



CMEA Bay Section

Festival Definition of Classifications

Beginning in 2016, adjudicators used a new evaluation form that combines performance rubrics with a three-tiered sliding scale for the purpose of providing more objective evaluations. The evaluation scale is adjusted to accommodate groups at various levels.

Directors have the discretion to determine the classification under which their groups will be evaluated. Please read the descriptors to choose the classification that best fits your ensemble. There is a chart on the back of this page that may also help you. It is acceptable to register multiple groups within the same classification.

CLASS 1: Elementary School; Middle School Beginning or Intermediate

Elementary School Ensembles (grades 4-6)

- All elementary school ensembles

Middle School Beginning Level Ensembles (grades 6-8)

- MS ensembles in which the majority of students began playing/singing in the fall or have less than one full year of experience

Middle School Intermediate Level Ensembles (grades 6-8)

- MS ensembles in which the majority of students have 1-2 years of experience
- An intermediate level MS ensemble from schools that offer a sequential program
- MS ensembles with incomplete instrumentation
- MS ensembles that rehearse fewer than 3 hours per week
- MS ensembles performing grade I-II music
- MS ensembles that are the only group of its kind offered at the school

CLASS 2: Middle School Advanced; High School Novice or Intermediate

Middle School Advanced Level Ensembles (grades 6-8)

- Advanced level MS ensembles from schools that offer a sequential program
- MS ensembles with complete or nearly complete instrumentation
- MS ensembles playing more challenging repertoire (grade II, III, IV)

High School Novice and Intermediate Level Ensembles (grades 9-12)

- Novice level HS ensembles in which most students have less than 3 years experience
- HS ensembles comprised mostly of freshmen (grade 9)
- Ensembles from small high schools
- HS ensembles with incomplete instrumentation
- HS ensembles performing less demanding repertoire (grade III and below)
- Intermediate level HS ensemble from schools that offer a sequential program
- HS ensembles that are the only group of its kind offered at the school

CLASS 3: High School Advanced

High School Advanced Level Ensembles (grades 9-12)

- Advanced level HS ensembles from schools that offer a sequential program
- HS ensembles performing advanced level repertoire (grade IV, V, VI)
- HS ensembles with complete or nearly complete instrumentation
- Open Classification: Director elects to have a group evaluated at a highest level

Select the classification that best describes the ensemble for each item. The classification most selected should determine the ensemble's classification.

ITEM	CLASSIFICATION I	CLASSIFICATION II	CLASSIFICATION III
School Level	Elementary Middle School: Beginning	Middle School: Advanced High School: Novice or Intermediate	High School: Advanced
Size of school	Up to 499	500 – 999	1000 and up
Size of program	Small	Medium	Large
Number of groups	Elementary: 1 or more Middle School: 2 or more	Middle School: Only group Middle School: 2 or more High School: 2 or more	High School: 2 or more
Placement in program	Elementary: All groups Middle School: Intermediate	Middle School: Only group High School: Freshman High School: Intermediate	High School: Highest of all
Instrumentation	Partial	Nearly full	Full
Music level performed	Grade I – 2	Grade II – III	Grade IV and up
Days of rehearsal per week	1 – 2	3 – 4	5
Hours of rehearsal per week	1 –3 hours	3 – 5 hours	5 hours and up
Predominate grade level	Elementary: All Middle School: 6 – 7	Middle School: 7 – 8 High School: 9 – 10	High School: 11 – 12
Percent taking private lessons	Under 25%	25% – 50%	50% or higher
Director's years of experience	1 – 3	4 – 6	7 or more