



the association for music in international schools • church farm house • north lotham • diss • norfolk • ip22 2lp • england
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website: <http://amis-online.org>
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Honor Band Audition Instructions

AMIS International Honor Band and Choir Festival

You may wish to use this material for group instruction for all those hoping to audition. Essentially all instruments play in unison, although a few notes have been altered to keep the materials within reasonable ranges for various instruments.

1. Only students in grades 9-13 are generally eligible for participation in Honor Band. Capable 8th grade students will only be accepted should their instruments be needed. 8th graders are encouraged to participate in the AMIS Middle School Band Festival.
2. Submit **one** tape or disc **FOR EACH INSTRUMENT**. (ALL clarinets on one disc; all flutes on one disc, etc.) Do NOT record more than one type of instrument on a disc. Use good quality CD's or mini-discs only. CD's are preferred as they usually give the best sound quality. Be sure they are recorded as audio files. Quality equipment with good conditions in the recording process are requested. This will help your students to sound their best. Inferior sound quality will hinder the chances of your students if their true tone quality cannot be determined. Please do not over-edit. Editing within an exercise does not give an honest representation of the student's ability.
3. Please **CLEARLY LABEL** your CD, or minidisk **with the number of your school as listed on the AMIS web site** and the **instrument** recorded on it. Do NOT put your school name on the recording!
4. **You will need to complete the ONLINE audition list on the AMIS website. You will receive a copy of your submission as an email. Print a copy of this email, which MUST be submitted with your auditions.** This list will give the names of students in the order they appear on your disc, listing the tracks in which each individual audition is recorded. This printed list will serve as a doublecheck with the online submission.
5. Please include for **baritone** players whether **treble clef or bass clef** music is preferred.
6. Please indicate if the student is also auditioning for the Honor Choir and **which group would be preferred** if admitted to both.
7. The judges will NOT know what school each auditionee comes from or who the auditionee is unless information is submitted as requested. It is more important than ever to follow the instructions and to submit properly prepared forms!
8. Please read the page of percussion instructions very carefully. Percussion students **MUST** audition on **at least two** of the three areas: **Snare Drum, Mallets, Timpani**. They **MAY** audition on all three.
9. Students wishing to audition for piccolo should play the flute audition on the piccolo.
10. **THE AUDITION RECORDINGS AND FORMS MUST REACH THE CHURCH FARM HOUSE ADDRESS NO LATER THAN THE DUE DATE LISTED ON THE AMIS WEB SITE UNDER "LATEST FESTIVAL INFORMATION."** Do not assume that even DHL or Federal Express can always make a next day delivery; they can't. Please do not put the audition committee in the position of being asked to make an exception for your students if their tapes arrive after the due date. This is unfair to those students who had to prepare their work within the specified time. If your mail service is notoriously unreliable, it might be best to consider using an express or courier service. Label your packet or envelope: Educational Material. No Commercial Value.

Send to: **Georgia Bassett, Executive Consultant**
AMIS
Church Farm House
North Lopham, Diss
Norfolk IP22 2LP, England

Use Set A for the festival in the spring of 2009.
Use Set B for the festival in the spring of 2010.
Use Set C for the festival in the spring of 2011.

RECORDING INSTRUCTIONS Please read these instructions carefully!

1. Each **student**, (*NOT the teacher since committee members may recognize teachers' voices*) at the beginning of his or her audition, should say the following: "I am performer number one. I play flute." The next auditionee would say "I am performer number two. I play flute." and so forth. Please perform the scales in the order they are listed, ending with the chromatic scale. Then perform the slow selection followed by the fast selection. Do **NOT** announce each section of the audition. **It is crucial NOT to give the performer's name or school on the recording.**

DURING ALL SCALES, THE METRONOME MUST BE CLEARLY HEARD ON THE TAPE WITHOUT COVERING THE SOUND OF THE PLAYER.

2. **MAJOR SCALES:**
Play in the given pitch (not concert pitch). **Tongue up** the scale and **slur down** the scale as the example shows. **Use the rhythm shown.** Refer to the scale page for rhythm, tempos and scales required for each instrument.
3. **CHROMATIC SCALES:**
Play as triplets. Tongue up the scale and **slur down** the scale as Z the example shows. **Use the rhythm shown.** Refer to the scale page for rhythm, range and tempos required for each instrument
4. **SELECTIONS:**

METRONOMES SHOULD NOT BE USED WHILE RECORDING THE SELECTIONS.

Tempo markings are given for each selection. You should prepare these using a tempo close to the tempo recommendation which should be compatible with the character and style of each selection.

5. **Listen to your completed recordings before submitting them.** It is easy to record over or erase part of your student's audition when creating a master. **Incomplete auditions will disqualify a student.** Don't take the chance.
6. Be sure you and your students understand that **ALL** parts of the audition receive **EQUAL** ratings from those judging the tapes. If the selections are well prepared but the scales are sloppy, a student will probably not be admitted to the Honor Band.

Scales are rated highly by the audition committee when

- articulation is crisp and accurate.
- playing is in precise time with the metronome (and the metronome is audible throughout).
- the student plays with ease, fluidity and a consistently good tone quality.

To give yourself the best possible audition experience

- start your preparation early.
- express yourself musically at all times.
- shape your phrase endings.
- record and listen critically to yourself frequently.
- ask other people to listen to your playing.
- assess yourself, learn from the process and enjoy making music.
- add phrasing, dynamics and expression at your discretion on the excerpt that has none.

PERCUSSION AUDITION:

1. Percussionists **must** audition on **at least two** of the three areas: **Snare Drum, Timpani, Mallet.**
2. Students auditioning on the snare drum must demonstrate the following **rudiments** in addition to playing the snare drum selection. Please **announce each rudiment** before playing it.
 - A. **SINGLE STROKE ROLL:** pp to ff to pp in 15 seconds
 - B. **MULTIPLE STROKE ROLL:** pp to ff to pp in 15 seconds
 - C. **DOUBLE STROKE ROLL:** Starting slowly and increasing to very fast, then slowing back to the starting speed.
3. Students auditioning on mallet instruments should play the C, Db, D, Eb, E, F scales in succession; **one octave each, at a tempo between 144 to 200** using the rhythm indicated. **The metronome should be playing during this exercise**