

# How Will We Know?

## Incorporating the Model Cornerstone Assessments with the National Music Standards

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### Curricular Framework

*Understanding by Design* (Wiggins and McTighe)

*3 Stages = Backwards Design*

- 1 = Goals, Outcomes (WHAT do we want students to know/do?)
- **2 = Assessments (HOW will we know when they've learned it?)**
- 3 = Lessons, Activities (WHEN/WHAT/HOW do we plan to teach and re-teach?)

### Essential Questions for this Session

*What ARE the MCAs (or Model Cornerstone Assessments)?*

- Standards-based formative and summative assessments embedded in instructional practices
- Authentic application of musical skills with established rubric-based evaluation tools
- Appropriate developmental assessments applied with increased rigor over time and grade levels

*Why are the MCAs important to us?*

- They provide evidence of student learning and achievement in process-organized teaching
- More than 50% of states have adopted/adapted the National Standards as their own
- They address traditional and emerging ensembles via use of the Ensemble Music Standards

*How are MCAs organized?*

- Ensembles have five sequential proficiency levels, General Music has three at Grades 2, 5, 8
- MCAs are provided for each component of the three Artistic Processes at each of those levels
- Assessments are accompanied by *suggested* instructional sequencing and activities
- Student worksheets, self- and peer-evaluations, and performance rubrics are included
- Examples of leveled, scored student work are shared online

*What might be YOUR entry points?*

- Increasing familiarity and use of the National Music Standards
- Finding a scoring rubric for individual student performance
- Structuring peer feedback
- Aligning district assessments
- Empowering student choice
- Collecting formative/summative assessment data

*Where can I find the National Standards and the Model Cornerstone Assessments?*

- <https://nafme.org/my-classroom/standards/>
- <https://nafme.org/my-classroom/standards/mcas/>

**MCA = Model Cornerstone Assessments  
and  
Multiple Curricular Assets!**