

Alabama Bandmaster's Association

Music Performance Assessment Adjudicators

PHILOSOPHY

We, the membership of the Alabama Bandmasters Association (ABA), believe that Music Performance Assessment Evaluations are valuable opportunities for musical growth for both students and directors. We believe that the primary purpose of Music Performance Assessment Evaluations is to provide constructive feedback to participants in an effort to help them improve musical skills, knowledge, performance abilities, and understanding. Musical performances are evaluated by adjudicators who use their musical knowledge and experiences to analyze, diagnose, and prescribe. Performers do not compete against one another; bands do not compete against other bands. Instead, performances are evaluated on the basis of how they compare to musical standards as determined by the adjudicators.

We recognize that each adjudicator brings a wealth of musical knowledge and experience to the adjudication process. We also recognize that, while there is a common core of musical knowledge which all trained musicians share, each adjudicator brings a different level of knowledge and experience to the process. It is the diversity and wealth of individual experiences of our adjudicators that provides comprehensive evaluations for our students and directors. We value the fact that musical performance is an interpretive art. As such, attempts to quantify or standardize it should be avoided. The evaluation of a musical performance is also an interpretive process. Each adjudicator will interpret a musical performance based on his or her own unique background of experiences. Attempts to quantify or standardize the interpretive nature of the adjudication process would contradict the very purpose of our Music Performance Assessment Evaluations.

The primary tasks of Music Performance Assessment adjudicators are to help the participants understand how well they are performing compared to the musical standards which are appropriate for their level of maturity and experience, and to suggest ways in which improvement can be achieved. Adjudication sheets are tools which can assist adjudicators and participants in understanding the criteria which are to be included in the overall evaluation process. These sheets can also help the adjudicator address the criteria in a consistent manner. But it is the adjudicator's perception and interpretation of the performance that ultimately determines how those criteria are applied.

We believe that the selection of persons to become adjudicators is an important process which has been carefully designed and diligently followed by our Association. We also believe that the continuing education of our adjudicators is imperative. To that end, we offer workshops and certification training seminars. We recognize that the most effective way to improve the adjudication of our performances is to provide adjudicators with opportunities to gain additional musical and interpretive experiences. It is incumbent upon directors to evaluate adjudicators after each Music Performance Assessment so that feedback is available for the adjudicators. It is also incumbent upon all members of the Association to report violations of adjudication standards, or poor performance on the part of individual adjudicators, to the Adjudication Committee.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to provide information which is beneficial to the prospective or experienced Adjudicator. It is our hope that this information will help with preparation for a successful adjudication experience for the Adjudicator and band students in the state of Alabama. It has long been held by the ABA that participation in Music Performance Assessments is a major means of evaluating performances of bands throughout Alabama. The role of the ABA Adjudicator is crucial to the success of this process, in that consistency in the evaluation of performances on a state wide basis is critical to the maintenance of an effective Music Performance Assessment. The information that follows is compiled from sources that include the ABA Handbook, the NIMAC Manual (MENC) and Adjudication Committee members, as is set forth to assist ABA Adjudicators in preparing for a successful Adjudication experience.

PLEASE REMEMBER - The Executive Board has the authority to add or delete names on the Adjudicators List at any regular or special called Board meeting. This authority to do so should be used only in the case of extreme need or emergency.

Active Alabama directors must participate in ABA Music Performance Assessment events or they will not be allowed to adjudicate ABA-sponsored events and will be purged from the ABA Adjudicators List. (NOTE: Adjudicators purged from the Adjudication List must go through the certification process to be reinstated.

THE ADJUDICATION COMMITTEE

1. The Adjudication Committee shall consist of 4 members and the Chairman. The Chairman shall be the Past President and the members shall be selected by the ABA President and approved by the ABA Board. Two of the members shall be middle school directors or teach in a program that includes middle school students.
2. The members shall serve the following terms: On the first committee, in order to offset the rotation, 1 middle school and 1 high school member shall serve 1 year. 1 middle school and 1 high school member shall serve 2 years. The Chairman shall serve 2 years. Thereafter, each member will serve for two years. If a member is unable to complete the assigned term, the ABA President and Board shall make replacements to ensure the proper number and rotation.
3. The members of the Committee shall meet a least twice annually to prepare their recommendations for the ABA Board.
 - a. The Committee shall meet at the AMEA Conference and at All-State.
 - b. Service on the Committee is voluntary and there shall be no compensation paid to the members of the Committee.

I. ELIGIBILITY REQUIREMENTS

A. Requirements for Concert/Sight-Reading Adjudication for In-State directors

1. Have a minimum of 10 years experience as a Band Director at the Middle School, Junior High, High School, or College, or as a Conductor of a recognized instrumental music organization.
2. Has demonstrated the ability to consistently earn the highest ratings in Concert Band Evaluations.
3. Be a member of the ABA with current dues paid by September 1 of each year.
4. Continue to earn the highest ratings in concert band evaluations. Any adjudicator currently on the ABA Adjudicators List who fails to meet this requirement may be evaluated by the Adjudication Committee and removed from the List. To be reinstated to the List the adjudicator must re-apply.
5. The applicant must attend the ABA Certification Clinic as least once every five years.

B. Requirements for Out of State Applicants

1. Have a minimum of 10 years experience as a Band Director at a Middle School, Junior High, High School, College, or as a Conductor of a recognized instrumental music organization.
2. Has demonstrated the ability to consistently earn the highest ratings in Concert Band Evaluations.
3. Be a member of their state band director's association with current dues paid.
4. Continue to earn the highest ratings in concert band evaluations. Any adjudicator currently on the ABA Adjudicators List who fails to meet this requirement may be evaluated by the Adjudication Committee and removed from the List. To be reinstated to the List the adjudicator must re-apply.
5. Be listed on their state's adjudicators list if one exists.

C. Requirements for Retired, College/University & Private Instructors

1. Have a minimum of 10 years experience as a Band Director or teacher of an instrumental group at either a Middle School, Junior High, High School, College, or as a Conductor of a recognized instrumental music organization.
2. Has consistently demonstrated the ability to produce instrumental ensembles of high quality.

3. Be a member of MENC.
4. College /University personnel must additionally:
 - a. Have demonstrated understanding of and sensitivity to challenges that secondary school directors face in producing Superior instrumental ensembles.
 - b. Maintain an active involvement with and exposure to current band literature and instrumental performance.

II. APPLICATION FOR ADJUDICATION

A. Methods of Nomination for candidacy to Adjudicators List

1. From the Adjudication Committee
 - a. The Adjudication committee may recommend a candidate to the Board for consideration.
2. From the ABA Executive Board
 - a. In cases of extreme need or emergency, the ABA Executive Board has the authority to add to and/or delete names from the Adjudicators List at any regular Board meeting; this applies to all categories.

B. Application Procedure for all Applicants

1. The procedure for applying to be an Adjudicator is as follows:
 - a. Secure an Application from the District Chairman, the Adjudication Committee Chairman, the Executive Secretary, or the ABA website.
 - b. Applicant **prints clearly all information** needed on application form and signs the form.
*** IN-STATE APPLICANTS MUST ALSO PROVIDE PROOF OF ATTENDANCE AT AN MPA ADJUDICATION CERTIFICATION CLINIC WITHIN THE LAST FIVE YEARS!**
 - c. Three letters of recommendation must be secured from **active ABA Adjudicators with at least one from outside his/her home District**. The letters of recommendation must be sent **directly to the candidate**.
 - d. Applicant sends application form **and** the three letters of recommendation to the State Adjudication Chairman (Name and address located on the ABA website). The adjudication committee will evaluate the applications.
 - e. Finding everything in order, the recommended applicant's name will be submitted to the ABA Executive Board for approval to begin the certification process. Following Board action, the candidate will be notified of the Board's decision.

III. SELECTION OF ADJUDICATORS

A. For District Music Performance Assessment

1. All Adjudicators must be selected from the official ABA Adjudicators List.
2. Music Performance Assessment Adjudicators should be contracted by the District Chairman.
3. Districts may NOT use members from its own District as Adjudicators except by special permission of the President.
4. Adjudicators who are actively working for promotional and/or fund-raising companies may not serve in Districts where they are directly involved in the presentation, sale or the administration of their company's product or services.
5. The guidelines concerning selection of MPA Adjudicators may be waived in EMERGENCY situations ONLY as determined by the District Chairman for Music Performance Assessments after consultation with the ABA President.
6. Adjudicators must agree to the terms of and sign an ABA "Agreement for Adjudicator Service" form before they are officially under contract.

B. Conditions of Adjudicator Contracts

1. Any Adjudicator who breaks a contract without good cause, as determined by the Board will be removed from the Adjudicators List. The length of time of removal will be determined by the Board.

IV. EXPENSES, HONORARIA AND SCHEDULES

ALL MUSIC PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENTS

- A. Travel - \$.50 per mile round-trip in personal or rental automobile
- B. Actual round-trip coach fare for air travel
- C. When traveling by airplane, charges for authorized taxi and limousine fares and auto parking fees will be reimbursed when proper receipts are presented
- D. When traveling by auto, toll charges will be reimbursed when proper receipts are presented
- E. Meals - \$45.00 per day to be pro-rated as: Breakfast - \$10.00; Lunch - \$15.00; Dinner - \$20.00. Any gratuities are included in the \$45.00 paid
- F. Hotel/Motel Accommodations
 - 1) Room expense only
 - 2) Incidental expenses (telephone calls, restaurant charges, etc.) must be paid by the person(s) using the room
 - 3) Charges for extra unauthorized (spouses, children, friends) persons in a room must be paid by the person using the room.

**ALABAMA BANDMASTERS ASSOCIATION
ADJUDICATORS APPLICATION FORM**

Name _____ Address _____

City _____ State _____ ZIP _____ Home Phone (_____) _____

Office phone (_____) _____ Cell Phone (_____) _____

E-Mail _____

Current position/location _____

Member of MENC? ____ Yes ____ No Member of Bandmaster's Association? ____ Yes ____ No What State? _____

Major Instrument _____ Professional playing experience _____

Clinic/Conducting experience _____

Years experience in Music Education ____ Years of teaching experience: Elementary level _____

Jr. High/Middle School Level _____ Sr. High Level _____ College level _____

EMPLOYMENT RECORD

_____ 20____ TO 20____ _____ 20____ TO 20____

_____ 20____ TO 20____ _____ 20____ TO 20____

CONCERT BAND FESTIVAL RATINGS (Past 5 years at highest level contest in your state)

| Year | Rating | Year | Rating | Year | Rating |
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Professional or music organization memberships

Have you attended an Alabama Bandmaster's Judges Certification Clinic? ____ Yes ____ No

Date of Certification Clinic _____ Location of Clinic _____

Check the areas for which you wish to apply: _____ Alabama Bandmasters Music Performance Assessment

Solo and Ensemble: _____ Woodwind _____ Brass _____ Percussion _____ Stage Band

This completed form must be sent, with three letters of recommendation, to the Chairman of the Adjudicators Selection Committee: **Harry McAfee, 1333 Atkins Trimm Blvd., Hoover, AL 35226**

Do not write below this line

Approved for: MPA _____ Solo and Ensemble _____ Woodwind _____ Brass _____ Perc. _____ Stage Band _____

ABA President's Signature _____ Date _____