

CERTIFICATE OF MERIT FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS, 2009-2010
(Created, August, 2009)
(Revised, February, 2010)

Q: Under what circumstances may a student be registered past the deadline?

A: THERE ARE NO LATE REGISTRATIONS UNDER ANY CIRCUMSTANCES.

Q: Why can't exceptions be made for CM deadlines? Can't we just bend the rules occasionally?

A: Rules do not necessarily make things work better; what they achieve, however, is greater transparency of the process and the more universal impression that everyone is being treated the same. This helps to eliminate the notion that some people get special treatment in preference to others

Q: How may teachers qualify for an additional instrument for CM?

A: The State Membership Secretary must approve a teacher for additional instruments. Contact the State Office for a Secondary Instrument Form.

Q: Is a Young Artist eligible for the Senior Award?

A: A member of the Young Artist Guild is considered a graduate and is eligible for the Senior Award.

Q: How are students chosen for the Convention Intermediate Master Class?

A: Students for the Intermediate Master Classes are chosen from a select pool of students in the intermediate levels 4-5-6. This pool comes from those students who have entered CM and have applied for and been selected for "CM related Convention Recitals." These students must have an excellent on Repertoire, Technique and Sight Reading, a 5+ rating on the convention piece and above 90% on their theory test. From this pool of students an equal mix of North/South students and a variety of repertoire from different historical periods are considered. In addition, any special requests from the master teacher such as composer or level are taken into account. From this limited pool of students, calls are made to teachers beginning with the students with the highest theory score who are eligible in all other areas. Sometimes teachers feel their students are not ready to play in a master class. Theory test scores are used until the required number of students is found.

Q: Can I still use the Harris Celebration Series, *Piano Odyssey*, now that the new Celebration Series, *Perspectives* is available?

A: Yes, you may still use the Celebrations Series, *Piano Odyssey* until the next syllabus revision.

Q: Does the Required Syllabus piece have to be the same as the Festival piece for Advanced level?

A: Yes. The Convention Festival Recital piece must be the required Syllabus piece. For Advanced Level students, either the Syllabus piece or the Etude may be used. The Syllabus piece from the list on pages 88-91 must be entered in the Syllabus box and the Etude from Pages 92-96 must be entered in the Etude box. In the blue convention area you may choose either title. (The Etude will be Title #5)

Q: Is Suzuki book one considered a method? (Some of this music is in original form, not arrangements).

A: Repertoire written in the original form by the original composer or arrangements made by the original composer of the piece are okay for CM evaluation. Many of the pieces in Suzuki books meet that requirement.

Q: Can students rewind the ear training CD and listen to questions over again?

A: Yes, they can, just as students may take as much time as they need in the theory portion.

Q: What would be a cause for my student automatically not passing their CM level?

A: A student will receive an Automatic Remain at Level for the following:

1. Sight Reading: Refuses to Attempt (legally blind students exempt)
2. Technique: None prepared or cannot play without notation
3. Required Advanced Level Etude Not Memorized or not from the Etude list (2007 Syllabus Pages 92-96)
4. Required Number of Pieces Not Correct (2007 Syllabus Pages 6)
5. Memory Requirement Not Met (2007 Syllabus Pages 6)
6. Any student who brings a photocopy to evaluations or brings music reproduced from a CD or the Internet without a logo or the source (URL) to a CM evaluation will not be heard by an evaluator and will receive an automatic remain at level

Q: Could you please list which levels have required Theory testing for each instrument.

A:

Keyboard:

Theory test Levels Preparatory – Advanced

Ear Training Levels 1 – Advanced

Strings:

No theory test - Preparatory Level

Oral test - Level 1

Theory test Levels 2 – Advanced

Level 2 theory test may be taken orally or written

Levels 3 – Advanced: these tests are written only

Ear Training Levels 3 – Advanced

*Voice:

Theory test Levels 1- Advanced.

Ear Training Levels 1- Advanced

*Winds:

Theory test Levels 1- Advanced.

Ear Training Levels 1- Advanced

*There is no Preparatory Level for Voice and Winds

Q: Can a student change their mind about the piece they are going to play at the last minute and change it on the evaluation sheet on the day of evaluations?

A: No. Repertoire may not be changed at the last minute. Any changes must be cleared with the Branch Chair. Students must play the same pieces listed on their evaluation sheet. Unauthorized changes will disqualify a student from convention and Branch Honors programs

Q: What determines the period of an arrangement for ensembles—the composer or the transcriber?

A: The period of the piece is determined by the transcriber.

Q: If a Panel finalist is not selected for Panel Honors, Master Class, or YAG, will he/she be asked to perform at Convention Festival, Theme or New Materials Recital?

A: This is not automatic. The Teacher must check the box for Convention Recital on the Student Evaluation form, in addition to the application to Panel, to be considered for convention recital in the event of not being chosen for a Panel Honors Recital.

Q: Does the student have to have a copy of their 45 minute program when they go to the first round for YAG?

A: Yes. Students interested in YAG must bring their Young Artist Guild program listed on the Panel Finals and YAG Audition Application form, Page B, to the Preliminary Panel Evaluation with accurate timing noted for each selection or movement and be prepared to play portions of the repertoire (selected by the evaluator) in addition to the five regular pieces the evaluators always hear. Three copies of the YAG Letter of Intent must also be brought to the Regional Panel auditions