

# THE MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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## VOCE GUIDELINES 2009-2010

Revised August, 2009

### I. A. Definition of VOCE: **V**ocalists **O**rchestral Instrumentalists **C**hamber Music **E**nsembles

#### B. Purpose

1. To open new channels for expanded opportunities and incentives for teachers and coaches
2. To inspire top caliber students toward their highest standard of achievement

### II. CATEGORIES AND AGE LIMITS (as of February 1<sup>st</sup> of the year of competition)

#### A. Vocalists

##### 1. Solo Voice Category

- a. Intermediate: age 17 and under
- b. Senior: age 18 through 23

#### B. Instrumentalists

##### 1. Solo String Category

- a. Junior: age 12 and under
- b. Intermediate: age 13 through 15
- c. Senior: age 16 through 18

##### 2. Solo Wind Category

- a. Intermediate: age 15 and under
- b. Senior: age 16 through 20

#### C. Chamber Music Ensembles

##### 1. Instrumental Chamber Music Ensembles (two to five students, no professionals)

- a. Intermediate: average age 15 and under
- b. Senior: average age 16 through 20

##### 2. Vocal Chamber Music Ensembles (three to five students, no professionals)

- a. Senior: average age 23 and under

### III. REPERTOIRE

#### A. Rules

1. All repertoires must include at least one piece from the standard literature for that category.
2. No transcriptions, arrangements, or abridged versions will be accepted. An exception will be made for those instruments whose repertoire does not embrace the normal requirements, in which case respectable transcriptions may be allowed. Please check with the VOCE Chairs regarding eligibility.
3. All solo repertoires must be memorized.

#### B. Vocalists

1. Three selections in the original language using English and two other languages:
  - a. One aria (opera or oratorio), plus two Art songs

OR

- b. Two arias (opera or oratorio), plus one Art song

#### C. Solo Instrumentalists

1. Two contrasting selections of different periods (**1. Renaissance/Baroque, 2. Classical, 3. Romantic/Impressionistic, 4. 20th & 21st Centuries.**) indicating different styles and tempi.
2. One piece must be a concerto or an equivalent major work with orchestral accompaniment.
3. Unaccompanied works are acceptable if paired with a concerto.

#### D. Chamber Music Ensembles

1. Two substantial, contrasting movements selected from repertoire of different musical periods. (See III C.1)

### IV. ELIGIBILITY

#### A. Rules for all contestants

**All applications must be filled out online and printed out on yellow paper. Incomplete or manuscript applications will not be accepted.**

1. All contestants must have studied with an MTAC member in good standing for at least six months. Student must study with primary teacher (MTAC member) 75% of the time.
2. Proof of age by a readable birth certificate, passport or driver's license must be sent with the branch application. Copies must also be sent to the State Chair along with the application for the State Finals.
3. State Solo Winners may not compete in the same category any other year. In an ensemble, a member may enter in the same category if the other members of the ensemble are different.
4. State Winners advance to the next category only if the age is correct.
5. No professional performers may compete in any category, but they may accompany a soloist. Musicians devoting a portion of their time performing for a fee are considered professional.
6. Use of photocopies by students or for the judges will disqualify the contestant. Use of CD sheet music & web scores must be approved ahead of time.
7. Every contestant must perform a live audition at the Branch competition, and the State Finals. No tapes or CD's will be allowed.

**B. Rules for Solo category**

1. All solo pieces must be memorized.
2. Concerti for multiple instruments will be judged in the Solo category. The instrumentation for both selections must be the same. The solo parts must be memorized. The accompanist can be a professional.
3. Sonatas played in the Solo category must be played by memory.

**C. Rules for Ensembles - Instrumental and Vocal**

1. The appropriate category of an ensemble will be determined by the average ages, including months, of all the members.
2. At least one ensemble player must be a student of an MTAC member.
3. In all ensembles, the same instrumentation and student performers must be used for both selections.
4. Instrumental ensembles are defined as instrumental groups of two to five players, (i.e., string or wind duos, trios, quartets and quintets, with or without piano). Multiple piano groups are not acceptable.
5. Vocal ensembles are defined as groups from three to five students. Only one vocalist is required. The other members may be vocalists or instrumentalists.
6. There will be one recognized coach of the group, who must be an MTAC member in good standing; he/she will determine the Branch.
7. Major sonatas for piano and either a wind or string instrument, in which the piano score is written as an equal part and not as an accompaniment, can be considered an ensemble. Sonatas played in the Ensemble category should be played with music.
8. Concerti for multiple instruments will be judged in the Solo category. (see: B. Rules for Solo category , #2.)

**V. COMPETITION PROCEDURE**

**A. Branch Audition**

1. Two categories of performers are allowed at the branch level: non-competitive and competitive.
  - a. **Non-competitive**
    - i. Students perform only at the Branch level.
    - ii. Branches may decide if the non-competitive students are adjudicated and what fee to charge.
    - iii. Memorizing of music is optional.
    - iv. The non-competitive may be in the form of a pre-recital or part of the competitive recital.
  - b. **Competitive**
    - i. All contestants must be heard at the Branch level.
    - ii. Branch judges are encouraged, but not required, to award Branch First Place winners to go on to the State Finals.
    - iii. Two-way ties are allowed at the Branch Level.
    - iv. Alternates for the State Finals may be chosen if the quality is close to the First Place Winner.
    - v. An Alternate will go to the State Finals only if the First Place winner(s) does not go.
    - vi. The auditions may be in the form of recitals, open auditions or closed auditions.
    - vii. The decision of the judges is final.
1. Branches may take the State recommended fees or set their own fees. Branches keep the fees and pay their own expenses.
2. Each branch shall conduct its own auditions. If two or more branches join together, each branch shall have its own separate winners.
3. Branches should share the cost and workload of a merged competition. Checks and applications must be sent to the Host Branch.
4. Branches are encouraged to give all participants a certificate and may give awards.
6. Recommended, but not required, Branch audition time limit is 9 minutes.
7. Judges may stop a contestant during a piece in order to hear parts of the other selections.
8. Judges will choose whether or not to hear a cadenza.
9. **All applications must be typed online and printed out on yellow paper.**
10. **FOR BRANCH WINNERS: The Branch Chair sends the original Branch application, check, envelopes & birth document to the VOCE State Co-Chair for the State Finals audition. Do not make and send new applications. Attach the appropriate check to the application; proof of birth document; teacher self addressed, stamped (\$1.22) 9X12 manila envelope; teacher self addressed, stamped (.44) business size envelope; and one student self addressed, stamped (.44) business size envelope. Do not forget to send the Branch Program and Branch Report listing the winners.**

## B. State Finals (Please see above: V 9 and 10)

1. Audition time limit is 9 minutes.
2. The same repertoire performed at the Branch audition must be performed at the State Finals.
3. Judges have the right to stop a contestant during a piece for time consideration.
4. Judges will choose whether or not to hear a cadenza.
5. There will be no ties at the State Finals; however judges may chose a First Place violin and cello, and flute and clarinet, in any category if judges feel it is appropriate.
6. All entry fees are non-refundable.
7. The State Finals will be a closed audition.
8. **All First Place State Winners must perform (from the same repertoire) on the VOCE Recital at the MTAC State Convention in order to be declared the winner, and receive the financial award. Sending in the application to the State Chair is an indication that the student is committed to perform on the VOCE Recital if chosen First Place.**

## C. Adjudications for both the Branch and State Finals

1. At least two judges will be required for all adjudications.
  - a. Three judges are recommended if three disciplines are represented at the adjudication.
2. Judges may not be a member of a Branch with a participating contestant.
3. Judges may not be the teacher of a contestant.
4. State Finals judges may not have judged a Branch competition.
5. Alternates may be chosen in any category when the judges decide it is warranted.
6. It is not required for the judges to select a First Place Winner in every category if the contestants are not sufficiently qualified.
7. **No Xerox copies are allowed. Original score must be supplied to judges.** CD sheet music and music off the web must be cleared ahead of competition with Chair and appropriate documentation attached to the music.
8. The decision of the judges is final.

## VI. FEES

### A. Suggested Branch Audition Fees (Branches may set fees to cover cost of the competition)

Solo	\$40
Ensemble	\$30 per performer

### B. State Final Audition Fees

Solo	\$55
Ensemble	\$40 per performer

## VII. AWARDS

 The MTAC State Board of Directors determines the monetary awards.

Junior String Soloist	\$400	
Intermediate String Soloist	\$500	
Senior String Soloist	\$600	
Intermediate Vocalist	\$500	
Senior Vocalist	\$600	
Intermediate Wind Soloist	\$500	
Senior Wind Soloist	\$600	
Intermediate Instrumental Ensemble	\$900	for two players
	\$1,300	for three to five players
Senior Instrumental Ensemble	\$1,100	for two players
	\$1,600	for three to five players
Senior Vocal Ensemble	\$1,600	for three to five members

## VIII. DATES and DEADLINES

March 1, 2010  
March 1, 2010 (Final postmark date)  
  
Saturday, April 24, 2010  
  
July 2 – July 5, 2010  
Sunday, July 4, 2010

VOCE Branch auditions must be completed.  
All applications (on yellow paper) and fees for the State Finals audition must be sent to the State Co-Chair, Verna Balch  
VOCE State Finals  
Chapman University, 333 North Glassell, Orange, CA 92866  
**MTAC STATE CONVENTION, LOS ANGELES**  
VOCE Recital at State Convention

## IX. CO-CHAIR

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