



the association for music in international schools • church farm house • north lotham • diss • norfolk • ip22 2lp • england
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Audition Instructions

AMIS Middle School Honor Band Festivals

Eligibility: Top Players in Grades 7-8

Auditions must reach the Church Farm House address by the date listed on the AMIS website under “Latest Festival Information”

PROCEDURES FOR SUBMITTING AUDITIONS

Set A should be used for festivals in the spring of 2006, 2008, 2010, 2012

Set B should be used for festivals in the spring of 2007, 2009, 2011, 2013

Please follow the instructions carefully because they are designed

- to help with “quality control” of auditions,
- to give some idea of tone quality
- to assist with proper part distribution
- to insure the most deserving students get the opportunity to be included in this festival

You are asked to work with the students, using this process as a genuine learning experience. This generally will take place over a period of several weeks. You then actually rate them on a specific play-through of the audition material.

We ask that all teachers structure the playthrough/recording as follows:

These instructions differ greatly from the instructions for other AMIS festivals.

- 1. Record the student announcing his or her name, then turn off the machine and have the student play exercises 6 and 7.** (You will need to rate these exercises as the student plays through them.)
- 2. Turn on the machine and record exercise 8 as the student plays through this.**
Be sure to mark each mistake as your student plays through the exercise.
- 3. Turn off the machine** and have your student play exercises 9 and 10 as you carefully mark mistakes.

Along with the School Listing and Rating Sheet and the copy of the online form and the rating sheets for each student, you will need to submit **one** cassette, cd or minidisk **for each type of instrument**, on which you have recorded the designated exercise 8 for each of your students. CD's are preferred and generally are of a better quality than the other two types of recordings. We realize that it will take a bit more of your time to put like instruments on the same CD. It will, however, make it much simpler for the audition committee to compare the players on a given instrument.

In order for the audition process to be as fair as possible , we ask all directors to use the same process and to submit the same forms for their students. Please supply ALL the information requested on the forms.

The due date for submitting candidates for AMIS International Middle School Bands is the same as for the high school International Honor Band and Choir. The listening committee for the International Honor Band will also review the candidates for Middle School Honor Band. All results for both groups can then be sent to teachers at the same time in early to mid-November. All audition materials for this festival are included on the CD.

THE AUDITION PROCESS

I. The Playing Audition

1. You will find on the audition CD version 4 CD one copy of the audition material for each instrument. You should duplicate the relevant part to be given to each prospective student auditionee near the beginning of the school year. (Be sure to **keep a copy for yourself** to use as a judging form for each student.) Be sure to use the correct audition material: **(Both sets are included on the CD and are used in rotation.)**
2. Students should be encouraged to **prepare** the selections carefully and completely. We encourage you to work with them as well. This audition should show the best level of playing and tone quality of which the student is capable. Many teachers find the audition materials and process to be a valuable teaching tool for their students.
3. Early enough in October to insure that you can **post** your audition materials to arrive at Church Farm House by **the due date listed on the AMIS web site**, pick a time when you can see each student individually to rate the playthrough of all exercises, recording the designated exercise (exercise 8) as part of this playthrough.
4. During the audition, you should give the student **one** opportunity to play through each exercise for you **at the speed indicated**, using all the markings as indicated in the score. As the student plays, please **mark** on a copy of this music a diagonal mark on **any measure** in which the student makes an **error** in pitch, rhythm, articulation, repeats, etc. You should **record only** the student's name and the designated exercise (exercise 8).
5. The students should play through **ALL of the exercises**. Calculate the number of errors on **EACH** exercise. List them on the score sheet.
6. The School Listing and Rating Sheet asks for the number of errors in **EACH** exercise, **as well as a final TOTAL**.
7. **Please include your students who play low brass, low woodwind, and double reed instruments, even if their proficiency level is less than that of your flute, clarinet or trumpet players.** We need these instruments in order to create a reasonably balanced ensemble.

II. The School Listing and Rating Sheet:

You will find on the CD 2 versions of a "school listing and rating sheet." Use EITHER the pdf version or the Excel version. Please fill out this form **COMPLETELY**, including the information requested in the heading. Note that students should be listed according to the **order of the director's preference**. In other words, the student you want most to attend the Middle School Honor Band should be listed as number 1. Please consider **musicianship, leadership, attitude and contribution to your program and grade** when making this selection. Follow the form indicated in the example. "Citizenship" refers not to nationality but to the student's attitude and ability to work well within an ensemble.

III. The "online track list and entry form" should be submitted electronically. You will receive an email copy of the form you submit. Submit a printed copy of this form included with the auditions when you post them.

IV. Actual Submission of the Audition Materials

1. Send the completed school listing form and all the playing sheets you have scored for each applicant along with the recording of the designated exercise.

Georgia Bassett
AMIS INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND FESTIVAL
CHURCH FARM HOUSE
NORTH LOPHAM, DISS
NORFOLK IP22 2LP
ENGLAND

2. **All audition materials must reach AMIS Headquarters on or before the due date listed on the AMIS web site: *www.amis-online.org* under “Latest Festival Information.”**

V. Participation by Sixth Graders

1. This festival is specifically designed for instrumental students in grades 7 and 8, of the general level of expertise for good players of that age.

2. It is recognized that there are sometimes EXCEPTIONAL sixth graders who are either especially talented, who have started their instrumental study at an especially early age, or both. If you feel that you have a sixth grade student who is exceptional and plays at seventh or eighth grade level, please feel free to submit an audition for that student. Please keep sixth graders to a minimum. Seventh and eighth grade applicants will have priority.

VI. Considering Instrumentation

1. We hope to have a band of between 60 and 80 players with good instrumentation. Encourage French horn, baritone and tuba players, double reed players, and percussionists (as opposed to drummers) to audition even if the last few exercises are beyond their capabilities. They may still have a good chance of getting into the band since it is much harder to fill the instrumentation for these areas.

2. If a flute player can also play piccolo, please note this.

3. Be sure to tell whether baritone players read treble clef (TC) or bass clef (BC).

VII. Percussion

1. Percussionists may audition on just mallets, just timpani, or just snare drum. They may also audition on more than one.

VIII. Additional Forms

Acceptance forms, housing request forms, arrival and departure forms, and all other informational forms necessary for festival participants will need to be filled out online and submitted electronically.