

# TMEA REGION AND ALL-STATE MARIACHI ENSEMBLE AUDITION TRYOUT PROCEDURES AND GUIDELINES

Established June 2020

**Note: The AREA and ALL-STATE procedures will begin with the 2020-2021 school year.**

TMEA organizes, manages and operates the TMEA Region and All-State Mariachi Ensemble programs. The Mariachi ensemble is unique among the TMEA All-State performing ensembles. The group's **18** members are comprised of students who each play a part, are called upon to sing in performance, and are selected to record for one All-State ensemble from a single audition at the Region level.

## AUDITION MATERIAL

1. Audition material for the Region and All-State Mariachi Ensemble will come from the **TMEA Orchestra Division Chair** and including input from an All-State Mariachi Ensemble Audition Etudes Committee. Committee members will be chosen by the **TMEA Orchestra Division Chair with the assistance of the TMEA Band Division chair as needed.**
2. The audition etudes will be published for the following instruments: violin, trumpet, vihuela, nylon guitar, guitarra de golpe, guitarrón, and harp. For all instruments two written etudes of differing styles (*sones, corridos, jarabes, valeses, polkas, marchas, chotices, danzas, huapangos, boleros, pasodobles, danzones, joropos, baladas*) will be required along with one vocal etude in three voice ranges (low-range, mid-range, high-range). The vocal etudes are optional for Region. Recording for the State level will include the vocal etude.
3. Etudes will be composed in such a manner that the first two-thirds of the etude will be of moderate range and difficulty with the last third reserved for greater range and difficulty. This will allow a Region to use the material at local auditions for students who may not possess the skills for the State level but, may be interested in the Region level. The suggested moderate cut will be marked on the etude. Recording for the State level will include the entire etude.
4. The audition material will be released each year on May 15 for the following school year auditions.

## AUDITION PROCESS

### AUDITION DATES

1. **The Region to Area qualifying to record auditions must be held between the second Saturday of September and the official All-State String recording date in October.**

## STUDENT ENTRY PROCEDURE

1. Each student must be entered by a TMEA Active Member Director/Sponsor using the online entry process.
2. Entry deadline in each Region shall be set by the Region.
3. Each participant will declare his/her intention to be considered for State Level, or Region Level only.
4. Any student entered in the process must meet TMEA eligibility requirement at the time of the audition and must maintain this status for any subsequent rehearsals and/or performances of a Region or All-State ensemble should he/she be selected.
5. A student submitting a recording for All-State Mariachi may not submit a recording for Area Orchestra or Area Jazz.
6. A student who is selected for the All-State Mariachi Ensemble is no longer eligible to participate in any other Area level TMEA contest.

## REGION LEVEL AUDITION PROCEDURES

1. TMEA Mariachi auditions forms are generated using the official TMEA Audition Tabulation software.
2. Every Judging panel will adhere to the TMEA Audition Rules and Procedures regarding mandatory use of 5 person panels.
3. For all instruments, each student's audition will consist of two etudes of differing styles and a vocal etude.
  - a. The vocal etude may be optional for Region only auditions.
4. Each etude will be scored on a scale from 0 to 100. If this procedure is being used at Region level only, the "moderate cuts" may be used. The vocal etude will be scored on a scale from 0 to 100. This system will allow for a maximum of 300 total points.
5. Should a section have entries for both Region and All-State levels, a second elimination audition for those wanting to be considered for All-State should be held after the first audition. In this second audition, each student must perform the full etudes. If the first audition was comprised entirely of students who wish to be considered for All-State, only one audition is necessary.
6. Each student will be assigned a random audition ID generated by the tabulation software.
7. If possible, all students shall be seated in the tryout room simultaneously.
8. Every effort should be made to ensure a judge does not have visual contact with a student. Screens are required. Anonymity is vital.
9. All students should play from one location in the room.

10. The judges must hear each student play each etude or prescribed cut in its entirety. This will be done in three rounds.
11. The contestants will perform in the following order:
  - a. Round 1: top to bottom
  - b. Round 2: 1/3 down to the bottom
  - c. Round 3: 2/3 down to the bottom
12. Prior to each round and after each fifth trumpet or tenth contestant for all other sections plays, all contestants in the room shall warm-up simultaneously for 20-30 seconds. There will be no restrictions on what the students can play during the group warm-up. However, disruptive activity could be subject to disciplinary action
13. **Prior to each excerpt for the trumpet section, if a student so desires to warm-up, the student may only play the starting note of the excerpt for no longer than 5 seconds.** After the fifth trumpet and tenth contestant for all other sections plays, all contestants in the room shall warm-up simultaneously for 20-30 seconds. There will be no restrictions on what the students can play during the group warm-up. However, disruptive activity could be subject to disciplinary action.
14. Students are permitted to use a non-audible metronome that is only a single purpose device.
15. Said metronome may only be used prior to the performance by the auditioning student. The student may not use the metronome during the performance.
16. Metronome markings should be closely adhered to as to maintain the intent of the music.
17. More consideration should be given to the student who conveys the musical intent of the recommended metronome markings. Judges should score a student who chooses to perform outside the recommended tempo based on the student's ability to preserve the musical integrity of the selection.
18. No electronic devices may be used or accessed by a student participant until the auditions for the student's section have been concluded. Failure to comply with this regulation may result in student disqualification.
19. The list of non-allowable electronic devices includes, but is not limited to, phones, **smart watches**, electronic games, computers, cameras (within an audition room), and playback systems.

## TABULATION AND CERTIFICATION

1. By use of the TMEA audition program, the contest chair shall be responsible for tabulating, checking, posting and reporting results. If the Region and All-State level auditions are being held simultaneously, the contest chair must distinguish those students who entered for All-State from those who entered for Region only.
2. All rankings and ties must be handled in accordance with the procedure for tie breaking as printed in the All-State **Orchestra** Audition Procedures and Guidelines.
3. All posting shall reflect the ranking of the entire section and shall be posted with the following statement:  
***"Tabulated audition results shall be available for inspection by directors for one hour following the***

***conclusion of the entire audition. At the end of this period the results are subject to the TMEA appeals process."***

4. The contest chair must certify the total number of students allowed per instrument provided the number of contestants meets or exceeds the demand. If the number of contestants is less than the demand, those contestants shall be certified. No chair or judging panel shall have the authority to eliminate a student if a Region or All-State spot is available.
5. Each Region may certify a maximum of the following instrumentation to record for the Area level audition:

3 trumpets	9 violins
1 vihuela	2 nylon guitars
1 guitarra de golpe	1 guitarrón
1 harp	
6. Students shall record only one take of each etude (including the vocal track) for the Area Mariachi Ensemble Recorded Auditions. **Recording multiple takes is prohibited.**
  - a. The vocal etude will be recorded with the appropriate supplied accompaniment track.
7. Each etude will be recorded to a separate track to be uploaded to the TMEA server. The instructions for this process are provided in the TMEA tabulation software program.
8. Upload a copy of the audition file through the tabulation software or email a copy to:  
[fcoachman@tmea.org](mailto:fcoachman@tmea.org), [adenman@tmea.org](mailto:adenman@tmea.org)
9. The following shall be included in the mailing:
  - a. Region Mariachi Coordinator's Composite Certification Form generated by the tabulation software
  - b. A single check covering the total cost of all certified applicants (\$10 per student) made payable to TMEA.
10. These items must be sent by certified mail, express/overnight or hand-delivered to the state **TMEA Office: 7900 Centre Park Dr., Austin, TX 78754**

## ALL-STATE RECORDED AUDITION PROCEDURES

1. **The All-State Mariachi Ensemble recorded auditions shall be overseen by the TMEA State Orchestra Chair or a designee.**
2. The TMEA State Orchestra Chairs or a designee shall be responsible for assembling five-person panels for each of the sections. It is advisable for one panel to hear the vihuela, nylon guitar, guitarra de golpe, guitarrón, and harp auditions.
3. All adjudicators for the All-State Auditions must be current TMEA members.
4. The All-State Mariachi Ensemble recorded auditions will use all procedures as mandated for the Region level auditions.

5. All results will be reported to the TMEA Orchestra Division Vice-Presidents immediately after the completion of the audition.

## RECORDING GUIDELINES

1. Recordings shall be submitted online with each etude recorded as a separate track.
2. Recordings should be "dry" and absent of any effects (reverb, etc.)
3. If using an electronic harp, the student must provide the amp for the recording process.
4. Each track must be in the following audio file format:
  - a. MP3, Stereo, 44,100 Sample Rate, 16 Bit Depth, 256 Bit Rate (kps)
  - b. The system will only accept MP3 file format.
  - c. The tracks must be named as designated by the audition tabulation system "Student Track Sheets".
  - d. Each track will also be saved to a TMEA provided **Drop Box** for backup purposes.
5. It is **required** the Region chair or their designee(s) **along with the student** listen to the audio tracks immediately as the tracks are uploaded. This could be done in a separate room from the recording room. It is not necessary to listen to the entire track. This will allow the recording engineer to know if a back-up recording will need to be used and can be duplicated before they leave the building.
  - a. Each track will also be saved to a TMEA provided **Drop Box** for backup purposes.

**If you have further questions call Frank Coachman at 1-888-318-8632 x102.**