**Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA) student audition recordings and adjudication data for the Florida Music Educators’ Association (FMEA) All-State Concert Bands**

About the data

* Excel Files Included:
  + Middle School Band – Students in 7th or 8th grade
  + Concert Band – High School students in 9th or 10th grade
  + Symphonic Band – High School students in 11th or 12th grade
  + The spreadsheet contains a single row for each score. There are multiple scores in different categories for each student, so the Student ID will be the same for each student and can be used to group the audition score categories to the same student and recording.
  + The recording path is the URL to download the recording of that student’s audition. Even though the URL appears in each row for each student’s score, any scripts you write to download the files should check to make sure they only download each student’s file **only once** even though each URL appears multiple times in the spreadsheet.
* Score ID – A unique identifier generated by the database for internal use only.
* Student – a unique integer automatically generated by the database to identify the student within our database.
* Instrument – the instrument the student auditioned on. Some students audition separately on two different instruments, so you may see student IDs with more than one audition on separate instruments.
* Category Groups – A general group of scoring categories. It may describe a particular etude or section of the audition such as “scales,” “Lyrical Etude,” etc. Not all instruments use the same groups.
* Category – The specific scoring category or musical attributes the judge is asked to rate
* Score – The human judge’s opinion of how the student performed the musical attribute described by the category. Higher numbers indicate a better performance.
* Recording URL; A link to download the recording from our web server. The first 9 characters of the file name are the Student ID number.
* Students received the audition requirements in May and auditions were recorded in September.
* The recording sessions are designed to emulate a live audition. Proctors in the room read a script and record directly to laptop computers using Audacity software.
* Most recording setups used a cardioid condenser microphone and a USB interface, but equipment varies from room-to-room and district-to-district.

Data Use Guidelines:

Permission to use this data is granted only to Nathan Sprague and his students at James Madoson University for the purpose of research into machine learning toward the goal of creating musically intelligent software tools for music educators and students. Data provided should be considered the ‘ground truth’ upon which machines will learn, and research should not question the credibility or accuracy of the adjudicators or the audition process.

If possible, please download each mp3 file only once and store them locally in order to reduce FMEA’s bandwidth costs.

Permission to use this data by others or outside of the above guidelines can be obtained by sending specific detailed requests to Josh Bula at [josh@fmea.org](mailto:josh@fmea.org) who will forward the request to the appropriate FMEA or FBA committee based on the details of the request.

In the event that discoveries are made that would be of interest to music educators, we encourage you to submit a proposal to present a session at the FMEA Professional Development Conference held in January each year. Proposals can be submitted online at FMEA.org between February and April each year.

Any companies or organizations that profit from purchasing or licensing technology developed from the use of this data are encouraged to support FMEA through our corporate partnership program (fmea.org/cap), our conference exhibit hall, industry sessions, or sponsorships (fmea.org/exhibits), and/or advertising in our magazine, the Florida Music Director (fmea.org/fmd).