

STATE ENSEMBLE ADJUDICATOR INSTRUCTIONS

As an adjudicator for an ensemble, you are tasked with assessing the overall effectiveness of the performance you hear.

The priority is to evaluate the ensemble's ability to communicate a musical idea through an appropriate stylistic interpretation, a clearly heard melody and balanced harmonies, appropriate dynamics, ability of performers to listen and adapt to each other, recover from mistakes and steady rhythm.

Individual performers' technique is of secondary importance and should be commented on if it affects the overall performance of the ensemble.

The following list shares performance goals to evaluate as you share feedback and rate the ensemble's performance. Please keep in mind age-appropriate expectations and the priority of the overall effectiveness of the ensemble's performance.

Ensemble Quality Match pitch, coordinate timing and expression	Awareness throughout the ensemble of the entire group. Pitches are adjusted to match. Timing of attacks and releases is coordinated. Expressive elements such as dynamics and articulation are made in concert.
Balance, Blend Likeness of qualities, awareness of ensemble	Superior blend and balance achieved throughout the performance.
Interpretation Style, phrasing, tempos, dynamics, emotional involvement	Expressive performance with appropriate style, tempo, phrasing and contrasting dynamics.
Tone Quality Resonance, control, clarity, focus, consistency, warmth	Open, resonant, stylistically appropriate tone in all registers and ranges.
Intonation Accuracy to printed pitches	Accurate intonation in all ranges and registers. Pitch adjustments are made instantly.
Rhythm Accuracy of note and rest values, duration, pulse, steadiness, correctness of meters	Outstanding accuracy. Correct pulse/meter used throughout the performance.
Technique (Instrumental Track Only) Posture, blowing, breath management, bowing, articulation, attacks, releases, musical and/or mechanical skill	Habitually correct posture, bowing/breathing, articulation, balanced attacks and releases. Smooth transitions between registers/shifting positions. Proficient coordination between fingering and blowing/tonguing
Diction (Vocal Track Only) Pronunciation, clarity of text	Correct, intelligible and expressive pronunciation for the language being performed.
Technique (Vocal Track Only) Posture, breath management attacks, releases, musical and/or mechanical skill	Habitually correct posture, breathing, support, balanced attacks and releases.