

**THE MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA**

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**VOCE RULES & GUIDELINES 2015-2016**

Revised July 2015

**V**ocalists, **O**rchestral Instrumentalists, **C**hamber Music, **E**nsembles**Mission:**

*"To create a forum of expanded opportunities and incentives for teachers & students  
inspiring young musicians to reach the highest levels of their potential"*

**I. 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 16 and under
- b. Senior: age 17 through 21

**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/Brass Category**

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

**C. Chamber Music Ensembles****1. Instrumental Chamber Music Ensembles** (two to eight 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**)

- All: average age 21 and under

**II. REPERTOIRE****A. Rules**

1. All repertoire 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 representing different time periods, 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 (Musical theatre pieces which *avoid* a strong pop sound may be an acceptable substitution for one aria. Possible composers include: Bernstein, Gershwin, Sondheim, and others).

**C. Solo Instrumentalists**

1. Two contrasting selections from different periods (**ie: Renaissance/Baroque; Classical: Romantic/ Impressionist; 20<sup>th</sup> & 21<sup>st</sup> Centuries**) indicating different styles and tempi. In the case of transitional composers in different categories, refer to the date of composition to ensure a contrast in style. Refer to the State Chair for questions.
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.

## II. REPERTOIRE (continued)

### D. Chamber Music Ensembles

1. **Instrumental Chamber Music Ensembles:** Two substantial, contrasting movements selected from repertoire of different musical periods. (See II C.1)
2. **Vocal Ensembles:** Two contrasting selections from different periods and in two different languages. If time permits, a third piece may be performed, as long as it represents another musical period and is sung in another language. (Musical theatre pieces which *avoid* a strong pop sound may be an acceptable choice for the third piece. Possible composers include: Bernstein, Gershwin, Sondheim, Lloyd-Webber, and others).

## III. ELIGIBILITY

### A. Rules for all contestants

1. All contestants must have studied with an MTAC member in good standing for at least six months. Students in the solo category must study with the primary teacher (MTAC member) 75% of the time.
2. Proof of age, a copy of a birth certificate, passport or driver's license will be provided by the parent or student if over 18. This will be sent to the State Office through the Parent/student portal. Instructions will be provided on the VOCE website.
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. Teachers may not accompany their own students
6. Every contestant must perform a live audition at the Branch competition, and the State Finals. No recordings or CD's will be allowed.

### B. Rules for *Solo* category

1. All solo pieces must be memorized.
2. Concerti for multiple instruments can be judged in the Solo category as long as both works are concerti. The instrumentation for both selections must be the same and the solo parts must be memorized. The accompanist can be a professional. (See Rule C. 8. below)
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 eight 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; the coach's Branch membership will determine the Branch of the ensemble.
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 can be judged in the Solo or Ensemble categories (see Rules for Solo category, #2.) In the Ensemble category, the 2<sup>nd</sup> selection must be a chamber music work written for that instrumentation. **No professionals are allowed.**

## **IV. 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. Fees for non-competitive students may be paid directly to the branch. If paid through the State website, the fee is the same as competitive fees and is subject to the \$5.00 administration fee.
    - 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 at a higher amount. Branch fees will be paid on line to the State Office. A \$5.00 fee will be retained by the State Office for administration of branch fees. Branches will receive a rebate fee from the State Office.
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. Host Branches will receive the application fees.
4. Branches are encouraged to give all participants a certificate and may give awards.
5. Recommended, but not required, Branch audition time limit is 9 minutes.
6. Judges may stop a contestant during a piece in order to hear parts of the other selections.
7. Judges will choose whether or not to hear a cadenza.

### **BRANCH WINNERS advancing to STATE FINALS:**

8. **Parent/Student and Teacher must confirm student's application as well as pay online by March 5, 2016**
9. **Students must bring one teacher-addressed 9X12 manila envelope with \$1.50 postage to the FINALS.**

### **B. STATE FINALS** *(Please see above: IV. 8 & 9)*

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.
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) at the VOCE Winners Recital (at the MTAC State Convention) in order to be declared the winner, and receive the financial award. Failure to perform at the State Convention will prohibit future participation in the VOCE competition.**

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

1. At least two judges will be required for all adjudications.  
(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 photocopies are allowed. Original score must be supplied to judges.** CD sheet music and music off the web must be cleared with Chair ahead of competition and the URL must accompany any music printed from an online source.
8. The decision of the judges is final.

## **V. FEES**

**All Fees for both the Branch Audition and State Finals will be paid on line to the State Office.**

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

Solo	\$50
Ensemble	\$40 per performer

Branch Administration fee retained by State \$5.00

### **B. State Final Audition Fees**

Solo	\$85.00
Ensemble	\$60.00 per performer

## **VI. DATES and DEADLINES**

September 14, 2015

Online Registration Open.

**To participate in VOCE program for 2016 you need to use the new**

**MTAC system. Please log in to [new.mtac.org](http://new.mtac.org). Use your existing username and password. Once logged in, you will be prompted to change the password.**

March 1, 2016

VOCE Branch auditions must be completed.

March 5, 2016

Deadline to apply for finals.

Sunday, April 17, 2016

**VOCE STATE FINALS:** *Chapman University,  
333 North Glassell, Orange, CA 92866*

July 1-5, 2016

**MTAC State Convention,** Los Angeles Airport Hilton

Sunday, July 3, 2016

**VOCE WINNERS RECITAL (State Convention)**

### **VOCE Chair North, Kathy You**

20917 Hanford Dr.  
Cupertino, 95014

**408-550-4252 [chu.kathy@gmail.com](mailto:chu.kathy@gmail.com)**

### **VOCE Chair South, Xuefeng Stanley Wang**

17506 Alva Rd.  
San Diego, CA 92127

**858-436-4889 [violinmanwang@netscape.net](mailto:violinmanwang@netscape.net)**