PHILOSOPHY
A Philosophy for Music Performance Assessment Adjudication

We, the membership of the Florida Bandmasters Association (FBA), believe that Music Performance Assessment Evaluations are valuable opportunities for musical growth for both students and directors. We believe that the primary purpose of Music Performance Assessment Evaluations is to provide constructive feedback to participants in an effort to help them improve musical skills, knowledge, performance abilities, and understanding. Musical performances are evaluated by adjudicators who use their musical knowledge and experiences to analyze, diagnose, and prescribe. Performers do not compete against one another; bands do not compete against other bands. Instead, performances are evaluated on the basis of how they compare to musical standards as determined by the adjudicators.

We recognize that each adjudicator brings a wealth of musical knowledge and experience to the adjudication process. We also recognize that, while there is a common core of musical knowledge which all trained musicians share, each adjudicator brings a different level of knowledge and experience to the process. It is the diversity and wealth of individual experiences of our adjudicators that provides comprehensive evaluations for our students and directors. We value the fact that musical performance is an interpretive art. As such, attempts to quantify or standardize it should be avoided. The evaluation of a musical performance is also an interpretive process. Each adjudicator will interpret a musical performance based on his or her own unique background of experiences. Attempts to quantify or standardize the interpretive nature of the adjudication process would contradict the very purpose of our Music Performance Assessment Evaluations.

The primary tasks of Music Performance Assessment adjudicators are to help the participants understand how well they are performing compared to the musical standards which are appropriate for their level of maturity and experience, and to suggest ways in which improvement can be achieved. Adjudication sheets are tools which can assist adjudicators and participants in understanding the criteria which are to be included in the overall evaluation process. These sheets can also help the adjudicator address the criteria in a consistent manner. But It is the adjudicator’s perception and interpretation of the performance that ultimately determines how those criteria are applied.

We believe that the selection of persons to become adjudicators is an important process which has been carefully designed and diligently followed by our Association. We also believe that the continuing education of our adjudicators is imperative. To that end, we offer internships, workshops, and certification training seminars. We recognize that the most effective way to improve the adjudication of our performances is to provide adjudicators with opportunities to gain additional musical and interpretive experiences. It is incumbent upon directors to evaluate adjudicators after each Music Performance Assessment so that feedback is available for the adjudicators. It is also incumbent upon all members of the Association to report violations of adjudication standards, or poor performance on the part of individual adjudicators, to the Adjudication Committee.

INTRODUCTION

The purpose of this manual is to provide information which is beneficial to the prospective or experienced Adjudicator. It is our hope that this information will help with preparation for a successful adjudication experience for the Adjudicator and band students in the state of Florida. It has long been held by the FBA that participation in Music Performance Assessments is a major means of evaluating performances of bands throughout Florida. The role of the FBA Adjudicator is crucial to the success of this process, in that consistency in the evaluation of performances on a state wide basis is critical to the maintenance of an effective Music Performance Assessment. The information that follows is compiled from sources that include the FBA Handbook, the NIMAC Manual (NAfME) and Adjudication Committee members, as is set forth to assist FBA Adjudicators in preparing for a successful Adjudication experience.

PLEASE REMEMBER - The Executive Board has the authority to add or delete names on the Adjudicators List at any regular or special called Board meeting.
Florida Bandmasters Association
Adjudicator’s Comment Sheet

CONCERT BAND

School:________________________________________________________________________________________
Classification:________   Performance Time:____________  Date:___________________
Selections:  1._______________________________________________________________________________
            2._______________________________________________________________________________
            3._______________________________________________________________________________

PERFORMANCE FUNDAMENTALS

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Tone Quality</th>
<th>Intonation</th>
<th>Balance</th>
<th>Blend</th>
<th>Band Sonority</th>
<th>Physical Artication</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
<td></td>
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TECHNICAL PREPARATION

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Note accuracy</th>
<th>Rhythmic Accuracy</th>
<th>Precision</th>
<th>Entrances</th>
<th>Releases</th>
<th>Interpretive Articulation</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>1</td>
<td>2</td>
<td>3</td>
<td></td>
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</tbody>
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MUSICAL EFFECT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expression</th>
<th>Shaping of Line</th>
<th>Style</th>
<th>Interpretation</th>
<th>Phrasing</th>
<th>Tempo</th>
<th>Dynamic Expression</th>
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Officials will include a + or – by the subdivisions, which mean they are noticeably good or noticeably needing improvement as related to the letter grade assigned. The absence of any marks indicates a performance consistent with the letter assigned. After completing the previous, enter an A, B, C, D, or E to indicate the level of performance in each category. Average the three letter grades in each category to arrive at a final letter grade. Average the three final grades to arrive at the FINAL RATING.

COMMENTS

(INCLUDING: Stage Presence, Discipline, Posture, Instrumentation, Strong Points, Weak Points – Continue on Reverse Side)

Recommended For: ________________________
(Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, Poor)
Write out Final Rating

Adjudicator’s Signature

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