

# ALL-STATE CHORUS: Practice Tips

## Scales & Solo:

- Know the meaning & story behind your solo  
*„To play a wrong note is insignificant; to play without passion is inexcusable.“ ~ Ludwig Van Beethoven*
- When practicing with your director, **MAKE NOTES** in your music, **EVEN IF** you think you don't need to  
*„Music masters mark their music... Amateurs don't“ ~ Unknown*
- Familiarize yourself with the rating sheet & know what judges are (& aren't) looking for  
*From the GMEA handbook: The adjudication panel will rate singers on intonation/pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, vocal tone quality, diction, breath control/phrasing, and dynamics/appropriate style.*
- Focus on cleaning one thing each time you practice (diction, breath control & phrasing, dynamics)
- Sing for each other & for other people so that you can get comfortable being nervous & performing simultaneously

## Sight-reading:

- Know the sight-reading parameters for your grade level:

Grade 9-10 Sight-Reading Parameters							
Example	Key	Meter	Rhythm	Intervals	Start Pitch	End Pitch	Vocal Range
#1	Major	Simple	May add dotted quarter with 8th note & dotted half note	May add 3rds	Tonic	Tonic	Within age/voice type limits
#2	Natural Minor	Simple	Same	May add 5ths	Tonic	Tonic	Within age/voice type limits
#3	Major	Simple	Same	May add 4ths and octaves	Tonic	Tonic	Within age/voice type limits

Grade 11-12 Sight-Reading Parameters							
Example	Key	Meter	Rhythm	Intervals	Start Pitch	End Pitch	Vocal Range
#1	Major	Simple	May add dotted quarter with 8th note & dotted half note	May add 4ths and octaves	Tonic	Tonic	Within age/voice type limits
#2	Natural Minor	Simple	Same	May add 5ths	Any note of the tonic triad	Tonic	Within age/voice type limits
#3	Major	Compound	May add 16th notes & dotted 8th with 16th notes	May add 6ths	Any note of the tonic triad	Tonic	Within age/voice type limits

- Familiarize yourself with the rating sheet  
*From the GMEA handbook: Students will receive credit for each half measure sung with correct pitches and rhythms. They will receive bonus points for each example for maintaining intonation and a relatively steady tempo throughout the performance.*
- Read harder sight-reading examples (9-10, work on 11-12 sight-reading... 11-12, work on ASRC examples)
- Sight-read for each other in pairs using judging sheets
- Play the sight-reading speed test game, labeling every number, and circling every 1 (or 6 if minor)

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Continued...

## Other Resources/Suggestions:

- Practice with the **demo & piano tracks**, found here:

All-State  
Demo Tracks



All-State  
Piano Tracks



9:10 Sebben Crudele



11:12 Danza, Danza

- Utilize our YouTube **sight-reading resources**, found here:

*All-State*  
Chorus  
Sight-Reading



*All-State*  
Reading Chorus  
Examples & Warm-ups



- **Pair up** in class & follow this schedule:
  - Tuesdays: Sight-read for each other
  - Thursdays: Scales & Solo for each other

