

VBODA Orchestra Sight Reading Music Parameters- suggested revisions for approval June 2016

Committee Members:

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Stage Grade II SR Grade .5:

- approximate length: **no longer than 1:30 minutes**
- In the key of D
- Time Signature: Common or 4/4
- No tempo changes
- **Whole notes, half notes, quarter notes, but should not have notes shorter than quarter note.**
- Very few, if any, accidentals
- Basses and Cellos play same material
- Similar part for Violin 2 and Viola
- Unison and simple.
- all parts in 1st position and mainly on D and A strings (avoid G string C#)
- No requirements on style.
- Bowling: simple/detache. Even bow distribution.
- One dynamic- f

Stage Grade III SR Grade I:

- approximate length: **no longer than 2 minutes**
- In the key of D or G Major
- Time Signatures: 4/4, Common, 2/4, 3/4
- No tempo changes
- May have no rhythm faster than eighth note and no more than four eighth notes grouped together in one measure
- May have one ritardando
- May have a few accidentals of C and F Naturals.
- A moderate amount of dynamic changes
- Mostly Unison
- Basses and Cellos play similar material
- Similar part for Violin 2 and Viola
- all parts in first position, avoid extensions.
- There should be a couple different opportunities for varying articulations/styles (Simple, Accents, staccato, legato, step-wise 2-note slurs)

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May include a repeated section
Melody in upper strings and later in lower strings.

Stage Grade IV SR Grade II:

- Approximate length: **no longer than 2:30 minutes**
- Keys: C, G, D Major (**and relative minors**)
- May see one key change
- Time Signatures: Common, 4/4, 2/4, 3/4
- May have one tempo change
- May have as many eighth notes as desired and may also include dotted quarter followed by eighth.
- May see Accidentals
- May have a ritardando or two.
- Harmonic Structure is Simple and Tonal
- Violin/Viola- 1st position, May see: L1, L2, H3.
- Cello: 1st Position, May see: X1, X2, X4
- Bass: 1/2-, I, III positions
- Dynamic Changes, pp-ff; crescendos, decrescendos, diminuendo
- There should be a couple different opportunities for varying articulations/styles (Accents, staccato, legato, 2-4 note slurs)
- May include repeats and 1st and 2nd endings.
- Melody in upper strings and later in lower strings.

Stage Grade V SR Grade III:

- Approximate length: **no longer than 3 minutes**
- Key Signatures: C, D, G, A, F, Bb Major (and relative minors)
- Time Signatures: Common, 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, cut-time
- May have up to two key changes
- May have up to two tempo changes
- More independence/tonal

- may contain the following rhythm patterns
 - eighth followed by two sixteenths, two sixteenths followed by an eighth, dotted eighth followed by sixteenth, triplets, simple syncopation.
- may contain one group of four sixteenths in any given measure
- May have a ritardando going into a fermata and maybe a caesura.
- There should be a couple different opportunities for varying articulations/styles (Accents, Marcato/Martele, staccato, spiccato, legato)
- Violin 1: Mostly 1st position but may see limited III shifting. L1, L2, H3
- Violin 2: 1st position, but may see L1, L2, H3
- Viola: 1st position but may see L1, L2, H3, limited shifting to III. L1, L2, H3
- Cello: Mostly 1st position, but may see shifting to III and IV. X1, X2, X4
- Bass: 1/2-, I, III positions
- May include repeats, 1st and 2nd endings, D.C. al Fine, D.C. al Coda, D.S. al Fine, D.S. al Fine.
- Melody in upper strings (vln. 1 & 2; vln 2 and vla; and later in lower strings- Cello/Bass.)

Stage Grade VI SR IV

- Approximate length- **no longer than** 3:30 minutes
- Key Signatures: C, D, G, A, F, Bb, Eb Major (and relative minors)
- Time Signature: Common, 4/4, 2/4, 3/4, cut-time, 6/8 (**with no rhythms faster than 8th notes for 6/8**), limited mixed meter
- Two key changes, a couple of time signature changes
- More than one or two tempo changes (ABA form)
- Rhythm- **Common, 4/4, 2/4, 3/4 time signatures: may contain any combination of sixteenth notes with no limit to the number of sixteenths in a given measure. 6/8 time signature: no rhythms faster than 8th notes.**
- fermatas, accelerando, ritardando are all game.
- All parts could carry the melody at one point or another.
- Inner parts are more active and less predictable.
- The piece should test the skill level of the orchestra but should more importantly make musical sense. Phrasing, style, articulation, interpretation should be a part of this.
- Violins : I- III positions. L1, L2, H3, L4
- Viola: I-III positions L1, L2, H3, L4
- Cello: I- IV positions. X1, X2, X4
- Bass: 1/2-, I, III positions