

**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT
PANEL PROGRAM INFORMATION**

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Please read and print the section of this brochure that applies to your discipline. Refer to this information first, before contacting your branch chair or the Panel Chair. Please follow all details carefully.

**Karen S. Becker
CM Coordinator**

Certificate of Merit Panel Program Information: Piano

GENERAL INFORMATION

Panel is for extraordinarily talented students, artistically and technically polished to a near professional level. This is NOT the next step after Advanced Level. It is a higher level than the Convention Festival standard (above 5+).

Panel is a two-step process. A piano student must be Advanced level in Grades 10-12. A student is registered in the regular fall registration with all other CM students. Panel evaluations are different in that students are not evaluated at the Branch level but grouped according to Branch at Regional sites. Students chosen to proceed to the Panel Finals then complete a second application and pay another fee. (Students who are not selected to proceed to Finals still receive a regular evaluation and do not have to play again at the Branch evaluations.) Students chosen from the Regional Panel round continue on to the **State Panel Finals** where they perform for three evaluators who judge both the North and the South against stringent standards. Students selected in this round go on to play at the annual MTAC Convention.

There are three divisions of the Panel: Panel Honors, Master Class and Young Artist Guild.

1. Students chosen for **Panel Honors** (for students in Grade 10, 11, and 12) perform on special recitals at the annual MTAC Convention.
2. **Master Class** (for students in grades 11 and 12 who have been evaluated since grade 9) students work with professional artists at the Convention.
3. **Young Artist Guild** (YAG) is the highest achievement a CM student can attain. Students must be in Grades 11 and 12 and must have passed yearly Path A evaluations since Grade 9. Selected students belong to the Guild for five years and may be invited to perform at various MTAC branches throughout the state during his or her tenure as a member. (See page 3 for more information.)

ELIGIBILITY

	Panel Honors Recital	Master Class	Young Artist Guild
School Grade	10, 11, 12	11, 12	11, 12
CM Path A (Passed)	N/A	9, 10, 11, 12	9, 10, 11, 12

The Panel Chairs and Assistant CM Coordinator will verify the eligibility of each Panel applicant. If there is a problem or question about eligibility, the teacher will be notified via email. If the student is found to be ineligible, s/he will revert to non-Panel status and be evaluated as a regular Path A CM student. There is no charge or refund for this adjustment.

NOTE:

1. Panel applicants must be available during the dates of the State Panel Finals and the MTAC Convention. (Failure to perform at Convention will disqualify the student from future Convention performances and jeopardize performance opportunities for other students of the teacher.)
2. 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.
3. Students may not repeat any Panel program.
4. Teachers should follow the rules and requirements stated in the syllabus. However, if there is a difference between the syllabus and this packet, use the information here as it is more updated.

EVALUATIONS

The first step in the Panel process is the **Regional Panel** evaluation where students are evaluated with other branches' students in their region (North and South). Students who are recommended to proceed submit an application and additional fee and are evaluated for a second time at the State Panel Finals.

The evaluation is the same as a regular Advanced Level evaluation except for these differences:

1. Panel applicants are exempt from sight-reading;
2. Students take their theory test at their own branch and must get 80% or above to be eligible for Panel finals (Students who get 90% or above are exempt from the theory test in future years.);
3. All literature must be memorized and one piece must be from the Advanced Level list;
4. The etude must be of the highest level and must be by a different composer (Example: not a Chopin Etude and a Chopin piece);
5. No ensemble is eligible;
6. Proper attire is important for Panel applicants. Girls should wear a dress or skirt, or dressy pants outfit with mid to low-heeled shoes. Boys should wear a shirt and tie, or a collared shirt with sweater. Sweatshirts, T-shirts, and tennis shoes/sneakers are inappropriate;
7. The teacher's name should not appear on any music;
8. Students may apply for other Convention recitals (except Ensemble) in case they are not chosen for Panel.

Students chosen from the Regional Panel round continue on to the **State Panel Finals** where they perform for three judges who evaluate both the North and the South against stringent standards. Students selected in this round go on to play at the annual MTAC Convention.

STATE PANEL FINALS

Panel Honors and Master Class applicants prepare **at least** 10 minutes of music from **three** of the pieces they performed at the Regional evaluations. One work must be either their **Baroque or Classical piece** and another must be their **Contemporary piece** (Alive in 1950, with the exception of Bartok). Failure to do so will lead to automatic disqualification. The third 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. It is very likely that they will only hear part of each piece.

Panel evaluations (Regional and Final) are closed to parents and teachers. Written comments are not given in the Final round and results will be posted online following the completion of the auditions. The decision of the judges is final. Teachers, parents and students ARE NOT to discuss the auditions with the Panel judges. Failure to comply with this policy will lead to disqualification of the student from all current and future Convention performance opportunities.

YOUNG ARTIST GUILD

The Young Artist Guild is the highest achievement that a Certificate of Merit student can attain. YAG offers semi-professional, paid performance opportunities through branch sponsored concerts. A student belongs to the Guild for five years, and may be invited to perform at various MTAC branches throughout the state during his or her tenure as an active member. In some cases, the Guild also provides awards, scholarships and other financial support for its members.

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 letter of intent, which can be downloaded at www.mtac.org/programs/yag/index.shtml. **Three signed copies** of this

letter must be brought to the Regional Panel evaluations. YAG Students without a signed letter of intent will be restricted to a ten-minute audition in the Final and will not be considered for Young Artist Guild.

YAG EVALUATIONS

Students are required to prepare a **minimum of 45 minutes** of music without repeats. They should prepare a well-balanced program that represents various styles and technical demands demonstrating their ability. 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.

All YAG applicants will be heard at the Regional Panel evaluations by two judges. The rules for the Regional Panel evaluations apply to YAG as well. YAG applicants must bring a list of their pieces with accurate timings for the 45-minute program (Page B of the Panel Finals/YAG Application) and be prepared to play selections of their repertoire in addition to the five pieces they play for their evaluation. If eligible, students may be chosen to advance to the State Panel Finals as a regular Panel applicant if not chosen as a YAG candidate. If a student is selected to move on to the State Panel Auditions, the teacher will complete the Panel Finals and YAG Audition Application form found at <http://www.mtac.org/programs/CMforms>.

At the State Panel Finals, YAG candidates will have 30-minute auditions. Students will select the first piece to play and the judges will request selections from their 45-minute program. If eligible, YAG applicants may be selected for Panel Honors or Master Class if not chosen for YAG. Students selected for YAG in 11th grade are not eligible for any Panel program in 12th grade. However, they will receive their Senior medallion without taking CM in 12th grade.

2009-2010 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 the regional evaluation center.)
February 27-28	Regional Panel evaluations North and South
March 6-7	Regional Panel evaluations North and South
March 12	Last day to submit final application to Panel Chair for the North (Please note this date is earlier than the South due to the quick turnaround time of the Finals).
March 15	Last day to submit the final application and fee to the Panel Chair for the South.
March 15	Last day to take the theory test
March 20-21	State Panel Finals for the North
March 26-28	State Panel Finals for the South
July 2-6	MTAC Convention at the Los Angeles Marriott

IN CLOSING

We hope this information will be helpful to you. You should be congratulated on your dedicated work with advanced students. Whether or not you plan to enter students this year, we hope you will encourage your students to work toward Panel participation in the future.

Karen S. Becker, CM Coordinator
Julie M. Johnson, Assistant Coordinator
Nicole Burns, YAG Chair

Nancy Daggett Jensen, Panel Chair North
Rosemary Yang, Panel Chair South
Vera Hoalim, Regional Panel Chair South

Certificate of Merit Panel Program Information: Strings

GENERAL INFORMATION

Panel is for extraordinarily talented students, artistically and technically polished to a near professional level. This is NOT the next step after Advanced/Level 10. It is a higher level than the Convention Festival standard (above 5+).

Panel is a two-step process. A string student must be Advanced/Level 10 in Grades 9-12. A student is registered in the regular fall registration with all other CM students. Panel evaluations are different in that students are not evaluated at the Branch level but grouped according to Branch at Regional sites (North or South). Students chosen to proceed to the Panel Finals then complete a second application and pay another fee. (Students who are not selected to proceed to Finals still receive a regular evaluation and do not have to play again at the Branch evaluations.) Students chosen from the Regional Panel round continue on to the **State Panel Finals** where they perform for two evaluators who judge both the North and the South against stringent standards. Students selected in this round go on to play at the annual MTAC Convention in Panel Honor, Panel Master Class or Young Artist Guild Recital.

There are three divisions of the Panel: Panel Honors, Master Class and Young Artist Guild.

1. Students chosen for **Panel Honors** (for students in Grade 9, 10, 11, and 12) perform on a special recital at the annual MTAC Convention.
2. **Master Class** (for students in grades 9, 10, 11, and 12 who have been evaluated since grade 9) students work with professional artists at the Convention.
3. **Young Artist Guild (YAG)** is the highest achievement a CM student can attain. Students must be in Grades 11 and 12 and must have passed yearly Path A evaluations since Grade 9. Selected students belong to the Guild for five years and may be invited to perform at various MTAC branches throughout the state during his or her tenure as a member. (See page 3 for more information.)

ELIGIBILITY

	Panel Honors Recital	Master Class	Young Artist Guild
School Grade	9, 10, 11, 12	9, 10, 11, 12	11, 12
CM Path A (Passed)	N/A	9, 10, 11, 12	9, 10, 11, 12

The Panel Chairs and Assistant CM Coordinator will verify the eligibility of each Panel applicant. If there is a problem or question about eligibility, the teacher will be notified via email. If the student is found to be ineligible, s/he will revert to non-Panel status and be evaluated as a regular Path A CM student. There is no charge or refund for this adjustment.

NOTE:

1. Panel applicants must be available during the dates of the State Panel Finals and the MTAC Convention. (Failure to perform at Convention will disqualify the student from future Convention performances and jeopardize performance opportunities for other students of the teacher.)
2. 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.
3. Students may repeat any Panel program except YAG.
4. Teachers should follow the rules and requirements stated in the syllabus. However, if there is a difference between the syllabus and this packet, use the information here as it is more updated.

REGIONAL PANEL EVALUATIONS

The evaluation is the same as a regular Advanced/Level 10 evaluation except for these differences:

1. Panel applicants are exempt from sight-reading;
2. Students take their theory test at their own branch and must get 80% or above to be eligible for Panel finals (Students who get 90% or above are exempt from the theory test in future years.);
3. All literature must be memorized (except sonatas in the Classical era or later, with piano) and one piece must be from the Advanced/Level 10 list;
4. Ensemble music is ineligible;
5. Proper attire is important for Panel applicants. Girls should wear a dress or skirt, or dressy pants outfit with mid to low-heeled shoes. Boys should wear a shirt and tie, or a collared shirt with sweater. Sweatshirts, T-shirts, and tennis shoes/sneakers are inappropriate;
6. The teacher's name should not appear on any music presented to the evaluators;
7. Students may apply for other Convention recitals (except Ensemble) in case they are not chosen for Panel.
8. There is no time limit on repertoire in the evaluation; however, if the student is chosen for the State Convention recitals, the time limit rule will apply according to the particular Convention recital.

STATE PANEL FINALS

Students who are recommended to proceed to the State Panel Finals submit an application and additional fee and are evaluated for a second time at the State Panel Finals where they perform for two judges who evaluate both the North and the South against stringent standards. Students selected in this round go on to play at the annual MTAC Convention in Panel Honor, Panel Master Class or Young Artist Guild Recital.

Panel Honors and Master Class applicants have 10-minute auditions and play the pieces they performed at the Regional evaluations. 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.

All string finalists must send materials to the SOUTH Panel Chair. If the student is not auditioning in person, a professionally produced videotape or DVD must be mailed to the South Panel Chair **no later than** a week before the Final auditions. Students from the North are eligible for a \$75 stipend to be used for travel to the State Finals site or production of a videotape or DVD. Students auditioning in person are eligible for a \$25 stipend to be used for an accompanist. Teachers are NOT allowed to accompany their students at the State Finals. (They may accompany them at the Regional evaluation.)

Final Panel evaluations are closed to parents and teachers. (Parents may accompany their child.) Written comments are not given and results will be posted online following the completion of the auditions. The decision of the judges is final. Teachers, parents and students ARE NOT to discuss the auditions with the Panel judges (Regional and Final). Failure to comply with this policy will lead to disqualification of the student from all current and future Convention performance opportunities.

YOUNG ARTIST GUILD

The Young Artist Guild is the highest achievement that a Certificate of Merit student can attain. YAG offers semi-professional, paid performance opportunities through branch sponsored concerts. A student belongs to the Guild for five years, and may be invited to perform at various MTAC branches throughout the state during his or her tenure as an active member. In some cases, the Guild also provides awards, scholarships and other financial support for its members.

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 letter of intent, which can be downloaded at www.mtac.org/programs/yag/index.shtml. **Three signed copies** of this letter and **three copies** of a list of their pieces with accurate timings for the 45-minute program (Page B of the Panel finals/YAG Application) must be mailed to the String Panel chair two weeks prior to the regional evaluation date. YAG Students without these documents will be restricted to a ten-minute audition in the Final and will not be considered for Young Artist Guild.

YOUNG ARTIST GUILD EVALUATIONS

Students must prepare a **minimum of 45 minutes** of music without repeats. They should prepare a well-balanced program that represents various styles and technical demands demonstrating their ability. Applicants must choose repertoire **above** Level 7 and **at least** one Advanced/Level 10 work.

All YAG applicants will be heard at the Regional Panel evaluations by two judges (if available). The rules for the Regional Panel evaluations apply to YAG as well. Students must be prepared to play selections of their repertoire in addition to the three pieces they play for their evaluation. If eligible, students may be chosen to advance to the State Panel Finals as a regular Panel applicant if not chosen as a YAG candidate. Same rule applies to the State Panel Finals as well. If a student is chosen to go to the State Panel Finals, the Panel Finals and YAG Audition Application form must be completed by the teacher. Forms can be found at <http://www.mtac.org/programs/CMforms>.

At the State Panel Finals, YAG candidates will have 30-minute auditions. Students will select the first piece to play and the judges will request selections from their 45-minute program. If eligible, YAG applicants may be selected for Panel Honors or Master Class if not chosen for YAG. Students selected for YAG in 11th grade are not eligible for any Panel program in 12th grade. However, they will receive their Senior medallion without taking CM in 12th grade.

2009-2010 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 the regional evaluation center.)
February 6	Last day to mail in three copies of "Letter of Intent" and "Repertoire List" for YAG
February 20	Violin/Viola Regional Panel evaluations for the South at Cerritos Community College (11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650) North Regional evaluations TBD
February 28	Cello Regional Panel evaluation and Regional Young Artist Guild evaluation at Cerritos Community College (11110 Alondra Blvd., Norwalk, CA 90650)
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 (Visit www.mtac.org/programs/CMforms and download the "Panel Finals/YAG Application".)
March 28	State Panel Finals (North/South) in the South
July 2-6	MTAC Convention at the Los Angeles Marriott

IN CLOSING

We hope this information will be helpful to you. You should be congratulated on your dedicated work with advanced students. Whether or not you plan to enter students this year, we hope you will encourage your students to work toward Panel participation in the future.

Karen S. Becker, CM Coordinator	Nancy Daggett Jensen, Panel Chair North
Julie M. Johnson, Assistant Coordinator	Rosemary Yang, Panel Chair South
Nicole Burns, YAG Chair	Kihae Kim-DeFazio, String Panel Chair South
Lori Jensen, String Chair North	Tammy Tsai, String Chair South

Certificate of Merit Panel Program Information: Winds

GENERAL INFORMATION

Panel is for extraordinarily talented students, artistically and technically polished to a near professional level. This is NOT the next step after Advanced Level. It is a higher level than the Convention Festival standard (above 5+).

Panel is a two-step process. A wind student must be Level 9 or Advanced in Grades 10-12. A student is registered in the regular fall registration with all other CM students. Wind Panel applicants will be heard at their home branch for the **Preliminary Panel Evaluation**. In some cases, students may be regionalized according to number of students enrolled and availability of evaluators. Preliminary Evaluations must be completed for panel applicants in all disciplines by the third Sunday of CM evaluations. Branch chairs will be notified as soon as possible about dates and places for evaluations. Students chosen to proceed to the Panel Finals then complete a second application and pay another fee for the **State Panel Finals** where they perform for two evaluators who judge both the North and the South against stringent standards. Students selected in this round go on to play at the annual MTAC Convention.

There are three divisions of the Panel: Panel Honors, Master Class and Young Artist Guild.

1. Students chosen for **Panel Honors** (for students in Grade 10, 11, and 12) perform on a special recital at the annual MTAC Convention.
2. **Master Class** (for students in grades 10, 11 and 12) students work with professional artists at the Convention.
3. **Young Artist Guild** (YAG) is the highest achievement a CM student can attain. Students must be in the Advanced Level and in Grades 11 and 12 and must have passed yearly Path A evaluations since Grade 9. Selected students belong to the Guild for five years and may be invited to perform at various MTAC branches throughout the state during his or her tenure as a member. (See page 3 for more information.)

ELIGIBILITY

	Panel Honors Recital	Master Class	Young Artist Guild
School Grade	10, 11, 12	10, 11, 12	11, 12
CM Path A (Passed)	N/A	N/A	9, 10, 11, 12

The Panel Chairs and Assistant CM Coordinator will verify the eligibility of each Panel applicant. If there is a problem or question about eligibility, the teacher will be notified via email. If the student is found to be ineligible, s/he will revert to non-Panel status and be evaluated as a regular Path A CM student. There is no charge or refund for this adjustment.

NOTE:

1. Panel applicants must be available during the dates of the State Panel Finals and the MTAC Convention. (Failure to perform at Convention will disqualify the student from future Convention performances and jeopardize performance opportunities for other students of the teacher.)
2. 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.
3. Students may repeat any Panel program except YAG.
4. Teachers should follow the rules and requirements stated in the syllabus. However, if there is a difference between the syllabus and this packet, use the information here as it is more updated.

EVALUATIONS

The first step in the Panel process is the **Preliminary Panel** evaluation where students may be evaluated at their home branch evaluation or with other branches' students in their region, depending on the number of applicants and availability of evaluators. Students who are recommended to proceed submit an application and additional fee and are evaluated for a second time at the State Panel Finals.

The evaluation is the same as a regular branch evaluation except for these differences:

1. Panel applicants are exempt from sight-reading and are required to play four pieces. Two may be from the 20th / 21st Centuries: one published before 1960, and one 1960 and later;
2. Students must get 80% or above on their theory test to be eligible for Panel finals (Students who get 90% or above on the Advanced Level theory test are exempt from the theory test in future years.);
3. No ensemble is eligible;
4. Proper attire is important for Panel applicants. Girls should wear a dress or skirt, or dressy pants outfit with mid to low-heeled shoes. Boys should wear a shirt and tie, or a collared shirt with sweater. Sweatshirts, T-shirts, and tennis shoes/sneakers are inappropriate;
5. The teacher's name should not appear on any music;
6. Students may apply for other Convention recitals (except Ensemble) in case they are not chosen for Panel;
7. Memorization for wind instruments is optional for all CM programs including Panel.

STATE PANEL FINALS

Panel Honors and Master Class applicants have 10-minute auditions and play three of the pieces they performed at the Preliminary evaluations. 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. It is very likely that they will only hear part of each piece.

All wind finalists must send materials to the SOUTH Panel Chair. A professionally done videotape or DVD must be mailed to the South Panel Chair **no later than** a week before the Final auditions if the student is not auditioning in person. Students from the North are eligible for a \$75 stipend to be used for travel to the State Finals site or production of a videotape or DVD. Students auditioning in person are eligible for a \$25 stipend to be used for an accompanist. Teachers are NOT allowed to accompany their students at the State Finals. (They may accompany them at the Branch evaluation.)

Final Panel evaluations are closed to parents and teachers. (Parents may accompany their child.) Written comments are not given and results will be posted online following the completion of the auditions. The decision of the judges is final. Teachers, parents and students ARE NOT to discuss the auditions with the Panel judges (Preliminary and Final). Failure to comply with this policy will lead to disqualification of the student from all current and future Convention performance opportunities.

YOUNG ARTIST GUILD

The Young Artist Guild is the highest achievement that a Certificate of Merit student can attain. YAG offers semi-professional, paid performance opportunities through branch sponsored concerts. A student belongs to the Guild for five years, and may be invited to perform at various MTAC branches throughout the state during his or her tenure as an active member. In some cases, the Guild also provides awards, scholarships and other financial support for its members.

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 letter of intent,

which can be downloaded at www.mtac.org/programs/yag/index.shtml. **Three signed copies** of this letter must be brought to the Preliminary Panel evaluations. YAG Students without a signed letter of intent will be restricted to a ten-minute audition in the Final and will not be considered for Young Artist Guild.

YAG EVALUATIONS

Students are required to prepare a **minimum of 45 minutes** of music without repeats. They should prepare a well-balanced program that represents various styles and technical demands demonstrating their ability.

The rules for the Preliminary Panel evaluations apply to YAG as well. YAG applicants must bring a list of their pieces with accurate timings for the 45-minute program (Page B of the Panel Finals/YAG Application) and be prepared to play selections of their repertoire in addition to the four pieces they play for their evaluation. If eligible, students may be chosen to advance to the State Panel Finals as a regular Panel applicant if not chosen as a YAG candidate. If a student is selected to move on to the State Panel Auditions, the teacher will complete the Panel Finals and YAG Audition Application form found at <http://www.mtac.org/programs/CMforms>.

At the State Panel Finals, YAG candidates will have 30-minute auditions. Students will select the first piece to play and the judges will request selections from their 45-minute program. If eligible, YAG applicants may be selected for Panel Honors or Master Class if not chosen for YAG. Students selected for YAG in 11th grade are not eligible for any Panel program in 12th grade. However, they will receive their Senior medallion without taking CM in 12th grade.

2009-2010 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
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 (Visit www.mtac.org/programs/CMforms and download the "Panel Finals/YAG Application".)
March 27	State Panel Finals (North/South) in the South
July 2-6	MTAC Convention at the Los Angeles Marriott

IN CLOSING

We hope this information will be helpful to you. You should be congratulated on your dedicated work with your students. Whether or not you plan to enter students this year, we hope you will encourage your students to work toward Panel participation in the future.

Karen S. Becker, CM Coordinator
Julie M. Johnson, Assistant Coordinator
Nicole Burns, YAG Chair

Nancy Daggett Jensen, Panel Chair North
Rosemary Yang, Panel Chair South
Kim Zamjahn, Wind Chair North
Michelle Rumley, Wind Chair South

Certificate of Merit Panel Program Information: Voice

GENERAL INFORMATION

Panel is for extraordinarily talented students, artistically and technically polished to a near professional level. It is a higher level than the Convention Festival standard (above 5+).

Panel is a two-step process. A voice student must be Levels 8-10 in 9th grade to age 25. A student is registered in the regular fall registration with all other CM students. Voice Panel applicants may be heard at their home branch for the **Preliminary Panel Evaluation**. In some cases, students may be regionalized according to number of students enrolled and availability of evaluators. Preliminary Evaluations must be completed for panel applicants in all disciplines by the third Sunday of CM evaluations. Branch chairs will be notified as soon as possible about dates and places for evaluations. Students chosen to proceed to the Panel Finals then complete a second application and pay another fee. Students chosen from the Preliminary evaluations continue on to the **State Panel Finals** where they perform for two evaluators who judge both the North and the South against stringent standards. Students selected in this round go on to sing at the annual MTAC Convention.

There are three divisions of the Panel: Panel Honors, Master Class and Young Artist Guild.

1. Students chosen for **Panel Honors** perform on a special recital at the annual MTAC Convention.
2. **Master Class** students work with a professional artist at the Convention in front of an audience.
3. **Young Artist Guild (YAG)** is the highest achievement a CM student can attain. Students must be in 11th grade to age 25 and must have passed yearly Path A evaluations for at least two years before the current year. Selected students belong to the Guild for five years and may be invited to perform at various MTAC branches throughout the state during his or her tenure as a member. (See page 3 for more information.)

ELIGIBILITY

	Panel Honors Recital	Master Class	Young Artist Guild
Age	Grade 9 to age 25	Grade 9 to age 25	Grade 11 to age 25
CM Level	8, 9, 10	8, 9, 10	9, 10
CM Path A (Passed)*	2	2	3

*CM Path A levels include the present year and need not be consecutive in calendar year or levels, and need not be during high school.

The Panel Chairs and Assistant CM Coordinator will verify the eligibility of each Panel applicant. If there is a problem or question about eligibility, the teacher will be notified via email. If the student is found to be ineligible, s/he will revert to non-Panel status and be evaluated as a regular Path A CM student. There is no charge or refund for this adjustment.

NOTE:

1. Panel applicants must be available for the State Panel Finals and the MTAC Convention. (Failure to perform at Convention will disqualify the student from future Convention performances and jeopardize performance opportunities for other students of the teacher.)
2. 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.
3. Students may repeat Panel Honors Recital, but not Master Class and Young Artist Guild.
4. Teachers should follow the rules and requirements stated in the syllabus. However, if there is a difference between the syllabus and this packet, use the information here as it is more updated.

EVALUATIONS

The first step in the Panel process is the **Preliminary Panel** evaluation where students may be evaluated at their home branch evaluation or with other branches' students in their region, depending on the number of applicants and availability of evaluators. Students who are recommended to proceed submit an application and additional fee and are evaluated for a second time at the State Panel Finals.

The evaluation is the same as a regular branch evaluation except for these differences:

1. Students must get 85% or above on their theory test to be eligible for Panel finals (YAG applicants must get 90% or above.);
2. All syllabus requirements must be followed, including memorization and number of syllabus pieces;
3. 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;
4. No ensemble is eligible;
5. Proper attire is important for Panel applicants. Girls should wear a dress or skirt, or dressy pants outfit with a modest neckline, covered shoulders and be at least knee length. Boys should wear a shirt and tie, or a collared shirt with sweater. Both should wear dress shoes that are silent on stage. Sweatshirts, T-shirts, and tennis shoes/sneakers are inappropriate;
6. The teacher's name should not appear on any music;
7. Students may apply for other Convention recitals (except Ensemble) in case they are not chosen for Panel.

Students chosen from the Preliminary evaluations continue on to the **State Panel Finals** where they perform for two judges who evaluate both the North and the South against stringent standards. Students selected in this round go on to sing at the annual MTAC Convention.

STATE PANEL FINALS

Panel Honors and Master Class applicants prepare **at least** 10 minutes of music from the pieces they performed at the Preliminary evaluations. 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.

All vocal finalists must send materials to the SOUTH Panel Chair. If the student is not auditioning in person, a professionally produced videotape or DVD must be mailed to the South Panel Chair **no later than** a week before the Final auditions. Students from the North are eligible for a \$75 stipend to be used for travel to the State Finals site or production of a videotape or DVD. Students auditioning in person are eligible for a \$25 stipend to be used for an accompanist. Teachers are NOT allowed to accompany their students at the State Finals. (They may accompany them at the Preliminary evaluation.)

Final Panel evaluations are closed to parents and teachers. (Parents or Teachers may not accompany their child.) Written comments are not given and results will be posted online following the completion of the auditions. The decision of the judges is final. Teachers, parents and students ARE NOT to discuss the auditions with the Panel judges (Preliminary and Final). Failure to comply with this policy will lead to disqualification of the student from all current and future Convention performance opportunities.

YOUNG ARTIST GUILD

The Young Artist Guild is the highest achievement that a Certificate of Merit student can attain. YAG offers semi-professional, paid performance opportunities through branch sponsored concerts. A student belongs to the Guild for five years, and may be invited to perform at various MTAC branches throughout the state during his or her tenure as an active member. In some cases, the Guild also provides awards, scholarships and other financial support for its members.

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 letter of intent, which can be downloaded at www.mtac.org/programs/yag/index.shtml. **Three signed copies** of this letter must be brought to the Preliminary Panel evaluations. YAG Students without a signed letter of intent will be restricted to a ten-minute audition in the Final and will not be considered for YAG.

YAG EVALUATIONS

Students are required to prepare a **minimum of 45 minutes** of music without repeats. They should prepare a well-balanced program that represents various styles and technical demands demonstrating their ability.

All YAG applicants will be heard at the Preliminary evaluations by two judges (if available). The rules for the Preliminary Panel evaluations apply to YAG as well. YAG applicants must bring a list of their pieces with accurate timings for the 45-minute program (Page B of the Panel Finals/YAG Application) and be prepared to sing selections of their repertoire in addition to the seven pieces (six for Level 9) they sing for their evaluation. If eligible, students may be chosen to advance to the State Panel Finals as a regular Panel applicant if not chosen as a YAG candidate. If a student is selected to move on to the State Panel Auditions, the teacher will complete the Panel Finals and YAG Audition Application form found at <http://www.mtac.org/programs/CMforms>.

At the State Panel Finals, YAG candidates will have 30-minute auditions. Students will select the first piece to sing and the judges will request selections from their 45-minute program. If eligible, YAG applicants may be selected for Panel Honors or Master Class if not chosen for YAG. Students selected for YAG are not eligible for any Panel program.

2009-2010 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
March 15	Last day to take the theory test
March 15	Last day to submit the final application and fee to the appropriate Panel Chair (Visit www.mtac.org/programs/CMforms and download the "Panel Finals/YAG Application".)
March 27	State Panel Finals (North/South) in the South
July 2-6	MTAC Convention at the Los Angeles Marriott

IN CLOSING

We hope this information will be helpful to you. You should be congratulated on your dedicated work with your students. Whether or not you plan to enter students this year, we hope you will encourage your students to work toward Panel participation in the future.

Karen S. Becker, CM Coordinator
Julie M. Johnson, Assistant Coordinator
Nicole Burns, YAG Chair

Nancy Daggett Jensen, Panel Chair North
Rosemary Yang, Panel Chair South
Sarah Sandvig, Voice Chair, North/South