

**Judges Meeting Notes  
November 18, 2019**

***AIM Theory Registration Period is November 18 – December 9, 2019***

**Volunteer Sign Up form is required before teachers can enroll students.** This will only need to be filled out once. However, if registration continues on a different device (different computer, tablet, or phone), it will take you to the Volunteer Sign Up form again. Best to do all registration on same device OR be sure all information is the same if you fill the form out more than one.

Northwestern Volunteer Shifts: 8am-11am; 11am-2pm; 2pm-5pm

Lake Forest Volunteer Shifts: 11am-2pm; 2pm-5pm

**All Teachers are requested to register students in one location only.** All teachers will be assigned one location as Northwestern or Lake Forest for student registrations and volunteer location.

**Teachers can register students at any time during the registration period,** singly, a few at a time, or all at once. Students added to cart will remain in cart until checkout process is completed (like online shopping). If you notice errors before checkout, please delete student and re-enter student information. If you notice errors after check out, go to Edit Student Registration page in the Members ONLY page to make any changes. Changes can be made any time until the registration deadline.

**Students will ONLY appear in the Edit Student Registration page** after the checkout and payment has been made. After checkout, be sure to check the Edit Student Registration page, to make sure all students are registered. If a student does not appear on this page, the student is not registered. Please take care to spell student names carefully, as what is entered is how it will appear on the certificate (proper capitalization requested!).

**Only Teachers are requested to register and pay for their students.** Please do not give your account information to parents and have them register their child, or make payment. Teacher accounts are linked to the billing address of the credit card payment, so if a parent enters their name and billing address during payment, this new name will override the teacher account name.

**Level 1's and 2's**

Level 1's and 2's can take their exam at either Northwestern or Lake Forest in either of the January exam dates and should be registered now. Level 1's and 2's that will take the exam on April 19 at My Piano Studio should NOT register now. These registrations will occur with the Performance Exam registration

Repertoire information is only required for Level 2. Please enter only last names for composers and simple titles. These entries are used to generate score sheets so long titles will create errors during the mail merge process. For example, Write:

Mozart, instead of Wolfgang Amadeus Mozart

Sonata in C, 1<sup>st</sup> mvt, instead of Sonata in C Major, first movement

For Source, L4-23, instead of Level 4, page 23, etc.

**Repertoire Permission**

- If you want to use a piece that is not in the syllabus, please request it from Stephanie Myers, state repertoire chair, by the Jan. 15th deadline. (Send copy of the first and last page with the

level you want to use it for.) Her email address is: [hisamimyers@gmail.com](mailto:hisamimyers@gmail.com) Be sure to forward her email granting permission to your location chairperson.

- If you have received permission from Stephanie in the past, keep her email and forward that email to location chair when entering the piece another year.
- Students may play pieces off competition lists as long as it is from the CURRENT year.
- If a piece is in a collection listed on the first page of the level and the piece is ALSO listed separately under the spelled out lists later, please use the page from the individual list to save time for the person checking everything. You can always play pieces from higher levels.

Students who took only the theory last year and are taking the performance this year should wait to register until March. There is a reduced re-registration fee of \$15.

Prepare by double-checking against the syllabus. There may still be some inconsistencies in the Workbooks.

**Transposition:** Students need to bring their ENTIRE workbook to the exam. Not a copy or a single page. Some fingerings written in are fine. Best not to put in every fingering as they are not reading by interval then.

**Harmonizations:**

For harmonizations that students can choose chords (i.e. Peter Gray, level 8), be open to “any” chord selections. These harmonizations are designed to spark students’ creativity, so even if they are not the same as the suggested chords in Karen Roger’s workbooks, or selections that you would choose, give the student more latitude and do not deduct points, especially if performed smoothly. Students can be creative and does not need to be traditional.

For harmonizations with slash chords in level 7 and above, students need to play specified position. If there are no slashes, the chord should be played in root position. (i.e. Go Down Moses, level 10, even D7 D7 in. m 7 – should both be played in root position). These harmonizations indicate a specific bass line. Looking ahead to Level 11 aural skills, it might be good here to have the student play in practice just the bass notes with the melody.

**Judging Notes**

If a student does not have pieces memorized, hear them and give comments, but mark as “incomplete” with no score.

Sight-reading - allow students time to shadow on the keyboard (if needed) and enough time to look over comfortable. Any tempo is acceptable with minor fluctuations. If you deduct for tempo fluctuation do it only once rather than each time it happens.

Aural Skills - Students ARE NOT supposed to rewind or pause in the middle of the dictation. Coach your students not to do this in the lesson. Stopping the example after every note is not practical or allowed.

Work on logic - a simple meter, a dotted quarter will always be followed by the flagged eighth. In 6/8 you will have 3-eighths barred together, or dotted quarter, or quarter-eighth.

Up to Level 6 - notes will be within the 5FP. If you are writing notes outside that, check again. Level 7 - expands to the 8ve.

### Sight-reading:

Right-at-Sight (Peters) are recommended by some teachers.. 8 levels. Can be hard to get. Others like the Kevin Olson and Helen Marlais – Sight Reading and Rhythm Every day also good resource.

Sample Exams — A new set of sample exams for all levels will be available as a download from the ISMTA website. Conference price was \$12 for the entire set, but download version price has not be established yet. You may print as many as you want.

- There are no aural files for the new test (only aural files are for the sample tests in the syllabus.)
- Blank test sheets are for the old syllabus.
- LeAnn Halvorson has workbooks —now there are separate books for level 1A, 1B, and 1C. She also has aural skills for each of the units. Good for transfer students and those who need extra work.
- Craig Sale has a new book about intervals.

### **Free Apps for Ear Training**

- EarWorthy - light version is free.
- Tenuto - has more theory.
- Name the Note

Some of the older apps go obsolete.

Teachers s are receiving some backlash from parents for encouraging/requiring app time. Teachers who assign the Apps find the students just want to play their own games, not the music ones.

\*\* You could use it as a reward at the end of a well prepared lesson.