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Audition Information

AMIS Middle School Honor Band (MSHB) Festivals

Use Set B for auditions for 2010-2011 academic year.

Eligibility: Top Players in Grades 7-8. In exceptional circumstances auditions from 6th grade students will be considered- see “Participation of 6th Graders”, below for further information.

New Audition Material and Instructions starting 2010-11: Use only the following files, which are downloadable from the AMIS website:

1. MSHB Audition Etudes Set A or B (all instruments)
2. MSHB Chromatic Scale (woodwind & brass only).

Set A is to be used for festivals in the spring of, 2012, 2014, 2016

Set B is to be used for festivals in the spring of 2011, 2013, 2015

N.B. The audition etudes alternate each year between Sets A & B, but the chromatic scale remains the same.

Please...

- **work with the students**, to help ensure that the audition process is a genuine learning experience. With the exception of the timpani etudes, the material is designed to allow all instruments to rehearse together.
- **include your students who play minority instruments**, i.e. low brass, low woodwind, and double reed instruments, to audition even if their proficiency level is less than that of your flute, clarinet or trumpet players. We aim to form a band of between 60 and 80 players and need these instruments in order to create a reasonably balanced ensemble.

You can play sample recordings for your students from previous successful auditions (available for download from the MSHB webpage) to give an indication of the benchmark in both performance and recording.

RECORDING INSTRUCTIONS

- Each item must be recorded in one complete take. Editing (splicing, cutting/pasting) within a single item is strictly forbidden and will lead to the audition being **disqualified**.
- The student may record an item multiple times; you will pick the best one to submit.
- Ensure that the metronome is clearly audible on the recording.

I. Wind Instrument Recordings

- Required items: Chromatic Scale, Etude 9, and Etude 10
- A student may audition on more than one instrument, e.g. alto and baritone saxophone, clarinet and bass clarinet, or flute and piccolo.

II. Percussion Instrument Recordings

- Percussionists must audition on **at least two** of the following instruments: Mallets, Timpani and Snare Drum. They are encouraged to audition on all three, if they are able.
- Required items, by instrument:
 - Mallets: Mallet Scale and Etude 9
 - Snare Drum: Etude 9 and Etude 10
 - Timpani: Timpani Etude

III. AUDITION FORMAT (Note: this is different from high school and middle school string instructions.)

Recording the student's name and instrument

- Please use the following format: "My name is (first, last) , and I am playing the (instrument) ."

Wind Instruments

1. Record the student announcing his or her name and instrument, then the required chromatic scale, accompanied by a clearly audible metronome.
2. Record Etude 9 without a metronome
3. Record Etude 10 without a metronome

Percussion Instruments (record the student name before each instrument change!)

- **Mallets** - Xylophone, Glockenspiel (Bell Set), or Marimba
 1. Record the student announcing his or her name and instrument.
 2. Record the mallet scale exercise on xylophone or marimba, accompanied by a clearly audible metronome.
 3. Record Etude 9 on a bell set without a metronome.
- **Snare Drum**
 1. Record the student announcing his or her name and instrument.
 2. Record Etude 9 without a metronome.
 3. Record Etude 10 without a metronome.
- **Timpani**
 1. Record the student announcing his or her name and instrument.
 2. Record the timpani etude without a metronome.

IV. CD (on audio format)

- You must submit **ONE CD for each wind instrument type**.
- All MSHB **percussion** auditions for your school must be **on one disc**.

V. Disc Labelling

- Each disc must be labelled clearly with your school name and instrument type, e.g.

Munich International School
Flutes

or

Munich International School
Percussion

- Use a permanent marker or CD label. Whiteboard markers will wipe off the CD surface.

VI. Online Track List and Entry Form (follow the link on the MSHB webpage)

- This online form must be filled out for each disc that you submit.
- It requires a login, which you will get via email prior to the audition process.
- Submit the form online for each disc. You will automatically receive an email copy of each one. Print these and include them in the package with your discs, which you will send to AMIS.

VII. The School Listing and Rating Sheet

- *This form is no longer being used as of the 2010-2011 academic year.*

VIII. Submission of the Audition Materials

- Correctly submitted auditions will have:
 1. One CD per instrument type, with the MSHB candidate speaking his/her name and instrument for identification.
 2. A printed Track List & Entry Form for each disc
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- Send the package to:

GEORGIA BASSETT
AMIS INTERNATIONAL MIDDLE SCHOOL BAND FESTIVAL
CHURCH FARM HOUSE
NORTH LOPHAM, DISS
NORFOLK IP22 2LP
ENGLAND

- All audition materials must reach AMIS Headquarters **on or before the due date** listed on the AMIS web site for the MSHB festival under “Auditions Deadline” **For the 2011 festivals the due date is October 20, 2010.**
- You may include auditions for other festivals in the same package, but be sure that they will all meet their deadlines, which may be different depending on the festival.
- NOTE that whereas the recordings for the Middle School auditions should contain the name of each student and the school, **High School auditions are blind, and must have the School Audition Code displayed instead of the school name.**
- Results will be sent to directors in early November.

IX. Participation by Sixth Graders

This festival is designed specifically for good players in grades 7 and 8. It is recognized that there are sometimes EXCEPTIONAL sixth graders who are especially talented, and/or who have started their instrumental study at an early age. If you have sixth graders in this category, and who play at seventh or eighth grade level, you may submit their auditions, but please keep such submissions to a minimum. Seventh and eighth grade applicants will have priority.

X. Considering Instrumentation

- If a flute player can also play piccolo, please have them record a piccolo audition in addition to the flute one.
- Be sure to state whether baritone (euphonium) players read treble clef (TC) or bass clef (BC).

XI. Additional Forms/Due Dates

XII.

After the audition results have been declared, acceptance forms, housing request forms, arrival and departure forms, and all other informational forms necessary for festival participants will need to be filled out online and submitted electronically.

ACCEPTANCES ARE DUE IMMEDIATELY AFTER RESULTS ARE POSTED.