

# You be the Judge

What makes a good performance--  
or even a great performance?

National Standard #7 : Evaluating music and music performances.

We've all heard performances worth remembering, and others we'd rather forget. What's the difference? In this activity, you get to be the judge! Simply choose one of the zillions of ensembles performing here at the festival, and go to work!

Ensemble being evaluated: \_\_\_\_\_

## ***I. STAGE PRESENCE***

Great performances aren't just about how a group sounds. The quality of a group's presentation depends a lot on how they look.

Does the group enter the stage looking neat and confident? Do they look like they take their time on stage seriously, and they are focused on giving a quality performance? Do they pay close attention to their director, and use good performing posture?

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(Rate the ensemble using this scale by circling the words that fit)

Great!      Good      Fair      Needs Improvement

## ***II. TECHNICAL ACCURACY***

How well do the individuals in the ensemble perform their parts? Do they play the right notes and rhythms? Do they perform with good tone and in good time?

Great!      Good      Fair      Needs Improvement

## ***III. ENSEMBLE SKILLS***

Ensemble skills are all about how well a group performs together. Does the group play in tune, with good balance and clean articulations? Do they play well together in time? Do they work together as a musical team?

Great!      Good      Fair      Needs Improvement

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## IV. MUSICAL EXPRESSION

It is expression that brings music to life. How well do the performers use dynamics, such as louds and softs to make the music interesting? How has their use of tempo changes and even exciting solos helped to make the performance a great one?

Great!      Good      Fair      Needs Improvement

## V. THE HARD PART

Now it's time for the hard part. Think about your own ensemble. For each of the listed evaluation areas, come up with at least one thing that your ensemble could do better, and one thing that your ensemble already does pretty well—and write them.

### ***YOU BE THE JUDGE!***

Stage Presence:

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

Technical Accuracy:

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

Ensemble Skills:

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_

Musical Expression:

a) \_\_\_\_\_

b) \_\_\_\_\_