

MUSIC TEACHERS' ASSOCIATION OF CALIFORNIA

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Incorporated 1897



Certificate of Merit Panel Auditions Guidelines

2011-2012

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INTRODUCTION

The Certificate of Merit Panel Auditions program is for extraordinary students, who have demonstrated artistic and technical skill and polish at a near-professional level. For example, performance quality should be at a higher level than the Convention Festival standard (above 5+). To apply for Panel, a student must be at CM Advanced-Level (10) (except Winds and Harp students who may enter Panel at CM Path A, Level 9; and Voice students, who may enter Panel at CM Path A, Level 8), and (ii) must be in school Grades 9-12 (depending on the Instrument, please check *Guidelines* below for specific school Grade eligibility requirements).

The *Certificate of Merit Panel Auditions Guidelines* (“*Panel Guidelines*”) booklet has been provided to assist teachers regarding the requirements, policies, and procedures of the Panel Auditions program (“*Panel*”). The *Panel Guidelines* have been divided into five parts: Part One – Panel Auditions; Part Two – Panel Application & Eligibility; Part Three – Panel General Rules; Part Four – Young Artist Guild; Part Five – Instrument Guidelines. It covers the essential aspects of the program and address the most frequently asked questions that have arisen over time. In addition to the *Panel Guidelines*, the provisions set forth in the *CM Policies & Procedures*, such as those regarding student, parent, and teacher conduct, also govern the Panel Auditions program, wherever applicable.

Important information and documents are regularly posted at the MTAC website regarding Certificate of Merit, including the Panel Auditions program. Teachers must login first (www.mtac.org/login) to access Certificate of Merit information and materials (“*CM Materials*,” “*CM Resources*,” “*CM Evaluators*.” “*CM Resources*” includes links to “*CM Documents*” and “*CM Newsletters*” which are updated throughout the year.

For any questions regarding the Certificate of Merit Panel Auditions program, please contact your **Branch CM Chair** or **Branch CM Panel Chair**.

PART ONE: PANEL AUDITIONS

SECTION 1. CERTIFICATE OF MERIT PANEL AUDITIONS (“PANEL”)

The Certificate of Merit Panel Audition program (“*Panel*”) is composed of two separate Audition rounds: (1) Regional Panel Audition (or “*Regionals*”), and (2) State Panel Finals Audition (or “*Finals*”). Regionals are undertaken by an exceptional student as a *replacement* for his or her regular Path A Certificate of Merit Evaluation. Depending on the student’s results at Regionals, the student may proceed to the Finals round where the student auditions for consideration in one of three Panel Awards Divisions (more below).

SECTION 2. REGIONAL PANEL AUDITION (“REGIONALS”)

1. **Regionals Format.** The Regional Panel Audition is similar in format to the Advanced-Level Path A CM Evaluation, with the following distinctions: (1) Regionals occurs at a Regional Evaluation Center (one in Northern California, four in Southern California) instead of at the teacher’s Branch*, and (2) Regionals is a **30-minute** Audition performed before two Judges. *Exception: Voice and Wind students in the North are heard at their local Branch or another Branch in the region.

2. **Regionals Format for YAG.** Students who have applied for YAG consideration perform a **30-minute** Audition before two Judges, but must have a 45-minute program prepared. The 45-minute program requirement exists because if selected to join YAG, students must be able to demonstrate that they can successfully perform an entire 45-minute program for future YAG performances.
3. **Regionals Repertoire List.** Teachers must submit a Repertoire list of all the repertoire that the student is preparing for Regionals. The Repertoire list form is the same as that used for the *CM Panel Finals Audition Application, Page B*. Each Instrument Chair will contact Teachers by email regarding the Repertoire List, which must be returned by January 30.
4. **Sight-Reading/Singing; No Ensembles.** There are two main sections to Regionals: (1) Performance, and (2) Theory. The Performance includes Repertoire and Technique. There is no Sight-Reading component for Panel, except Voice for which Sight-Singing is required. Ensembles are not eligible for Panel. For further information on Repertoire and Sight-Singing Requirements, please see the applicable Syllabus.
5. **Technique.** Please see specific Technique requirements for each Instrument in the applicable Syllabus (same as Path A CM Evaluation).
6. **Theory & Ear-Training.** Panel students must complete a corresponding-level Theory examination, which includes Ear-Training. However, the Theory examination is taken at the teacher's Branch during the regular CM Evaluations period. Panel students must achieve 80% or above to be eligible for Finals. Students who achieve 90% or above are exempt from the Advanced (Level 10) Theory Examination for all future CM Advanced (Level 10) Auditions and Panel Auditions, with the exception of Voice students who are not exempt from Theory in future years. Theory tests must be completed by the March 15 deadline in order to apply for the State Panel Finals Audition.
7. **Revert to Non-Panel Status (Path A).** The deadline for reverting a student from Panel Auditions back to Path A CM Auditions is January 15. Reversions often occur where the teacher deems that, by January 15, a student's Repertoire is not at a level or quality required at Panel Auditions. If a teacher wishes to revert a student from Panel Auditions back to regular Path A CM Auditions after the deadline, the teacher must contact the Regional Panel chair. Depending on scheduling logistics and the date of the reversion request, the student may still be required to perform at the Regional Audition Center, although the performance would be treated and evaluated as a Path A CM Evaluation, and not as a Regional Panel Audition.
8. **Panel Venues.** Panel Auditions generally take place in Regional Audition Centers and not a Branch venue, except for Winds and Voice students who are heard in a Branch. Teachers with students who are registered to participate in Panel Auditions will receive notice as to the location and dates of Panel Auditions via email. Please also check www.mtac.org (Teacher Home Page) at "CM Newsletter" for venue and other updates.

SECTION 3. STATE PANEL FINALS AUDITION (“FINALS”)

Students who are successful in the Regionals round continue on to the State Panel Finals where they perform a **10-minute** Audition for three Judges (Piano) or two Judges (other Instruments), who adjudicate students against stringent standards. The State Panel Finals is comprised of only the performance of Repertoire, and does not have any other components (e.g. Theory, Technique). Students who have applied for YAG consideration perform a **30-minute** Audition for three judges (Piano) or two Judges (other Instruments).

Students selected from Finals go on to perform at the annual MTAC Convention in one of three Panel Award Divisions: (1) Panel Honors, (2) Panel Master Class, or (3) Young Artist Guild Recital. If a student is not selected for any of these three Award Divisions, the student may still be selected to perform at the non-Panel Convention Recitals, if they included such information in the CM Registration process (see Section 5 below).

SECTION 4. PANEL AWARD DIVISIONS

1. **Panel Award Divisions.** Students who have been selected by the Judges in the Finals round are awarded with a prestigious performance opportunity at the MTAC’s Annual Convention. Based on (a) eligibility requirements, and (b) the results and recommendations by the Finals Judges, selected Panel students will perform in Recitals in one of three Panel Award Divisions: (1) **Panel Honors**, (2) **Panel Master Class**, or (3) **Young Artist Guild**. Students who have not applied for Young Artist Guild, and have been selected from the Finals round, will be awarded to either the Panel Honors Recital or Panel Master Class. Students who have applied for Young Artist Guild and are selected from the Finals round, will be awarded to perform at the Young Artist Guild Recital at Convention, and invited to join the Young Artist Guild which entails a five-year membership program that includes several performance opportunities during the student’s tenure.
2. **Student Commitment for Convention.** Students who choose to participate in Panel Auditions must be sure that if selected, they are available and committed to perform in the Panel Awards Divisions performances at the MTAC Annual Convention.
3. **Eligibility Verification.** The Panel Chairs and Assistant CM Coordinator shall verify the eligibility of each Panel Finals student regarding appropriate placement in Panel Award Divisions. If there is a problem or question regarding eligibility, the teacher shall be notified via e-mail. If the student is determined to be ineligible, he or she will revert to non-Panel status, and will be evaluated as a CM Path A student during the regular CM Auditions period at the Panel Teacher’s Branch. There shall be no charge or refund for this adjustment.

SECTION 5. CONVENTION RECITALS (NON-PANEL AWARDS)

If a student is not selected from Regionals to pass onto the Finals but demonstrates solid performance quality that meets the standards for non-Panel Convention Recitals, they may still be selected by the Regional Judges for non-Panel Convention Recitals (Theme, New Materials, or Festival only). In order to be considered for Convention Recitals, teachers must include which Convention Recital for which the student should be considered during the CM and Panel Registration process. For more information

regarding Convention Recitals and related repertoire requirements, please see *CM Policies & Procedures*.

SECTION 6. RESULTS WHERE REGIONALS EQUAL PATH A CM EVALUATION

If a student's performance at Regionals does not meet the criteria for Finals, and either they (i) did not qualify for non-Panel Convention Recitals, or (ii) did not apply to be considered for non-Panel Convention Recitals, their performance at Regionals will be treated as the equivalent of a regular Path A CM Evaluation, and will be graded in accordance with the same criteria. For example, it is possible for a student to receive a Remain At Level rating at Regionals. A student may also receive an "Ineligible for Certificate" rating, and even though such student passes the Path A CM Level, he or she cannot move on to Finals.

PART TWO: PANEL APPLICATION & ELIGIBILITY

SECTION 1. PANEL AUDITION APPLICATION PROCEDURES

There are two levels of application for Panel Auditions, in correspondence with a student's progression from Regionals to Finals, as follows:

1. First Application: During Regular CM Evaluations Registration

- (a) Panel Registration occurs as part of the regular CM Evaluations Fall Registration online at www.mtac.org (Teacher Home Page). The Registration procedure includes a checkbox for "Panel" which must be check-marked to apply for Panel. Once the "Panel" checkbox has been marked, Teachers then have the option of checking the "YAG" checkbox for students also applying for YAG.
- (b) If a student applies for Panel, and wishes to be considered for non-Panel Convention programs, the teacher should include Convention Recitals information (Theme, New Materials, or Festival during the Registration process. Convention Recitals are available in the event the student does not pass through Regionals but demonstrates solid performance quality that meets the standards for non-Panel Convention Recitals. However, students are not obligated to apply for non-Panel Convention Recitals consideration if they wish to participate only in Panel Auditions and not in other Convention programs.
- (c) Submission of this First Application provides the student with an audition spot in the Regionals round.

2. Second Application: CM Panel Finals Audition Application

- (a) Panel Students (including YAG applicants) who have been chosen from Regionals to proceed to the State Panel Finals must complete a Second Application and pay an additional fee.
- (b) The *CM Panel Finals Audition Application* can be downloaded from www.mtac.org (Teacher Home Page).
- (c) Teachers with multiple students proceeding to Finals must write one check (totaling all students' fees), and send it to the State Panel Chair.

SECTION 2. PANEL HONORS RECITAL ELIGIBILITY

Panel Honors students, if selected, are awarded with a Panel Honors Recital performance at Convention. To be considered, students must first meet the below minimum eligibility requirements:

1. Piano

1. Currently in school Grades 10 through Grade 12; and
2. Currently registered in CM Path A, Advanced (Level 10); and
3. Selected to perform by the Finals Judges.

2. Strings

- (i) Currently in school Grades 9 through Grades 12; and
- (ii) Currently registered in CM Path A, Advanced (Level 10); and
- (iii) Selected to perform by the Finals Judges.

3. Winds

- (i) Currently in school Grades 10 through Grades 12; and
 - (ii) Currently registered in CM Levels 9 or Advanced (Level 10)*; and
 - (iii) Selected to perform by the Finals Judges
- *No previous CM experience required*

4. Voice

- (i) Currently in school Grades 9 through age 25; and
- (ii) Currently registered in CM Level 8, 9, or Advanced (Level 10); and
- (iii) Passed at least 2 Path A CM Evaluations (at any time, at any age or level); and
- (iv) Selected to perform by the Finals Judges.

5. Harp

- (i) Currently in school Grades 9 through Grades 12; and
 - (ii) Currently registered in CM Levels 9 or Advanced (Level 10)*; and
 - (iii) Selected to perform by the Finals Judges
- *No previous CM experience required*

SECTION 3. PANEL MASTER CLASS ELIGIBILITY

Panel Master Class students, if selected, are awarded with the opportunity to perform for, and work with, a professional musical artist at Convention at the Panel Master Class. To be considered, students must first meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

1. Piano

- (i) Currently in school Grades 11 or 12; and
- (ii) Currently registered in CM Path A, Advanced Level(10); and
- (iii) Passed Path A CM Evaluations starting in school Grade 9 and every consecutive year thereafter; and
- (iv) Selected to perform in Panel Master Class by the Finals Judges.

2. Strings

- (i) Currently in school Grades 9, 10, 11, or 12; and
- (ii) Currently registered in CM Path A, Advanced (Level 10); and
- (iii) Passed Path A CM Evaluations in school grades 9, 10, 11 and 12; and
- (iv) Selected to perform in Panel Master Class by the Finals Judges.

3. Winds

- (i) Currently in school Grades 10, 11, or 12; and
- (ii) Enrolled in CM Level 9 or Advanced (Level 10)*; and
- (iii) Selected to perform in Panel Master Class by the Finals Judges.
**No previous CM experience is required.*

4. Voice

- (i) Currently in school Grades 9 through age 25; and
- (ii) Currently registered in CM Level 8, 9, Advanced (Level 10); and
- (iii) Passed at least 2 Path A CM Evaluations, at any time, at any age or level; and
- (iv) Selected to perform in Panel Master Class by the Finals Judges.

5. Harp

- (i) Currently in school Grades 10, 11 or 12; and
- (ii) Enrolled in CM Level 9 or Advanced (Level 10)*; and
- (iii) Selected to perform in Panel Master Class by the Finals Judges.
** No previous CM experience is required.*

SECTION 4. YOUNG ARTIST GUILD (YAG) ELIGIBILITY

Young Artist Guild applicants, if selected and invited to join, are awarded with the opportunity to perform at Convention, and a five-year membership in the Young Artist Guild, where semi-professional, paid performance opportunities are afforded to YAG members through Branch-sponsored concerts. For more information, please see “Part Four: Young Artist Guild.” To be considered, students must first meet the following minimum eligibility requirements:

1. Piano

- (i) Currently in school Grades 11 or 12; and
- (ii) Enrolled in CM Advanced (Level 10); and
- (iii) Passed Path A CM Evaluations starting in school Grade 9 and every consecutive year thereafter; and
- (iv) Selected to join YAG by Finals Judges.

2. Strings

- (i) Currently in school Grades 11 or 12; and
- (ii) Enrolled in CM Advanced (Level 10); and
- (iii) Passed Path A CM Evaluations starting in school Grade 9 and every consecutive year thereafter; and
- (iv) Selected to join YAG by the Finals judges.

3. Winds

- (i) Currently in school Grades 11 or 12; and
- (ii) Enrolled in CM Advanced (Level 10); and
- (iii) Passed Path A CM Evaluations starting in school Grade 9 and every consecutive year thereafter; and
- (iv) Selected to perform in YAG by the Finals Judges.

4. Voice

- (i) Currently in school Grade 11 through to age 25; and
- (ii) Enrolled in CM Level 9 or above; and
- (iii) Passed at least 2 Path A CM Evaluations, at any time, at any age or level;
- (iv) Selected to perform in YAG by the Finals Judges.

5. Harp

- (i) Currently in school Grades 11 or 12; and
- (ii) Enrolled in CM Advanced (Level 10); and
- (iii) Passed Path A CM Evaluations starting in school Grade 9 and every consecutive year thereafter; and
- (iv) Selected to join YAG by Finals Judges.

PART THREE: PANEL GENERAL RULES

1. **Line of Communication.** For any communications, conflicts, or problems that arise with respect to Panel Auditions, please follow the Line of Communication and Conflict Resolution procedures provided in the *CM Policies & Procedures*. For questions, please contact your CM Branch Chair or Branch Panel Chair.
2. **Availability.** Panel applicants must be available during the dates of the State Panel Finals and the MTAC Convention.
3. **Closed Panel.** Parents, teachers, and other students are not permitted to be present during the Regionals and Finals Auditions, and must not loiter near the Auditions room, out of fairness and respect to all participants.
4. **Accompanists.** Parents may serve as an accompanist for both Regionals and Finals. Teachers may serve as an accompanist for their own student at Regionals, but not for Finals due to possible identification by an Evaluator.
5. **Regionals Audition Time.** Regionals is a 30-minute audition. YAG Regionals is a 30-minute audition.
6. **Finals Audition Time.** Finals is a 10-minute audition. YAG Finals is a 30-minute audition.
7. **Each Piece Prepared in Entirety.** Each Piece listed, as provided by the teacher, must be prepared in its entirety. Pre-determined editing or cutting out parts of a piece is not permitted. Judges may interrupt or stop a performance in the middle of the piece for the sake of time, but only the Judges may make the determination as to where the student should stop playing.
8. **Proper Attire.** Proper attire is important for Panel applicants. Girls should wear a dress, skirt, or dress-pants outfit with a modest neckline, covered shoulders, and be knee length or longer. Boys should wear a shirt and tie, or a collared shirt with sweater. All performers should wear dress shoes that are silent on stage. Sweatshirts, T-shirts, and tennis shoes/sneakers are inappropriate.
9. **No Teacher's Name on Music.** The teacher's name should not appear on any music at any time, for Regionals and Finals.

10. **State Panel Finals Results.** Written comments are not given in the State Panel Finals and results will be posted online following the completion of all Panel Auditions.
11. **Judges' Decision is Final.** The decision of the Judges or Judges is in the sole discretion of the Judges or Judges, and is final. Teachers, parents, and students are NOT permitted to discuss the Panel Auditions with Judges. Failure to comply with this rule will lead to disqualification of the student from all current and future Convention performance opportunities.
12. **State Panel Finals Materials and Video Submissions.** Except for Piano, all Instrument Panel Finalists must send materials to the applicable Instrument Panel Chair (e.g. for Strings, send to Strings Panel Chair). If the student is not auditioning in person for the Finals, an unedited videotape or DVD must be mailed to the applicable Instrument Panel Chair no later than one (1) week before the State Finals (see Timelines below for this date).
13. **One Teacher, Multiple Student Finalists.** If a teacher has more than one student Finalist, one check should be written by the teacher to cover the combined fees for all students and send it to the appropriate Panel Chair, North or South.
14. **Once-Only Participation in Each Award Division.** Students who pass through to Finals can only be awarded once to each Award Division. For example, a student who has been awarded with the Panel Honors Recital will not be eligible to be awarded with that same Recital in subsequent years, but instead will be alternatively recommended for the Panel Master Class.
Exceptions: Voice students may repeat Panel Honors Recital, but not Master Class and Young Artist Guild. Strings and Winds students may repeat Panel Honors Recital and Master Class, but not Young Artist Guild.
15. **Convention; Failure to Perform.** Failure to perform at Convention may disqualify the student from future Convention performances.

The policies, procedures, rules, and regulations contained in the CM Policies & Procedures for CM Evaluations, such as those regarding student, parent, and teacher conduct, also govern Panel Auditions where applicable.

PART FOUR: YOUNG ARTIST GUILD

Young Artist Guild is the highest award granted to a Certificate of Merit student. Students who are awarded by invitation to join YAG will perform at the YAG Recital at Convention. In addition, YAG provides semi-professional, paid performance opportunities to its membership of selected students, through Branch-sponsored concerts. A student who is selected and invited to join YAG belongs to the Guild for five years. In some cases, YAG provides awards, scholarships, and other financial support for its members.

YAG candidates perform in Regionals and Finals along with all other Panel candidates. However, YAG applicants have additional requirements to fulfill to be considered for YAG.

SECTION 1. YAG LETTER OF INTENT, ALL INSTRUMENTS

Becoming a member of the Young Artist Guild is a great honor and carries important and unique responsibilities. YAG applicants and their parents and teacher must read and sign a YAG *Letter of Intent*, which is a statement of commitment made by the student, agreeing to (1) perform a minimum number of concerts if requested, and (2) continue instrument or voice study with a teacher during all five years of YAG membership, if the YAG applicant is selected and invited to join YAG. The YAG *Letter of Intent* can be downloaded at www.mtac.org (Teacher Home Page).

Three signed hard-copies of this Letter must be brought to the **Regionals** and given to the Regional Panel Chair on the day of the Audition. YAG Students who do not produce a signed YAG Letter of Intent at Regionals will be restricted to a **10-minute** audition for Finals and will not be considered for Young Artist Guild, but will still be considered for the other Panel Award Divisions.

SECTION 2. YOUNG ARTIST GUILD GUIDELINES

A. YAG General Requirements for All Instruments

1. **Panel Rules for Regionals and Finals.** The rules for Panel Finals and Panel Regionals apply equally to YAG, but YAG also has additional requirements.
2. **YAG Programming.** YAG applicants should prepare a well-balanced program that represents various styles and technical demands demonstrating their ability. Students must be prepared to perform the Repertoire required, in addition to other pieces are needed to meet the program-length requirements for Regionals and Finals. ***Students must be prepared to perform all selections originally provided by the teacher on the Panel Audition Application Form, Page B, for both Regionals and Finals Auditions.***
3. **YAG Regionals Requirements.** YAG Regionals is a **30-minute** audition heard before two Judges, but YAG applicants are required to prepare a minimum program of 45-minutes of music without repeats.
4. **YAG Finals Requirements.** YAG Finals is a **30-minute** program. Students will select the first piece to perform and the Finals Judges will request selections from their longer 45-minute Regionals program. If eligible, YAG applicants may be selected for Panel Honors or Master Class if not chosen to join YAG.
5. **CM Panel Finals Audition Application Form.** If a student is chosen to advance to Finals, the teacher must complete and submit the *CM Panel Finals Audition Application Form* located at www.mtac.org (Teacher Home Page). YAG Finals applicants must bring a list of all their pieces with the accurate timings for the 45-minute program that they previously prepared for Regionals (see *CM Panel Finals Audition Application Form, Page B*).
6. **YAG Membership; No Other Panel Awards.** If a YAG applicant is chosen and invited to join YAG, the YAG student is not eligible for any other Panel Awards during their term of membership in YAG.
7. **No YAG but Panel Candidacy Remains.** If a YAG applicant is not ultimately selected to join YAG, the student may still be chosen to advance to the Finals as a Panel candidate, if eligible.
8. **Senior Medallion.** Students selected for YAG in school grade 11 are not eligible for any Panel program in school grade 12, due to their necessary commitment to YAG. However, YAG students will receive their Senior Medallion without needing to take CM Evaluations in school grade 12.

PART FIVE: INSTRUMENT GUIDELINES

SECTION 1. PIANO GUIDELINES

A. Piano Regionals

- Students perform the required Repertoire (as listed in the applicable Syllabus) for two Judges.
- All Repertoire pieces must be memorized.
- At least one Repertoire piece must be from the Advanced-Level Repertoire List in the Syllabus.
- The Technique requirement is fulfilled by performing one Etude from memory, which must be selected from the Advanced-Level Etude List.
- Panel students must achieve 80% or above on their Theory Test to be eligible for Panel Finals.
- Panel students are exempt from Sight-Reading.

B. Piano Finals

Panel Finalists applying for Panel Honors or Panel Master Class must prepare at least 10 minutes of music from three of the pieces they performed at the Regional Auditions, in accordance with the following requirements:

- One piece must be either their **Baroque or Classical** piece.
- One piece must be their **Contemporary** piece (composers who were alive in 1950, with the exception of Bartok). Failure to do so will lead to automatic disqualification.
- One piece may be their Etude or any piece from a category not already used.

The student will select the first piece to be performed and the Judges will determine the order of the other selections. Judges will likely only hear part of each piece, although students should be prepared to perform the entirety.

C. Piano YAG

- YAG applicants must achieve 80% or above on their Theory Test to be eligible for Panel Finals.
- For Regionals, Piano students must be prepared to perform the five pieces required for CM Evaluation and any additional pieces needed to meet the requirement of a 45-minute program, in accordance with the above Guidelines.
- For Regionals and Finals, Piano YAG applicants must include music from the Baroque, Classical, Romantic, Impressionist/Early 20th Century and Contemporary categories. One complete piano sonata from the Classical, Romantic, or Contemporary category must also be included.

D. Piano Timeline

September 15	Online CM registration opens
November 15	CM registration closes
January 2-10	Enter students' repertoire online
January 15	Last day to revert to non-Panel status (If students drop to non-Panel status after January 15, they will be evaluated at a Regional Auditions Center as regular CM Path A students.)
February 25-26	Regional Panel Auditions, North and South
March 3-4	Regional Panel Auditions, North and South
March 15	Last day to submit the Finals application and fee to the North or South Panel Chairs
March 15	Last day to take Theory Examination
March 23-25	State Panel Finals, South
March 31, April 1	State Panel Finals, North
June 29-July 3	MTAC Convention at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego

SECTION 2. STRINGS GUIDELINES

A. Strings Regionals Requirements

- All Repertoire pieces must be memorized (except sonatas in the Classical era or later, accompanied by piano).
- At least one piece must be from the Advanced (Level 10) list.
- There is no time limit on Repertoire in the Regional Panel evaluation. However, if a student goes on to the State Finals, and is chosen for the non-Panel State Convention program, the time limit requirements will apply in accordance with the rules of the applicable Recital.

B. Strings Finals Requirements

See above Part Four, Section 2.A. YAG General Requirements for All Instruments.

C. Strings YAG Guidelines

Applicants may choose only one piece from Level 8. One piece must be from the Advanced Level (10) list in the applicable Syllabus.

D. Strings Timeline

September 15	Online CM registration opens
November 15	CM registration closes
January 2-10	Enter students' repertoire online
January 10	Last day to enter students' repertoire online Any Form arriving after January 10, 2012 will not be accepted and student(s) will be dropped from Panel to Non-Panel Path A Advanced (Level 10).
January 15	Last day to revert to non-Panel status (If students drop to non-Panel status after January 15, they will be evaluated at the Regional Auditions Center as regular CM Path A students.)
January 31	Last day to mail "Repertoire List" for YAG to String Panel Chair
February 25	Violin/Viola Regional Panel evaluations for the South at: Cerritos Community College, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650 North Regional Evaluations: TBD
February 26	Cello Regional Panel evaluation and Regional YAG evaluation at Cerritos Community College, 11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650
March 15	Last day to take the Theory Examination
March 15	Last day to submit the Finals application and fee to the State Panel Chair South – Vera Hoalim (Visit www.mtac.org (Teacher Home Page) and download the "Panel Finals/YAG Application".)
March 25	State Panel Finals in the South for both North and South combined.
June 29-July 3	MTAC Convention at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego

SECTION 3. WINDS GUIDELINES

A. Winds Regionals Requirements

For Repertoire requirements, please see the applicable Syllabus. Panel applicants are required to play four pieces for the Regionals Audition:

- Two pieces may be from the 20th/21st Centuries: one published before 1960 and one published in 1960 or later.
- Memorization for wind instruments is optional

B. Winds Finals Requirements

Panel Honors and Master Class applicants have **10-minute** auditions and must play three of the four pieces they performed at Regionals. The student and teacher may select which piece to omit. The student will select the first piece to be performed and the Judges will determine the order of the other selections. Judges will likely only hear parts of each piece, although students should be prepared to perform each piece in the entirety.

C. Winds YAG Requirements

See above Part Four, Section 2.A. YAG General Requirements for All Instruments.

D. Winds Timeline

September 15	Online CM registration opens
November 15	CM registration closes
January 2-10	Enter students' repertoire online
January 15	Last day to revert to non-Panel status
February 26	Winds Regional Panel Auditions (South) at CSU Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90840
March 15	Last day to take the Theory Examination
March 15	Last day to submit the CM Panel Finals Audition Application and fee to the South Panel Chair. Go to www.mtac.org (Teacher Home Page), and download "Panel Finals/YAG Application".
March 24	State Panel Finals (North/South) in the South at Cal Poly Pomona
June 29-July 3	MTAC Convention at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego

SECTION 4. VOICE GUIDELINES

A. Voice Regionals Requirements

Applicants in the South Region will be auditioned at a Regional Evaluation Center. Applicants in the North may be evaluated at their teacher's Branch evaluation or sent to a Regional site, as needed. Students shall sing the required pieces and complete their sight-singing and technique/vocalises at this time. Theory tests and ear-training must be taken at the teacher's Branch prior to Panel Finals.

The Regionals Panel Audition is the same as a regular Advanced-Level CM Evaluation except for as follows:

- Students must achieve 80% or above on their Theory Examination to be eligible for Panel Finals (YAG applicants must achieve 90% or above)
- All Syllabus requirements must be followed, including memorization and number of Syllabus pieces
- Panel and Master Class applicants must receive GOOD or better for sight-reading and technique. YAG applicants must receive EXCELLENT for sight-reading and GOOD or better for technique.

B. Voice Finals Requirements

Panel students who have been selected by Judges in the Regionals proceed to the State Panel Finals ("Panel Finalists"), where they perform for two judges who evaluate both the North and South Regions against stringent standards. Students selected in this round perform at the annual MTAC Convention.

Panel Honors and Master Class applicants prepare **at least** 10 minutes of music from the pieces they performed at the Preliminary Auditions. The student will select the first piece to be performed and the

Judges will determine the order of the other selections. It is very likely that they will only hear part of each piece.

C. Voice YAG

Voice YAG applicants must be prepared to sing the seven pieces (six for Level 9) that would be required for a Path A CM Evaluation, in addition to other selections of their repertoire to fulfill the 45-minute Regionals requirement.

D. Voice Timeline

September 15	Online CM registration opens
November 15	CM registration closes
January 2-10	Enter students' repertoire online
January 15	Last day to revert to non-Panel status
February 26	Voice Regional Panel Auditions (South) at CSU Long Beach, 1250 Bellflower Boulevard, Long Beach, CA 90840
March 15	Last day to take the theory test
March 15	Last day to submit the final application and fee to the South Panel Chair (Log-in to your teacher homepage at www.mtac.org and download the "Panel Finals/YAG Application".)
March 24	State Panel Finals (North/South) in the South at Cal Poly Pomona
June 29-July 3	MTAC Convention at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego

SECTION 5. HARP GUIDELINES

A. Harp Regionals Requirements

- Students perform the required Repertoire (as listed in the applicable Syllabus) for *two* Judges.
- All Repertoire pieces must be memorized.
- At least one Repertoire piece must be from the Advanced-Level Repertoire List in the Syllabus.
- The Technique requirement is fulfilled by performing one Etude from memory, which must be selected from the Advanced-Level Etude List.
- Panel and YAG Applicants must achieve 80% or above on their Theory Test to be eligible for Panel Finals
- Panel and YAG Applicants are exempt from Sight-Reading

B. Harp Finals Requirements

Panel Finalists applying for Panel Honors or Panel Master Class must prepare at least 10 minutes of music from three of the pieces they performed at the Regional Auditions. The student will select the first piece to be performed and the Judges will determine the order of the other selections. Judges will likely only hear part of each piece, although students should be prepared to perform the entirety.

C. Harp Timeline

September 15	Online CM registration opens
November 15	CM registration closes
January 2-10	Enter students' repertoire online
January 15	Last day to revert to non-Panel status (If students drop to non-Panel status after January 15, they will be evaluated at a Regional Auditions Center as regular CM Path A students.)
February 25-26	Regional Panel Auditions, North and South
March 3-4	Regional Panel Auditions, North and South
March 15	Last day to submit the Finals Application and fee to the North or South Panel Chairs
March 15	Last day to take Theory Examination
March 23-25	State Panel Finals, South
March 31, April 1	State Panel Finals, North
June 29-July 3	MTAC Convention at the Town and Country Resort and Convention Center, San Diego

CLOSING

The Certificate of Merit Panel Auditions program is a unique offering of the Music Teachers' Association of California, and we hope this information will be helpful to you. We congratulate you for your dedicated work with advanced students. We hope you will encourage your students to participate in the Panel Auditions program, or work towards Panel participation in the future!

Judi Sands-Pertel, CM Coordinator
Julie M. Johnson, Assistant Coordinator
Marie Kaneta, Regional Panel Chair South
Nancy Daggett Jensen, Panel Chair North
Vera Hoalim, Panel Chair South
Kihae Kim-DeFazio, String Panel Regional Chair South
Gloria Ho, String Chair North
Tammy Tsai, String Chair South
Michelle Rumley, Wind Chair North/South
Sarah Sandvig, Voice Chair, North/South
Nicole Burns, YAG Chair

SPECIAL THANKS

A very special thanks goes to Karen Becker. Although Karen finished her term as CM Coordinator in July, she spent an extraordinary amount of time and effort over these past few months to assiduously shepherd the revision of these *Panel Guidelines* for the benefit of teachers and students.