

FESTIVALS - INFORMATION FOR JUDGES

JR 3-5

The NFMC Festivals provide young musicians (through age 18) and adults (age 19 and above) opportunity and encouragement for continued musical growth. Entrants do not compete against each other, but are rated on individual merits. The festivals are for musicians at all levels of capability, not just the exceptionally talented.

The term "judge" is used even though the event is non-competitive.

The judge will give each entrant a rating:

Superior	5 points (compares with 91% - 100%)
Excellent	4 points (compares with 81% - 90%)
Satisfactory	3 points (compares with 71% - 80%)
Fair	2 points (compares with 61% - 70%)
Needs Improvement	1 point (compares with 60% or less)

In the context of festival, a "superior" performance is one in which the entrant presents each piece intact with rhythmic continuity, accuracy, attention to detail and an understanding of the mood and dynamics. The verbal rating should not be taken literally; for example, "satisfactory" would not really be satisfactory, but indicates a "C" or average grade.

Since the purpose of a festival is to promote study and stimulate interest in American and world literature and to encourage each participant to reach a high standard of musical achievement, please consider carefully the following suggestions and guidelines:

- Positive aspects of a performance should always be mentioned while giving constructive criticism and suggestions for improvements.
- Rate participants in terms of what can reasonably be expected at their age level and in the event entered.
- Indicate specific strengths and weaknesses by using as many of the rating sheet categories as may be appropriate.
- The rating given must be supported by objectively stated written comments in addition to the "plus/minus" marks.
- Assign a rating to the overall performance, rather than to the individual pieces.
- Make ratings and comments individually; do not consult with other judges.

Since your comments will be passed on to the teachers, and/or participants, comments critical of the teacher's preparation are inappropriate.

Under no circumstances will a judge talk to parents, or participants, before, during, or after the festival about the selection of music, level of achievement, technique, posture, or even about wearing apparel. ALL problems or concerns are to be directed only to the Festival Chairman.

Help make the day truly festive by maintaining a pleasant atmosphere in each audition room and by ENCOURAGING ALL participants involved.

Your cooperation is greatly appreciated; our sincerest thanks to you for your valued services.