

## **Florida State Music Teachers Association Certification Handbook**

### **I. Purpose**

The purpose of the FSMTA Certification plan is to promote professional standards of excellence for private music teachers. These standards have real meaning for all who have an interest in the state of the musical arts in Florida –

1. For the students, it assures that the teachers so certified are qualified by virtue of education, training, maturity, experience, and demonstrated capability to teach a broad spectrum of advancement levels.
2. For the teachers, it recognizes professional status based upon acceptable theoretical knowledge coupled with the demonstrated ability to put such knowledge into practice. It established that performing ability and musical knowledge, though indispensable prerequisites for good teaching do not in themselves confer the privilege of professional recognition. The plan is predominately concerned with the life-long self-improvement of Florida's teachers in order that they may continue to advance professionally.
3. For the secondary schools, it provides objective evidence for the recognition of private music study as a valued component of the accredited curriculum.
4. For the profession of music itself, dependent as it is upon exemplary leaders capable of promoting the essence of artistry in their own performance, composition, research, authorship, and pedagogy, certification encourages the cultivation of excellence among the teachers who are themselves the backbone of the profession.

*(Excerpted from Robert Glotzbach, "Certification for the Private Music Teacher," **The Florida Music Teacher**, February, 1976.)*

### **II. Certification Regulations and Application Procedures**

1. Any qualified FSMTA Active member in good standing may apply for certification Interested persons may request application forms for all types of certificates from the FSMTA Certification Chairman.
2. All applications for FSMTA certification must include:
  - a. Official transcripts for college courses from recognized institutions.
  - b. Full documentation of other experiences and education, including cancelled checks, recital programs, etc.
  - c. A check or money order in the proper amount, payable to FSMTA. (For National Certification, make checks to MTNA.)
  - d. Notarization, and the names and address of two witnesses to whom the candidate is well-known.
3. Candidates for the Certificate of Experience or Professional Advancement must apply at least eight weeks in advance of the date requested for student demonstrations.
4. Only one teaching area may be specified on any Certificate. However, teachers may apply for Certificates in more than one field. After the initial Certificate, the fee for each application is \$5.00.

5. A Certificate is valid as specified on the Certificate (either for five years for the Interim Certificate or for life for the Certificate of Experience or Certificate of Professional Advancement), unless the terms of application are violated or membership lapses. IN the first case, application for reinstatement must be made to the Certification board and a penalty of \$5.00 paid. In the second case, reinstatement depends upon the fulfillment of FSMTA membership reinstatement requirements plus a \$5.00 fee over and above the sum necessary for membership reinstatement. The Certificate of Experience without gold seal (the “grandfather” certificate) can never again be reinstated after a lapse.
6. Candidates wishing to take the National Certification Examination must complete an application for National Certification and send it with a \$100.00 fee (payable to MTNA). The division certification representative, in cooperation with the State and District chairmen, will arrange for the examination to be administered as near to the candidate’s home city as possible. A passing score simultaneously qualifies the candidate for a National Certificate and a Florida Interim Certificate. To receive a Florida Certificate of Experience, the teacher must present a successful student demonstration to an examiner appointed by FSMTA.