



**Music Teachers' Association of California**  
**CERTIFICATE OF MERIT**  
**OPTIONAL IMPROVISATION: GUIDELINES FOR ALL INSTRUMENTS**

Students may perform an optional Improvisation at their CM Evaluation.

- Improvisation is an optional performance element. Any improvisation may be played during the performance portion of the evaluation.
- Improvisation is not rated by the evaluator.
- Improvisation is limited to 5 – 60 seconds in length, as listed in the CM Syllabus according to the CM level.
- Improvisation is done in addition to and not in place of the other required elements of the CM evaluation (technique, sight-reading, and repertoire). Students must prepare the entire technical requirements as indicated for their level. All elements (including improvisation) need to be performed within the appropriate evaluation length of each level.
- Improvisation may be from any resource and is independent of a student's registered CM level.
- Below is an update for the Evaluation Report Forms. This will enable us to “track” the number of Improvisations our students are doing each year.

**Teacher input**

Will the student improvise?

Yes       No

**Evaluator Input**

Optional Improvisation Performed:    YES      NO