

TMEA Honor Band Review Committee Report Fall 2016 Region Meeting

The TMEA Honor Band Committee met on July 19, 2016 at the TMEA Headquarters in Austin. The committee discussed the following items submitted by TMEA members and/or committee members:

I. Validity of the Honor Band Process

The committee was unanimous on the continued validity of the Honor Band process. The committee discussed that the Honor Band process was valid to all classifications (Small School and Large School). The process provides examples of good teaching and has helped set the standard of outstanding bands in our state.

II. Financial Considerations

The current system of listenings is not cost effective. Many Regions struggle to have their listenings at a reasonable cost to participants. Many small schools are paying Region entry fees when there is not a listening required for their classification at the Region level. The current Area Listening Center format is not cost effective. Many Areas are running deficits. TMEA Headquarters has elected not to charge prorated fees after the Area Listenings to the participating schools for the deficit. Current Area format is running at an approximate \$7000 deficit. The committee members agree that the cost can be prohibitive for some bands to enter the process. This was a serious consideration for the small school classifications. Consider moving CC to the same rotation with 6A and move C with 1A/2A. This would help balance entry numbers year to year and help the process become revenue neutral.

III. On-line Submission

The committee discussed the parameters for an on-line submission system. This upload system would be through the TMEA website. This process has been used for the Invited Jazz Band submissions and worked well. It was stressed that the submitted files should be WAV format with a 44.1 K sample rate (CD standard). The system can be set up to accept mp3, wav, mp4 type submissions. On-line uploading will allow for easier access to recordings for listening preparation. Could eliminate the issues the process currently has with non-working CD's. Would require the use of digital players for playback. **The committee was in favor of going to an on-line submission system for the 2017 Honor Band submissions.**

IV. Recording Guidelines and Practices

A. The committee discussed the current Recording Guidelines and Practices. Having submissions be in the order that they were performed was an important issue.

B. Add a "Best Practices" section to Recording Guidelines. Developed with help from the recording engineers that are on the committee.

C. Committee discussed what editing should be allowed to recordings.

1. Eliminate time between movements
2. Eliminate applause
3. Allow volume to be adjusted to make all recording submissions the same volume.
4. Allow any sounds not generated by a student performer to be edited. ...Anything not part of the musical performance. (Ex. Air condition noise, Extraneous performance venue noise)
 - Recording engineers can record the empty room and then edit out the ambient hall noise out of the recording.

5. Have recording engineers submit a signed statement of what edits were performed.

The committee discussed ethical practices and the importance of keeping the spirit of the current guidelines.

V. Elimination of Region Listening

The committee looked at the number of bands in each classification that have entered the Honor Band process. A proposal to eliminate the Region level of the process was discussed.

1. This could reduce the cost for participating bands.
 - a. Could be a tiered system for each classification.
 - b. \$350 total cost for larger classifications (rather than the \$600-\$900 currently).
 - c. Could increase small school participation with reduced cost.
2. Area would be the first listening
 - a. 8 Areas for Class CC, CCC, 5A and 6A
 - i. All Honor Band submissions have their first listening at Area.
 - ii. Each Area advances a minimum of two bands to the next level
 - iii. Each Area would advance 1 additional band for each 4 bands over 8 total bands: 9 bands entered certifies 3 bands to next level, 13 entered bands certifies 4 bands to next level.
 - iv. State Prelims level certifies 8 total bands to State Finals
 - b. 4 Areas for Class C, 1A/2A, 3A, 4A
 - i. Each Area advances a minimum of two bands to the next level
 - ii. Each Area would advance 1 additional band for each 4 bands over 8 total bands entered
 - c. Any classification that has under 15 total entries would have a State level listening only.

The committee agree that this proposal could increase participation in all classifications and needs further discussion.

VI. Create a Uniform Start and End Date for Honor Band Preparation

The committee discussed setting a December 1 music preparation start date and a May 21 end date for the last recording. This addresses the submitted concerns from the membership about the amount of time programs are spending on a limited number of musical selections. Requiring a "Statement of Compliance" that is signed by the director and principal and is part of the entry form. The committee was in support of creating a uniform start and end date.

VII. All Submitted Selections Must Come From The Same Performance

The committee did review this submitted proposal. Discussion brought up that it could limit some current practices of focusing on one selection for a specific performance, then focusing on another selection for the next performance. This could give a more accurate assessment of participating bands in a way that a concert attendee would have experienced it. The committee had lots of discussion on this proposal.

VIII. Portfolio Submission

The committee discussed ways to recognize bands that have a well-rounded program. Submissions could include: Solo and Ensemble participation, Chamber Music Recitals or Concerts, Jazz Band performances, Mariachi Performances, Concert Repertoire that is not UIL or TMEA Honor Band related. Could this be a process to recognize model programs

that might not ever be competitive in the Honor Band process? Could this be a way to recognize urban schools with strong programs? Committee agreed that this is something that needs further discussion and development.

IX. Proposed Action Timeline

A. 2017 TMEA Open Forum for feedback

1. Similar format to the SMC Open Forum

B. 2017 Honor Band Submissions

1. On-line/Upload Entry
2. Recorded Submission best practices
3. Update Recording Guidelines to allow the following:
 - Recommendation that recorded submissions be in a WAV format.
 - Allow the adjustment of volume to be equal on all submitted recordings.
 - Allow time between movements to be edited
 - Allow applause to be edited out of the recording
4. Possible Pilot of the elimination of the Region level for 3A submissions go to Area, State format for the 3A Classification.

C. 2018 Honor Band Submissions

1. Uniform Start and End Date
2. Elimination of the Region level listening
3. Implementation of new Area Listening, State Prelims and State Finals format

If you have any feedback on the items discussed and the proposals, please send them to a member of the committee or Joe Muñoz. Regions and members can still present items for consideration to committee members or directly to Joe Muñoz. The Region and member feedback is an important part of this process.

Respectfully submitted,

Joe Muñoz
TMEA State Band Chair

Honor Band Statistics 2016-2017

	Total	6A	5A	4A	3A	1A/2A	3C	2C	1C
Entries	590	110	95	42	40	32	125	118	28
Complete Entries	452	88	73	30	29	19	101	94	18
Incomplete Entries	127	22	22	12	11	13	24	24	10

	Total	6A	5A	4A	3A	1A/2A	3C	2C	1C
Complete Entries	452	88	73	30	29	19	101	94	18
AREA A	74	9	17	5	5	8	9	18	3
B	44	8	6	5	4	1	6	11	3
C	73	9	12	9	7	5	16	9	6
D	59	14	6	2	5	4	15	11	2
E	75	19	9	3	3		25	14	2
F	55	15	7	2	2		15	12	2
G	72	14	16	4	3	1	15	19	

	Total	6A	5A	4A	3A	1A/2A	3C	2C	1C
Complete Entries	452	88	73	30	29	19	101	94	18
REGION 1	13		4		1	3	1	2	2
2	24	5	3	4	1	3	4	4	
3	24	5	4	2	2		5	4	2
4	12		1	3	2	1	2		3
5	15	4	1				3	7	
6	9	2		2		1	1	1	2
7	17	1	3	3	4		2	3	1
8	6			1	3	2			
9	20	7	2	1			7	3	
10	14		2	2	2			6	2
11	17	4	3	1			5	3	1
12	23	6	2	1	2		7	4	1
13	20	4	6		1	1	6	2	
14	18	2	5	1	2		5	3	
15	15	4	3	1			2	5	
16	12	2	2		3	2		2	1
17	23	7	2				10	4	
18	16	3	2		1		6	4	
19	11	5	2				2	2	
20	13	4	2				2	4	1
21	13		2	3	2	4	1	1	
22	3	1	2						
23	7	3	1				3		
24	25	2	8	1			4	10	
25	24	4	5	1	1		8	4	1
26	20	3	2		2	2	6	4	1
27	19	6	2	1			7	3	
28	19	4	2	2			2	9	

TMEA Honor Band Committee

July 19, 2016

Name	School	Conference	Region/Area	Email
Glenn Wells	Kilgore College	1A-2A	4/C	gwells@kilgore.edu
Jaime Talbert	Barbers Hill MS	C/CC	10/F	jtalbert@bhisd.net
Ray Portillo	Glenn Rose HS	4A	7/B	rayportillo@me.com
Kathy Johnson	Argyle HS	4A	2/A	kjohnson@argyleisd.com
Scott Taylor	Ft. Worth	4A-6A	3/C	sltaylor@betslt.com
George Trevino	Lopez	5A-6A	28/G	gatrevino@bisd.us
Amanda Drinkwater	Marcus	6A	24/A	drinkwatera@lisd.net
Kerry Taylor	Westlake HS	6A	18/E	ktaylor@eanesisd.net
Gloria Ramirez	Langham Creek HS	MS/6A	27/E	gloria.ramirez@cfisd.net
Andy Sealy	Hebron HS	6A/TMEA	24/A	sealya@lisd.net
Dick Clardy	Choice Music Events	Admin	7/B	dick.clardy@fwisd.org
JoAnn Syring	Honey Grove MS	C	25/C	djsyring.js@gmail.com
Benjamin Katz	Clark MS	CC	24/A	katzb@friscoisd.org
David Burks	Recording Engineer	CCC	5/B	dbpaudio@gmail.com
Robert Herrings	Henry MS	CCC	26/D	robert.herrings@leanderisd.org
Greg Dick	Friendswood	MS-JH/5A/6A	17/F	gdick@fisdk12.net
Michael Browning	Recording Engineer		9/D	mbrowni@me.com
Dr Brad Kent (member Ex-Officio)	UIL			music@uiltexas.org
Frank Coachman (member Ex-Officio)	TMEA			fcoachman@tmea.org
Robert Floyd (member Ex-Officio)	TMEA			rfloyd@tmea.org
Joe Munoz	Pearland HS	TMEA/5A-6A		munozj@pearlandisd.org