

Vocal Music Benchmarks

Grades PK-12

Standard 1 - Sings alone and with others, a varied repertoire of music.

K-4 General Music

1-1 - sings ostinatos (repetition of a short musical pattern), partner songs, and rounds

1-2 - sings on pitch and in rhythm, with appropriate timbre, diction, and posture, and maintains a steady tempo

1-3 - sings expressively, with appropriate dynamic phrasing, and interpretation

1-4 - knows songs representing genres (e.g. march, work song, lullaby, Dixieland) and styles (e.g. of various composers, nations) from diverse cultures

1-5 - echoes short rhythms and melodic patterns

5-6 General Music

1-1 - sings with good breath control, expression, and technical accuracy (e.g. appropriate timbre, intonation and diction, correct pitches and rhythms) at a level that includes modest ranges and changes of tempo, key and meter

1-2 - blends vocal timbre, matches dynamic levels, and responds to the cues of a conductor when singing as part of a group

1-3 - sings music written in two parts

1-4 - sing with expression and technical accuracy a varied repertoire of vocal literature with a level of difficulty of 2, on a scale of 1-6, including some songs performed from memory.

7-8 Vocal Music

1-1 - sings with good breath control, expression, and technical accuracy (e.g. appropriate timbre, intonation and diction, correct pitches and rhythms) at a level that includes modest ranges and changes of tempo, key and meter

1-2 - blends vocal timbre, matches dynamic levels, and responds to the cues of a conductor when singing as part of a group

1-3 - sings music written in two and three parts

1-4 - recognizes music that represents diverse genres (e.g. sonata, madrigal, jazz, and barbershop) and cultures

1-5 - sing with expression and technical accuracy a varied repertoire of vocal literature with a level of difficulty of 1-2, on a scale of 1-6, including some songs performed from memory.

9-12 Vocal Music

1-1 - sings with expression and technical accuracy a large and varied repertoire of vocal literature with a level of difficulty of 2-4, on a scale of 1-6, including some songs performed from memory

1-2 - sing music written 3 or more parts, with and without accompaniment

1-3- sing in small ensembles with one student on a part

1-4- demonstrate well-developed ensemble skills (balance, intonation, rhythmic unity)

Standard 2 - Performs on an instrument alone or with others, a varied repertoire of music.

K-4 General Music

2-1 - plays on pitch and in rhythm, with appropriate dynamics and articulation, and maintains a steady tempo

2-2 - plays expressively, with appropriate dynamic phrasing, and interpretation

2-3 - perform independent instrumental parts while other students sing or play contrasting parts

5-6 General Music

2-1 - plays on pitch and in rhythm, with appropriate dynamics and articulation, and maintains a steady tempo

Standard 3 - Improvising melodies, variations and accompaniments.

K-4 General Music

3-1 - Improvise simple rhythmic and melodic ostinatos.

3-2 - Improvise simple variations.

5-6 General Music

3-1 - Improvise simple rhythmic and melodic ostinatos.

3-2 - Improvise simple variations.

7-8 Vocal Music

3-1 - Improvising rhythmic accompaniments

3-2 - Improvising short vocal solos

9-12 Vocal Music

3-1 - Improvising rhythmic accompaniments

3-2 - Improvising extended vocal solos

Standard 4 - Composes and arranges music within specified guidelines.

K-4

4-1 - uses a variety of sound sources when composing (e.g. classroom instruments, electronic sounds, body sounds)

4-2 - creates and arranges short songs and instrumental pieces within specified guidelines.

5-6 General Music

4-1 - composes short pieces within specified guidelines.

4-2 - uses a variety of traditional and nontraditional sound sources when

composing.

Standard 5 - Reads and notates music.

K-4 General Music

5-1 - knows standard symbols used to notate meter, rhythm, pitch, and dynamics in simple patterns

5-2 - uses a system to read simple pitch notation in the treble clef in major keys

5-3 - reads whole, half, dotted half, quarter, and eighth notes and rests.

5-4 - knows symbols and traditional terms referring to dynamics and articulations

5-6 General Music

5-1 - recognizes simple sixteenth and dotted notes and rests.

5-2 - sight reads simple melodies

5-3 - knows standard notation symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation, and expression

7-8 Vocal Music

5-1 - recognizes simple sixteenth and dotted notes and rests.

5-2 - sight reads simple melodies

5-3 - knows standard notation symbols for pitch, rhythm, dynamics, tempo, articulation, and expression

5-4 - recognizes and reads vocal score of 2-3 parts

9-12 Vocal Music

5-1 - recognizes and reads vocal score of 4 or more parts

5-2 - reads music that contains moderate technical demands, expanded ranges, and varied interpretive requirements

Standard 6 - Listens to, analyzes, and describes music.

K-4 General Music

6-1- identifies simple musical forms

6-2 - responds to music with appropriate movement

6-3 - recognizes music of various styles and cultures

6-4 - uses correct musical vocabulary

6-5 - identifies the sounds of a variety of instruments and voices

5-6 General Music

6-1 - identifies musical forms (e.g. rondo)

6-2 - identifies specific musical events when listening

6-3 - understands the basic principles of meter, rhythm, tonality, intervals, chords.

7-8 Vocal Music

6-1 - identifies musical forms (e.g. rondo)

6-2 - identifies specific musical events when listening

6-3 - understands the basic principles of meter, rhythm, tonality, intervals, chords.

6-4 - recognizes the musical elements that affect the quality of sound

9-12 Vocal Music

6-1 - understands the technical vocabulary of music

6-2 - recognizes the musical elements that affect the quality of sound

Standard 7 - Evaluating music and music performances.

K-4 General Music

7-1 - view and discuss strengths and weaknesses of class performances

5-6 General Music

7-1 - view and critique class performances

7-2 - evaluate the quality and effectiveness of their own and others' performances, by applying specific criteria appropriate for the style of the music and offer constructive suggestions for improvement

7-8 Vocal Music

7-1 - develop a clear definition of a successful performance and evaluate a performance based on this definition

9-12 Vocal Music

7-1 - develop a clear definition of a successful performance and evaluate a performance based on this definition

7-2 - evaluate the quality and effectiveness of their own and others' performances, by applying specific criteria appropriate for the style of the music and offer constructive suggestions for improvement

Standard 8 - Understands relationships between music, the other arts, and disciplines outside the arts.

K-4 General Music

8-1 - recognize similarities in art, music, architecture from various time periods and cultures

5-6 General Music

8-1 - recognize similarities in art, music, architecture from various time periods and geographical locations.

7-8 Vocal Music

8-1 - recognizing how music connects and uses skills and information from all the other disciplines

9-12 Vocal Music

8-1 - recognize similarities in art, music, architecture from various time periods and geographical locations.

8-2 - recognizing how music connects and uses skills and information from all the other disciplines

Standard 9 - Understands music in relation to history and culture.

K-4 General Music

9-1 - recognizes characteristics that make certain music suitable for specific uses

9-2 - knows appropriate audience behaviors for the context and style of music performed

9-3 - identifies music from various historical periods and cultures

5-6 General Music

9-1 - understands the roles of musicians in various music settings and cultures

9-2 - knows appropriate audience behaviors for the context and style of music performed

9-3 - identifies music from various historical periods and cultures

7-8 Vocal Music

9-1 - understands how music is reflective of a nation's culture

9-2 - understands how the historical timeframe dictated the music and performance

9-12 Vocal Music

9-1 - understands how music is reflective of a nation's culture

9-2 - understands how the historical timeframe dictated the music and performance

9-3 - recognizes American music genres

9-4 - knows the various roles that musicians perform and representative individuals who have functioned in these roles