

Fr: All Va. Auditions Major Scale Review Committee

Doug Spruill, Poquoson HS (chair); Adam Forman, Thomas Jefferson HS for Science and Technology; David Webb, Jefferson Forrest HS; Justin Ratcliff, Rock Ridge HS

To: VBODA Executive Board

Re: Review of "in as many complete octaves" requirement and "pairing" of scales for the performance of major scales for all wind instruments at the All Va. auditions.

This committee was established by VBODA President Mr. Steve Rice at the 2016 All VA Event general membership meeting in April to address two concerns that were brought up by the membership in attendance at the meeting:

- 1) The performance requirement of major scales to be performed "in as many complete octaves as possible" in the wind instrument audition instructions.
- 2) The pairing of called scales in tri-tone pairs when selected by the judges as being an option or a requirement for the judges.

As with any issue that comes before the board, any statement or requirement that creates ambiguity and or miss understanding amongst the membership would also be difficult to explain to students and parents who may question the audition process. For many students involved in the audition process, this is a one shot deal (their only chance to make an All Va. Ensemble) Through communication with the district reps, the membership would like to see any ambiguous or open to interpretation language removed, and parameters should be set by the board so the students know exactly what is to be performed in the audition room.

### **"As many complete Octaves"**

Any confusion of how "as many complete octaves" would be scored by the judges could and currently does have a direct effect on the student's decision on how many octaves to perform in the audition room. Many students don't even make a final decision until they are asked the scale in the room. A perfect scale performance should get a theoretical perfect score. Does a student who performs a perfect two octave scale receive an 8 just in case someone else later in the day performs the same scale 3 octaves and gets a 10? VBODA currently has no establish instructions to judges for this situation, it is left to the discretion of the judges. This discretionary ambiguity is confusing and is also very difficult and confusing to explain to students and parents. Many directors really don't know what advice to give students in preparation because of not knowing how the judges will score in this situation.

The committee requested scale requirement information from each instrumental district rep. Of the districts that responded, about half had established octaves and about half followed the All Va. requirements. Of those that followed the All Va. Requirements; a majority stated they have found this issue very frustrating within their districts, and were glad to see VBODA addressing the issue.

It is the recommendation of this committee that VBODA establish exact full octave parameters for each scale on each wind instrument for all future All VA wind auditions. The

recommendation is for the scales to be performed in as many complete octaves within the chromatic scale range previously established by VBODA. (See attached chart)

### **"Pairing of scales to be selected"**

For many years, the suggestion of pairing of scales in tri-tone relationships with pairs being rotated through the course of the audition has become the norm in the audition rooms at the All Va. Auditions.

The tri-tone accomplishes a few things:

- Students are less likely to "roll the dice" by not preparing certain scales in hope they won't be asked---all 12 majors are part of the rotation.
- It limits the ability of students to pass word to the warm-up room as to which scales they need to know (that happens, believe it or not)
- It gives each person 2 scales that are from (more or less) opposite sides of the Circle of 5ths---usually one relatively familiar; one not so much.

It is the recommendation of the committee that the tri-tone pairing no longer be a suggested guideline, but a set in stone procedure to be followed by all judges. A 6-pair rotation with scales set a tri-tone apart in all rooms (not optional). The pairings are:

1. Bb - E
2. B - F
3. C - Gb/F#
4. Db - G
5. D - Ab
6. Eb - A

Suggested VBODA Scale Octave Requirements for All Va Band and All Va Orchestra Wind Auditions

	C	F	Bb	Eb	Ab	Db	Gb	B	E	A	D	G
Pic	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Flute	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Oboe	2	1	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2	1
English Horn	2	1	1	1	1	2	1	1	1	1	2	1
Bassoon	2	2	3	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2	2
Eb Clar	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3
Bb Clar	2	3	2	2	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3
Bb Bass	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2	2	1	2
Eb ContraAlto	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	2	2	3
Bb Contrabass	3	3	2	3	2	3	2	2	3	2	3	2
Alto Sax	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1
Tenor Sax	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1
Bari Sax	2	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1
Trumpet/Cornet	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2
Horn	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2
Trombone	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2
Bass Trom	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	1	1
Euph TC	2	1	2	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	2	2
Euph BC	2	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2
Tuba	1	2	2	1	2	1	2	1	1	2	1	2

low Eb to high G  
low C to high F