

# **Sight Reading Guidelines For Second Orchestras** ***(String and Full Orchestra)***

## **MSHSAA**

The composition criteria for MSHSAA sight reading selections was revised in 2002-2003, when music expanded from four to five classes.

As a result, the committee determined that it would be beneficial to music directors throughout the state to have this criteria available to assist in preparations for sight reading. With this information in hand, directors will have a better understanding of the difficulty of the selection that will be used and will know what to expect in regard to rhythms, ranges, time signatures, etc.

To see the composition criteria for second orchestras, see below:

### **Key Signatures**

- Key Signatures will be limited to the following:  
C, G, D major, and relative natural minors.
- There should be at least one key signature change per piece.

### **Meters**

- Meters will be limited to the following:  
2/4, 3/4, 4/4, Cut Time

### **Tempo**

- Tempi will be no slower than 60 beats per minute and no faster than 108 beats per minute.
- For continuous pieces, there will be at least one tempo change, but no more than two.

### **Clefs**

- Viola will use only alto clef.
- Cello and Bass will use only bass clef.

### **Position Work**

- Minimal 3<sup>rd</sup> position work may be used in the violin 1 part only.
- Minimal 4<sup>th</sup> position work may be used in the cello.
- Minimal half position work and 5<sup>th</sup> position work may be used in the bass.

### **Fingerings**

- All fingerings will be marked when position work (listed above) is used.

### **Divisi**

- There will be no divisi parts written.

### **Multiple Stops**

- Multiple stops will be limited to all open strings or open strings with one finger used.

### **Repeats**

- 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> endings may be used.
- D.C., and D.S. may be used.
- Fine may be used.

- All signs and instructions will be clearly marked.

### **Bowings**

- Standard high school grade 4 bowings may be used (ie. detache, staccato, slurs, hooked bowing, spiccato etc.)

### **Rhythm**

- Whole, half, quarter, eighth, sixteenths, including dotted value note patterns will be used. Rhythmic patterns that are tied over barline, mixed values with 16<sup>ths</sup> and dotted 8ths may be used. Dotted 8ths and 16ths may be used in syncopation.

### **Length Of Piece**

- The piece will be 3-5 minutes in length.

### **General Page Layouts**

- All directions will be clearly marked.
- Music will be of published type-set or computer generated quality.
- There will be no page turn problems.

### **Instrumentation**

Flute 1,2- Flute 3 may be written, but with no essential soloistic passages.

Oboe 1 - Oboe 2 may be written, but with no essential soloistic passages.

Clarinet 1,2

Bassoon 1 - Bassoon 2 may be written, but with no essential soloistic passages.

Horn 1,2,3,4

Trumpet 1,2,3

Trombone 1,2,3

Tuba

Timpani

Snare Drum/Bass Drum

Cymbals

Optional Mallet Percussion

Optional Harp may be written.