

FEDERATION FESTIVALS - INFORMATION FOR JUDGES

JR 3-5

The NFMF Federation Festivals provide musicians of all ages and abilities the 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	*(approximately comparable to academic 91% - 100%)
Excellent	*(approximately comparable to academic 81% - 90%)
Satisfactory	*(approximately comparable to academic 71% - 80%)
Fair	*(approximately comparable to academic 61% - 70%)
Needs Improvement	*(approximately comparable to academic 60% or less)

* Please note: NFMF ratings are not tabulated using percentages or through the use of any other numerical method of calculation. The above percentages are only given as general guidelines to provide judges with an analogous example to better understand the scope of the ratings used by NFMF.

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, musicality, and dynamics.

Since the purpose of the NFMF Festivals program is to promote study and stimulate interest in American music and composers 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 class 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 written and specific comments in addition to the "plus/minus" marks indicated within the table of Performance Elements.
- Assign a rating to the overall performance, rather than to the individual pieces.
- Do not adjust or make personal additions to the official ratings indicated by NFMF at the bottom of the rating sheet.
- Make ratings and comments individually; do not consult with other judges.
- Do not compare student performances and assign ratings accordingly.
- The use of legally downloaded digital scores has become more widespread. Do not automatically assume a printed piece of music is an illegal photocopy. Any questions of the validity of a score should be addressed to the Festival Admin/Chair and not interfere with an entrant's performance.

It is important to note that because your comments will be passed on to the teachers, and/or participants, comments critical of the teacher's preparation, interpretation, or choice of literature are unacceptable and 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 attire. ALL problems or concerns must be directed to the Festival Chair.

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.

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