and Locations:

 MS: February 14 and 15, 2012

 Mays HS

 Organizer: Garnetta Penn gpenn@atlanta.k12.ga.us

 HS: HS LGPE dates: February 15 and 16

First Christian Church of Atlanta, Tucker, GA

Organizer: Velma Page, vpage@atlanta.k12.ga.us

1. As soon as you have received your assigned time, decide transportation needs.

Will you use FC buses? Charter buses?

1. Plan meals. Will your students be on site over the lunch or dinner break? Will they need money for food?
2. Get Field trip forms completed EARLY. Include if money is needed for food and/or snacks on site. Include the following items on the field trip form.
3. Concert attire.
4. NO talking in the auditorium during or between groups.
5. NO cell phones.
6. NO electronic devises of any kind.
7. No movement in or out of the auditorium except between groups.
8. If you are having your group recorded, get check requests in early.
9. Make sure all teachers in your school know that your students will be gone that day so they can plan tests, etc.
10. Allow time for your students to hear at least one group. Devise a listening guide for them to “adjudicate” themselves and other groups.
11. Make sure the students understand that this is not a competition between schools. We want ALL schools to receive wonderful ratings !

We have had EXCELLENT behavior that last few years. CUDOS!

1. Have you scheduled a pre-LGPE concert? If not, do you Normally do so?
2. Do you bring in a guest judge to give comments and ratings?
3. Have you ever had your kids sight-sing live on stage? Do you do it at this concert?
4. If you want to do a pre-LGPE concert, set it up as close to LGPE as you can. (2 selections, no dress rehearsal, sight-sing, bring in a judge, etc.)
5. All selections must be performed exactly as written with instruments, accompaniment, percussion, text, etc.
6. Read the information below from the GMEA Handbook regarding actual procedures.

***LGPE On-Site Procedures***

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Registration at the LGPE desk.

Turn in scores with measures numbered for judges.

Turn in any required recording media for each group.

Verify classification, voicing, and program of groups. Classification may not be changed the day of LGPE.

Warm-up: All groups are allowed to use the warm-up area during the time slot on the schedule immediately preceding their scheduled performance time. The stage may be used for warm-up by the first group scheduled in each session.

Performance - According to specific music requirements for each groups (see Music Requirements section). No encores are permitted in GMEA performance evaluations.

Sight-Reading: According to specific requirements for each group (see Sight-Reading section). Generally, the same amount of time is scheduled for the sight-reading portion of LGPE as for the performance portion. Sight-reading is held in a separate area and is adjudicated by only one judge. In districts where the Expanded Format is being utilized, full orchestras who choose the clinic/sight-reading option will sight-read a full orchestra selection.

Listening: It is recommended that all groups schedule time during the performance evaluation to remain in the auditorium and listen to performances. This is considered to be one of the most important features of the LGPE. If facilities are limited, local officers are expected to work out a plan whereby groups may be seated for listening. Student groups must be adequately supervised in the performance and audience area. No electronic communication or gaming devices will be allowed in the performance hall during performances.

A group arriving significantly late to Large Group Performance Evaluation will forfeit their performance time without refund. In the case of extenuating circumstances the head adjudicator and organizer may attempt to make accommodations at their discretion.

***Music Requirements for Large Group Performance Evaluation***

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GENERAL requirements for all bands, choruses, and orchestras are as follows.

Violation of music requirements will result in lowering of the overall rating by one degree and a letter concerning abuse to all involved principals from the Ethics Committee.

Scores of all music performed must be furnished to each judge. Each score should have measures numbered. Photocopied scores may be used ONLY if a letter from the publisher or vendor is attached stating that the music is on order or is presently out of print. Directors should purchase enough music to supply the group with legitimate copies. The number of copies purchased should be stated in the letter presented at LGPE. This letter must be dated at least 14 days prior to the first day of the event in question.

Performance Evaluation music performed by a specific group MAY NOT be performed again by that same group within a three year time period for high school ensembles and a two year time period for middle school ensembles.

Any group may change its classification at any time up to fourteen days prior to the first day of the performance evaluation provided the District Performance Evaluation Chair is notified. This change is to be made on the Opus web site.

Any group may change from rating to comment only or vice-versa in BOTH concert and sight-reading at any time prior to performance, provided the District Performance Evaluation Chair is notified in advance.

Any group entering COMMENTS ONLY must adhere to the rules of the Large Group Performance Evaluation concerning choice of music, sight-reading rules, etc. Any variance of the rules by a group entering for comments only will result in the withholding of comment sheets, and a letter from the Vice President for Performance Evaluation concerning the abuse to all involved principals.

Any and all questions on the part of the conductor regarding the appropriateness of any selection programmed, be it the free choice or warm-up selection, must be referred to the head adjudicator via the event organizer 60 days ahead of the first day of the LGPE event, allowing the head adjudicator adequate time to rule on it. Should the head adjudicator rule a selection inappropriate, and present sufficient grounds for that ruling, enough time should be allowed for the conductor to re-program the selection(s) in question and prepare another one deemed acceptable.

All pieces performed will be evaluated.

There is no required music list for Elementary groups (Class E).

***Sight-Reading at Large Group Performance Evaluation***

The sight-reading portion of the Large Group Performance Evaluation follows the presentation of the prepared performance. One judge shall be used for all entries and his/her rating will be final. No audiences are permitted in the sight-reading room except at the discretion of the district performance evaluation chairman or the adjudicator and with permission of the director whose group is sight-reading.

Sight-Reading is required for all high school ensembles.

Sight-Reading is required for junior high and middle school bands and choruses.

Junior high/middle school bands and orchestras have the option of sight-reading for comments only even though playing for a rating in concert. Middle school choruses will sight-read for comments only if the stage performance is comments only.

Sight-reading is optional for elementary ensembles and middle school orchestras. Should they choose to sight-read, ensembles entering Class E or E-1 will read the selection chosen by the selection committee designated for classification Level I .

Ensembles will sight-read one (1) selection appropriate to their performance level.

Chorus LGPE Specific Items

***Chorus LGPE Music Requirements***

Each group will perform two (2) selections. One selection must be chosen from the Required Music List (determining the classification level of the group registering for LGPE) and the second selection may be chosen from the Required Music List (from the same classification), or may be a piece not currently listed but of the same caliber as the classification for which the group has registered for LGPE.

To avoid a split program (i.e. choosing music from two different classification levels), check all lists for chosen titles. To easily check all lists, merge the various LGPE lists into a single EXCEL document in alphabetical order by title. In the event that a group performs a split program, the group’s overall performance rating will be penalized one rating level (i.e. a group that would have received a “Superior” with no requirement violation, receives an “Excellent” with the infraction). If a group chooses to perform for “Comments Only”, all guidelines in music selection should still be followed.

Participation in LGPE encourages selecting music that challenges singers and exposes students to music worthy of in-depth study. This is not the proper venue for pop, vocal jazz, gospel, Broadway, rap, or choreographed selections. If a director wishes to do a piece composed or arranged by himself/herself, prior approval of the piece should be obtained from the head adjudicator via the event organizer 60 days before the first day of LGPE.

High School groups must perform one a cappella selection. A piece with any instrumental part (including percussion) or accompaniment shown that is not marked ‘optional’ may not be performed a cappella nor will the selection be considered the a cappella piece for the group.

Groups registering as Class M or E may perform a cappella pieces, but are not required to do so. For Class M or E groups, both selections may be accompanied, but if the Required Music selection is marked a cappella, then it must be sung a cappella.

Groups registering as Class MA, MB, MC, or MD must follow the guidelines of High School groups and perform one selection a cappella. Accompaniment at LGPE is live. No electronic instruments may be used for the purpose of changing the key of selections. If any accompaniment or instrumental part is shown in a selection, and is not marked ‘optional’, it must be performed. Any infractions of these requirements may result in the group’s score being penalized by one rating level.

Selections that are in Latin must be sung in Latin. If Latin is present and not sung, it will result in a penalization of the performance score by one rating. If a piece is in another language and is serving as the Required Music selection, it must be sung in the original language. If a piece is not serving as the Required Music selection, it may be sung in the original language or in the English translation. If a selection appears on the Required Music List with a specified number of movements, the appropriate number of movements must be performed.

A single group may perform selections written in two different voicings, but varying by only one part. For example, pairings of songs may be SA/U, TB/U, SA/SSA, TB/TTB or TBB, SSA/SSAA, TTB/TTBB, TBB, TTBB, SATB/SAB.

In order to become accustomed to the performance area, at the discretion of the director, a performing group may begin with a short warm-up or chorale. This warm-up or chorale is not judged, but must fall within the overall prescribed time limits.

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***Chorus LGPE Sight-Reading Requirements***

The following guidelines are to be used when preparing the sight-reading example:

1. The director MAY give verbal instructions.

2. The director MAY NOT demonstrate or rehearse pitches, intervals or rhythms during the sight-reading procedure.

3. The director MAY establish the tonality of the example using vocal exercises, scales, triads and arpeggios either with or without the piano.

4. Students are expected to use syllables, numbers or neutral sounds. Humming is not permitted.

5. Students must rehearse INDIVIDUALLY, not in small groups.

6. Students may discuss the example within their section but may not rehearse pitches or rhythms together.

7. Students may ask questions of the director.

The 5 minute rehearsal period will be ended by the adjudicator, at which time the sight-reading example will be performed by the group, using their preferred sight-reading method. The director may give the specific beginning pitch for each voice part but may not sing or hum with any vocal part of the group during the sight-reading performance. Upon completion of the sight-reading example, the group will close the sight-reading booklets and follow the instructions of the adjudicator. Infractions of any sight-reading requirement will result in the lowering of the overall sight-reading score by one (1) grade for each infraction of the specific group.

Sight-reading is required of all classification groups except for Classification E. Those groups performing in Classification E may elect to sight-read, if they so choose. Class M groups must sight-read the same numbers of parts that are sung in their performance pieces. Groups below the high school level which enter classification MD, MC, MB or MA may choose to sight-read either classification M or a more difficult example from high school classifications D, C, B or A.

**Cristy Ray - Sight Reading Room Procedures**

1. Open booklet
2. Ask following series of questions:
3. How many measures do you see?
4. What kinds of notes do you see?
5. How many beats per measure?
6. What kind of note receives one beat?
7. Is your rhythm the same or different than (the other part/parts)?
8. Look at the same or similar measures.
9. Look at the measures that are different. Be aware of who has moving vs. sustained notes.
10. Are there any dynamic markings?
11. What is the key signature?
12. Sing a (??) scale with arpeggios, please.
13. What is your starting solfege pitch?
14. Sing that pitch please.
15. Does your line move by step, skip, leap or combination?
16. How many times does your part sing DO?
17. Look at your melodic line vs. the other parts. Look for similarities and differences.
18. You have one minute to practice your part. Sing your starting pitch again, please.
19. Begin.
20. At the end of 1 minute….
21. Would you say your part is easy or difficult?
22. In what measures did you have a problem? Why?
23. Remind them to relate all intervals to DO
24. Practice again, please.
25. Sing starting pitches.