

January 15, 2008

Dear MMTA Colleague,

Enclosed is the updated Composer Classification List for Student Achievement Testing.
Please add this to your SAT Handbook for future reference.

During recent years, one of the most common questions from teachers and local chairpersons to the SAT Committee has been on the correct classification of composers to meet the SAT requirements of Baroque, Classical, and Romantic or Contemporary composers. In order to have a standard to classify composers, we have based the decisions on the years that the composer lived. Of course, there was never a magic moment when composers changed their style of writing, some composers lived and wrote in two historical periods, and not all of them wrote in the style of the period in which they lived. However, for our purposes, it is necessary to make some defining dates to adhere to the requirements.

In the past, we have used the MTNA Composer list which is published each year in the AMT magazine, but since this list encompasses many different instruments and mostly at higher levels, it did not include many of the piano composers that you would use for educational purposes. This updated list includes many more of those composers and also has dual-classified some composers who lived and wrote in overlapping eras. This may not always agree with the classifications that are in literature books, so please double check with this list when choosing pieces.

It is the goal of SAT to expose students to a variety of compositional styles. Your first consideration should be in choosing literature that will allow your students to present an interesting program with a variety of styles in their music

On pages 2 and 3 of the handbook, the requirements are stated as follows:

Each participant will perform three memorized pieces in contrasting styles (e.g. tempo, touch, mood). The pieces must be published solo works, not concerti...
The teacher and student will make the choice of repertoire in Levels 1A through III.

The selections for Levels IV through X must include:

- a. One work from the Baroque Period;
- b. One work from the Classical Period;
(Level VII must be Sonata-Allegro form to qualify for Semi-Finals)
- c. One work from the Romantic, Impressionistic or Contemporary Period.

We hope that this list will be valuable to you in your planning. If you have further questions, please direct them to Penny Draper, the new SAT Coordinator, at 517-351-4632 or draperpe@msu.edu.

Yours truly,

Barbara Collins
SAT Piano Committee