

MTAC Voice Teachers:

9/18/08

We have once again reached Certificate of Merit season! Registration opened 9/15 and closes on 11/15. We are thrilled to be involved as your state representatives, and we have many exciting announcements that will make the exam run smoothly and please both teachers and students alike.

TEACHERS NEW TO CM:

If you have not enrolled your students in the Certificate of Merit program, we would love you to try it out this year! You can purchase the voice syllabus through the state as well as sets of previous voice theory exams for extra practice. You will need to obtain a user ID and password from your Branch CM chair, then you can begin registering your students online at www.mtac.org. This program not only exposes students to different styles of vocal music, it also hones their sight-reading, ear-training and theory skills. Theory and sight-reading books are also available for purchase to help students prepare for the exam (see below). Please email one of us if you would like some guidance, we'd love for you to participate!

EAR-TRAINING:

This year, the state has asked us to make the voice test more streamlined with the other disciplines. One of the biggest changes is our ear-training. The new ear-training will include ten questions, (all heard from a recorded cd) that will be the last part of the theory test. This will include tonal memory, rhythm, intervals, and vocabulary. Students will hear two examples and circle the correct one. We have attached a PDF example of a level 4 ear-training for you to see.

SIGHT-READING/RHYTHM:

Students will still sing their vaccai, melodic sight-reading and rhythmic sight-reading for the evaluator. They will receive a rating of "Excellent, Good, Average, Weak, or Incomplete." They will not receive points for this portion of the exam, just a rating.

Melodic sight-singing may be sung on movable DO or note names for major and/or minor. Students may also sing the minor examples beginning on LA, keeping the relative major key in mind. The addition of note names is a result of a survey that many of you took. Your feedback is important to us! You may choose to prepare your students how you see fit, and this new allowance may enable students who have difficulty with solfege to succeed with sight-reading where they may not have before. The point is for our students to learn how to sight-read, and all of these ways allow them to.

Rhythmic sight-reading may be sung on a neutral syllable, preferably LA. Students may tap or clap the beat while singing, and the example must be sung.

THEORY TEST CHANGES:

The level six test will no longer include syncopation.

REPERTOIRE:

Look for some new additions to our repertoire list. We will send out an addendum as soon as it's available.

SIGHT-READING BOOK:

The Sight Reading and Rhythm Practice Book is now ready to be a helpful aid in educating your students and preparing them for the practical evaluation. Scales and intervals are written out in the key of each level of CM, with the musical reading system labeled underneath. Each level has a number of weekly lessons that include rhythm and melody. The advanced levels have weekly lessons of rhythm, major melody, and minor melody. Voice students and teachers have never had a practice book that will thoroughly prepare students for a specific level of CM. I hope this resource will make your job as a teacher easier and make the learning for the student more secure. For this year, the books may be purchased for \$22.00 from Brigitte Doss-Johnson. Just like the piano technique books, each teacher may buy just 1 book and copy the appropriate level for their students. We ask teachers not to copy the entire book for another fellow teacher.

Please send:

a check, or money order addressed to:

Singer's Heart Studios

3341 Pruneridge Ave.

Santa Clara, CA 95051

(if you prefer to call in your order for credit card purchases, please call 408-247-4141)

Write your address on a separate piece of paper.

THEORY BOOK:

"Teoria di Voce," a theory book that many of you already use for your students, is available through Sarah Sandvig. This book includes levels 1-10 and is updated with our tests. It was written to prepare voice students for this exam, but is extremely useful as a general theory book for all voice students.

You can email Sarah (below) with your order and address and she can ship books to you the same week. Books are \$15 a piece plus shipping, with discounts for orders of 10 or more books. You can also order the book through www.JWPepper.com (type in Teoria di Voce under the search section, or catalog number 10056002).

EVALUATORS NEEDED!!!

We would love to recruit you to evaluate for us! All you have to do is contact one of us, according to whether you're in the North or South and let us know if you're interested. We will send you the necessary paperwork and set up a training session. It's that easy! Please consider it; it's fun and pays well too!

We both look forward to an exciting Certificate of Merit season with lots of student growth and success. If you have any questions, feel free to contact one of us.

Most Sincerely,

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