**AIM LEVELS 5 - 12 Theory Exam Checklist**

As teachers, we are constantly looking for more efficient tools to improve our teaching and to encourage students in their understanding of music theory and in performing more musically. We believe that the ISTMA Achievement in Music (AIM) Program can help us achieve these goals.

**All teachers** entering students in the AIM examinations MUST be members of MTNA and ISMTA and **are required to volunteer their time with the exams as requested by the NWSMTA AIM Committee. If a teacher cannot help on the day of exams, a substitute who is willing and qualified to judge AIM exams must be arranged for by that teacher.** Parent letters, Harper maps and general information sheets are available at meetings and on the [www.nwsmta.org](http://www.nwsmta.org/) website. You may wish to send these sources of information home with your students to explain the exam.

# NO EXAM will be made up except for illness.

* Advise parents of the exam dates far in advance. **If a student cannot play on the date set for the exam because of a previous commitment, DO NOT REGISTER that student.**
* **TIME REQUESTS** (“A.M.” from 8 a.m. to 1 p.m. and “P.M.” from 1 p.m. to 6 p.m.) will be considered, but NOT guaranteed. **ABSOLUTELY NO CHANGES** can be made once the scheduling is completed.

This checklist will make enrolling students easier. Please follow the directions carefully.

# AIM THEORY EXAM LEVELS 5 - 12

Read the AIM Syllabus carefully.

Check the Yearbook or NWSMTA website (www.nwsmta.org) for the date of the Theory Exams (Levels 5 - 12), the entry deadline, and the name of the Theory Co-Chair to whom entries should be submitted.

Every student entering Level 5 - 12 is required to take a theory exam. A passing grade on this theory exam of 65 or higher is required in order to take the performance examination at the same level.

Complete the online registration at [www.nwsmta.org](http://www.nwsmta.org). Select the following menu:

*For Members -> Student Event Information -> Achievement in Music (AIM)*

Please complete the Teacher Form and Student Form (in that order) **as early as possible** before the deadline so that the AIM Co-chairman can begin scheduling.

\_\_\_\_\_ Send one (1) check by **January 4th**, payable to NWSMTA, to cover fees for all Level 5 - 12 fees to the AIM Coordinator as listed in the NWSMTA yearbook and on the AIM website page.

# The FEE is $25.00 per student.

**Prepare students for the recorded aural skills** using ipods. Sample aural skills recordings are available [www.nsmta.org/intervals.htm](http://www.nsmta.org/intervals.htm) (Note that these sample files may not match the new syllabus.) Students may choose to bring their own headphones to the exam. *Students may pause the recording only when directed to do so on the recording and may not go backwards to listen again.*

**Remind students to take music (original) for transposition to exam.** NO PHOTOCOPIES ARE ALLOWED. Check to see that ALL measures are numbered. Any student examined without music will receive a written evaluation, but no numerical score. The exam will be marked ‘Incomplete’ and NO pin will be awarded.

# AIM AWARDS FROM NWSMTA AND ISMTA

AIM awards are given to students to recognize effort and achievement. It is also hoped that these awards will offer additional incentive for students capable of taking the upper level examinations and increase participation.

* The first time that the student participates successfully, regardless of level, he or she will receive an award medal with a ribbon. The colorful award pins which are received for successful completion of every theory level may be displayed on the medal’s ribbon.
* Those students who complete Level 8 with passing scores for both theory and performance will be given a music dictionary from NWSMTA.
* Those students in Levels 9 - 12 who attain an average score of **85 or above**, (that is, the average of the theory and performance examination scores) will be awarded a monetary gift from NWSMTA in the following amounts:

Level 9 - $20.00 Level 10 - $25.00 Levels 11 and 12 - $30.00

* In addition, ISMTA recognizes students who complete Level 9 and above with an average score on theory and performance of **80 or above**. No previous entry in the AIM exams is required. The first time a student qualifies, he/she will receive a plaque. In subsequent years, an engraved metal bar to attach to the plaque will be provided.

*Revised December 2015 JJ*