

The Student Day Program (non-competitive)

Offered by Florida State Music Teachers Association.

FSMTA offers an evaluation program, which is structured and comprehensive. The requirements for this program are contained in the FSMTA Student Activity Handbook, which is available to all members. Students are tested annually, not only on their ability to perform, but also on their understanding of music theory and their general knowledge of music. Levels of difficulty range from Primary through Level 12.

Over one thousand students enroll in Student Day every year in the state of Florida. According to teachers and students, the extra effort involved in this comprehensive program is worthwhile and they have a great sense of accomplishment.

Students who have learned the material by the application deadline may enter for a **Certificate of Achievement**. Those students who have not completed the requirements may enter for a **Certificate of Progress**. Those entering for **Progress** must still be tested in all four areas – aural theory, written theory, skills, and repertoire.

1. The Performance Audition

takes place in front of one adjudicator who gives constructive criticism on the following:

- a) 2 to 3 pieces, depending on the level;
- b) technique: scales, arpeggios and other skills;
- c) keyboard theory, harmonization and transposition
- d) musicianship and sight-reading (one bonus point will be awarded toward the overall keyboard skills score if sight-reading is performed well).

The student's rating is noted by the adjudicator on an evaluation form.

2. Written Theory Exam

Students in all levels - Primary through 12 - take their written examinations in an assigned area. They work at their own pace and may leave as soon as they have finished.

GRADING: Progress: 0 - 69%; Achievement: 70% - 89%; Honors: 90% - 100%.

3. Aural Theory Exam

Students are tested in groups per level, 1 through 12.

GRADING: Progress: 0 – 69%; Achievement: 70% - 89%; Honors: 90% - 100%.

Dual Track Option For Levels 7 - 12 (instrumental) and 5 – 8 (voice): Students, who have completed Level 6 (instrumental) or Level 4 (voice), or who have demonstrated to their teacher that they are competent at the chosen level prior to the current Student Day, may enter for a certificate of **Performance** only (see 1 above) OR for a certificate of **Theory** only (see 2 and 3 above).

State Honors Award: Students who receive Honors in their Performance audition and who pass both Theory examinations are eligible to receive the FSMTA State Honors medal (see page 29).

General Information – Student Day Program

FSMTA offers an evaluation program, which is structured and comprehensive. Current membership dues of MTNA/FSMTA must be paid prior to the entry deadline for Student Day in order for a teacher's students to be eligible to participate.

Levels in this Student Day program range from Primary through Level 12. There are no specific age or length of study requirements. The program is open to the average student, pre-school beginner, transfer student, high school senior preparing to take college auditions, the late beginner, or even the adult or college student as well as the student with special needs. The general heading includes aural and written theory, technical skills, and performance of repertoire.

The level at which a student enters Student Day each year is left to the discretion of the teacher and is based on the skill level and knowledge of the student. Transfer students may enter at any level without having passed previous levels. Students may skip levels if their teacher feels that they are competent at the new level. Students who have passed a level in previous years cannot repeat that level, but must progress to a higher level.

Repertoire Guidelines

- Students must present an original score for each piece they are playing. Students who arrive either without the score or with a photocopy, for one or more pieces, will not be eligible for the Certificate of Achievement. Students may still be adjudicated for the work they have prepared (technical skills, sight-reading, harmonization, etc.), but will not be permitted to play the piece(s) for which there is no original score. They will receive a Certificate of Progress.
- See [Introduction to Piano Skills](#) on page 37 regarding the use of original material.
- No two compositions by the same composer may be performed at any level.
- Only pedagogical teaching material that appropriately fulfills the objectives of Student Day may be used. No arrangements, popular music, new age, or commercial music at any level or any time is permitted.
- Teachers are advised to observe the time limits for auditions. See [page 26](#).
- All repertoire lists serve as guidelines to illustrate the degree of advancement at which the student should be performing at each level. It is never required that the choice of repertoire comes from these lists; however, all suggested selections are appropriate for use as audition material. In many cases, pieces may be moved up or down one level, allowing latitude in program planning to provide both for challenge and for some relaxation of difficulty in audition material. The student should always be thoroughly comfortable with the choice of an audition program; thus, not every piece should tax the student's skills at his highest level of achievement.

Technical Skills Guidelines

- The required technical skills for each level are listed by instrument or instrumental group. These are to be regarded as a minimum basic requirement for developing a student's performance potential. Additional technical exercises may be used as desired, but only the ones listed in the guidelines will be tested during the performance examination. Adequate preparation in the specified skills is necessary for completing the performance requirements. It is important for the teacher to know what skills are necessary for each level, and prepare their students to perform all of them, even though only a few of the skills listed will be requested by the adjudicator.

Musicianship

- As part of the performance examination, students will be asked two or three questions about the pieces they are performing. The goal of these musicianship questions is to develop an understanding of style.

Sight-reading

- The ability to sight-read instills musical independence, tends to broaden one's repertoire, and may enlarge the student's scope of musical involvement. A sight-reading example will be heard during the performance examination on all levels and material to be sight-read should be two levels below the level at which the student has been entered. Students who perform the sight-reading example competently will be awarded one extra point toward their keyboard skills. If the example is NOT played well, the student's score will NOT be affected.

Student Evaluations

Performance Examinations

Without exceeding the time limit, the examiner will hear the entire repertoire. Pianists and vocalists are required to perform all pieces from memory. Total time for individual examinations includes repertoire, technical skills, musicianship, and sight-reading. (Teachers are urged to consider these time limits in the selection of their students' repertoire.) Length of auditions is as follows:

- Primary and Level 1 – 10 minutes
- Levels 2 and 3 – 15 minutes
- Levels 4 and 5 – 18 minutes
- Levels 6 and 7 – 20 minutes
- Levels 8 and 9 – 25 minutes
- Levels 10 through 12 – 30 minutes

The examiner will make brief written comments on each student's performance. The entire audition will be scored as follows:

- Section 1: (A) Keyboard Skills and/or Technique
(B) Harmonization and Transposition
(C) Musicianship
(D) Sight-reading

Maximum points: 10

- Progress: up to 6 points
- Achievement: 7 to 8 points
- Honors: 9 to 10 points

- Section 2: Repertoire

Maximum score: 100%

- Progress: up to 69%
- Achievement: 70% through 89%
- Honors: 90% to 100%

Note: Recommendation for State Honors Award requires Honors in both Sections 1 & 2.

Determination of level:

1. The teacher may decide whether a student should be working for a Certificate of Progress or Achievement. Teachers are encouraged to enter those students for Certificate of Progress who do not meet all the requirements for a particular level. This allows a student to be recognized for work accomplished thus far. The teacher should check "Certificate of Progress" on the evaluation form. However, if a student is entered for a *Certificate of Progress*, but passes or even gets Honors in everything, they should be awarded a *Certificate of Achievement*.

2. A student may skip a level at any time.
3. A student must progress to a higher level after having received a *Certificate of Achievement*.
4. A student may re-enter or progress to a higher level after having received a *Certificate of Progress*.

Theory Examinations

To qualify for a Certificate of Achievement at Student Day, students are required to pass a written theory examination and an aural theory examination. Written theory examinations may be taken at the student's convenience within a specified time period. Sample written theory tests will be found in pages P e through 12 e of this Handbook.

The aural theory examination is a test given at specific times for each level, except Primary, throughout the day. It is important that students arrive on time in order to be relaxed and begin the test with the group. The examiner will state the question and then play the example(s). After a pause, the question and example(s) will be repeated. The examiner should observe the class and make the pause long enough to allow all students to write down something before repeating or paraphrasing the question and playing the example(s) a second time. The examiner should repeat any of the questions as often as necessary, especially with rhythmic and melodic dictation. Above Level 6, it may not be necessary to repeat the question but the example(s) should be played at least twice. For more detailed suggestions, refer to "Music Dictation" (page xxv). Sample aural theory tests will be found in pages 1 f through 12 f of this Handbook. **All rhythm patterns at all levels will be played on a single key in the middle range of a keyboard instrument.**

Note: An achievement score of at least 70% **for both Aural Theory and Written Theory** is required to qualify for State Honors Medal. Students do not need to earn honors in aural theory or written theory to be eligible for the State Honors medal. They simply must pass the exams. However, those students above Level 6 (instrumental) or above Level 4 (voice) who choose the Theory Only portion of the Dual Track Option **must** receive Honors in both portions of the Theory Examination to be eligible for the State Honors Medal.

Awards

The FSMTA Student Day program recognizes student advancement by the awarding of certificates. At District Student Day, the *Certificate of Achievement* or the *Certificate of Progress* is awarded. Certificates may be awarded in piano, voice, organ, all orchestral instruments, classical guitar and chromatic free-bass accordion.

- **Certificate of Achievement** - awarded at Student Day to students who meet the requirements for repertoire, technique, sight-reading, and written and aural theory. It is awarded at the level at which the student has achievement scores in all areas (performance, technique, and theory). If the level of achievement is not as high as the level for which the student has applied, the *Certificate of Progress* will be awarded.
- **Certificate of Progress** - awarded at Student Day to students whose teachers elect to place them in this category, or who do not meet the requirements for the *Certificate of Achievement*. Students receiving the Certificate of Progress may enter the next District Student Day at the same level or progress to the next level.
- **Certificate of Theory** - awarded at Level 7 and above (instrumental) or 5 and above (voice) to students who choose to participate in the theory exams only, and meet the achievement requirements. **Honors in Theory allows students to earn the State Honors Medal.**
- **Certificate of Performance** - awarded at Level 7 and above (instrumental) or 5 and above (voice) to students who choose to participate in the Performance audition only, and meet the achievement requirements. **Honors in Performance allows students to earn the State Honors Medal.**

Certificates will include a sticker representing each examination (Performance, Written Theory, Aural Theory) for which the student achieves Honors.

Student Day Directives

Student Day

The date, place, and fee for Student Day are set by the Local or District Association where each Student Day event is held. Application forms may be obtained from the Local Student Activities Chairman. The Chairman will also be in charge of securing a central location for the Student Day, and for obtaining qualified examiners. Local and District Associations may also hold a recital for participants in Student Day, if they so choose, in a format of their choice.

Teachers may enter a student in Student Day in any district, regardless of where the teacher holds membership or where the student resides. The teacher will contact the Student Day chair of the other district in advance and make the request for the student - obtaining information on dates, location, and entry fee. The teacher will follow the local guidelines of the district that the student will visit.

Local and District Associations may ask teachers who enter students into Student Day to be available to help with the administration of the tests and auditions. In the event a teacher cannot or chooses not to do this, the local association which is administering the event may assess that teacher a non-participating fee, not to exceed \$50, and/or may ask that teacher to provide substitute help with monitoring or other tasks, as is deemed appropriate by the local Student Day administration.

Level Requirements

- **Primary and Level 1**
 - 2 pieces. Memorization is required by pianists and vocalists only.
 - Sight-reading two levels below.
- **Levels 2 through 12**
 - 3 pieces. Memorization is required by pianists and vocalists only.

Note: In Levels 5 through 12 the three pieces must be from different historical periods: Baroque, Classical, Romantic or Contemporary (including Impressionistic, 20th Century and 21st Century).

- **Dual Track choices for instrumental, Levels 7 through 12**
 - If a student has achieved at Level 6, he may continue with Levels 7 through 12, entering either for Performance only or Aural and Written Theory only, as follows:
 1. Performance audition only. The student may earn a *Certificate of Performance*.
 2. Theory exams only (Written and Aural). The Student may earn a *Certificate of Theory*.
- **Dual track choices for voice, Levels 5 through 8.**
 - The requirements are the same as for instrumental except that the achievement level is Level 4.

FSMTA State Honors Award Medals

FSMTA is pleased to provide State Honors Award medals to those students in Student Day who achieve State Honors status (see criteria below). Each medal will have the FSMTA logo on the front and State Honors will be engraved on the back.

The student must have been recommended for State Honors status by the examiner at Student Day. That recommendation will be awarded if the student meets the following criteria: (1) Honors in the Performance examination; (2) achievement or honors scores in both Aural and Written Theory examinations. Students who participate in the **performance audition only or theory only** in instrumental, Level 7 and above, or voice, Level 5 and above, will be awarded a State Honors Medal if they receive Honors in the Performance audition **or** Honors in **both** Aural and Written Theory.

The medals will be available from the FSMTA State Medals Chair only **after** the Student Day Chair has sent in the final Student Day tally reports.