

CSMTA Local/Regional Student Theory Activity (STA) Testing

The purpose of STA is to stimulate and recognize theory competency among all Colorado music students. Theory tests, and appropriate Study Guides, are available for Keyboard, Strings (Violin, Viola, Cello), Winds, and Voice. Test levels range from Prep to Advanced. They are based on knowledge, not age, and are appropriate for second year students through advanced high school students.

A Certificate of Participation is presented to each participating student. Ribbons are presented to the highest-scoring students, based on their final test scores:

Gold Ribbon: Test score of 96% - 100%

Silver Ribbon: Test score of 91% - 95%

Bronze Ribbon: Test score of 86% - 90%

Beginning 2015-16 students may choose either the California Certificate of Merit test, or a CSMTA Achievement Day Test Package (Theory, History, and Terms & Signs). This must be noted clearly on the Test Order Form found on the CSMTA website, or in the October issue of Notes & News. This Order Form is due postmarked no later than November 15th to the CSMTA STA chair.

STA testing is traditionally scheduled to take place during a Rising Stars Festival. There is a Rising Stars Festival in the Denver/Boulder area and also one on the Western Slope. Each is scheduled during the month of April. Check the CSMTA website for specific dates and locations.

In an effort to make STA more available for teachers and students statewide, STA testing is being made available to local associations, or groups of regional associations. It is up to the local associations to decide if they want to participate in STA in this way. It is not be required.

Local Associations that wish to hold a STA test date (and site) must follow these guidelines:

- Each local association (or regional group) will appoint a STA Chair to coordinate the ordering and administration of the tests for their association or region.
- CSMTA uses the California Certificate of Merit tests for one STA option. In order for this to be a truly statewide CSMTA Student Theory Activity, and because California has limits on the number of sites to which they will mail the tests, all tests will be mailed to the CSMTA Theory Chair.
- Test Order Forms (available on the CSMTA website) and the Registration Fee for all students will be due to the CSMTA Theory Chair by November 15th so that all tests can be ordered by California's December 1st deadline. Tests are mailed to the CSMTA Theory Chair around April 1st.
- The official STA Test Order Form is found in the October issue of *Notes and News*) and on the CSMTA website. The CSMTA Theory Chair will distribute the tests as ordered to each participating local/regional STA Chair, along with a

Certificate of Participation for each student registered (to be filled out and signed by the local teachers.)

- Local/Regional STA testing will take place on any day between April 15th and May 20th at the time and location pre-arranged by the local/regional STA Chair.
- The ungraded tests will be mailed to the CSMTA Theory Chair by May 28 for grading. The graded tests and appropriate ribbons will be available for teachers to pick up at Conference. Any tests not picked up at Conference will be mailed, along with appropriate award ribbons, to the local/regional STA Chair for distribution to the students.