

Performance Assessment Guide - Piano

Position: Posture, finger, wrist, hand, arm

- Superior: Consistently appropriate posture, finger, wrist, hand and arm positions.
- Superior/Excellent: Minor problems in positioning such as slouching, too little arch, etc.
- Excellent/Good: A lack of consistent positioning such as flat hands, wrists, bent too far forward or back, etc.
- Good/fair: Problems in complex passages due to poor positions of wrist, fingers, etc. i.e. heavy touch on fast notes.
- Fair/poor: Limited ability to use correct posture, finger, wrist, hand, and arm positions.

Technique: accuracy to printed pitches, articulation (staccato, tend to, accents, etc) finger dexterity, pedaling, precision of the left and right hand in attacks and releases.

- Superior: Correct notes and pedaling are consistent throughout the performance. Exceptional precision between both hands with great attention to articulation.
- Superior/Excellent: Mostly accurate notes, pedaling, and articulation throughout the performance. Minor lapses in the “ensemble” between left and right hands.
- Excellent/Good: Incorrect pitches on a few occasions with inconsistent articulation, pedal work, and tempo. Both hands occasionally struggle for precise attacks and/or releases.
- Good/Fair: Pitches and/or articulation and pedaling are incorrect for the composition being performed. There are serious flaws in the precision of both hands.
- Fair/Poor: Frequent pitch errors with a lack of understanding of articulation and pedal work. The hands are rarely precise in their attacks and releases.

Rhythm: accuracy of note and rest values, duration, pulse, slow, steadiness, correctness of meters.

- Superior: Outstanding accuracy. Correct pulse, meter and flow used throughout the performance.
- Superior/Excellent: Infrequent errors with a pulse that is mostly correct.
- Excellent/Good: A lack of consistency in rhythm, pulse, flow and meter.
- Good/Fair: Numerous inaccurate rhythms, with an incorrect pulse\meter.
- Fair/Poor: An awareness of rhythms, meter, pulse and flow.

Interpretation: style, phrasing, tempo, dynamics, balance of melody to accompaniment.

- Superior: Highly expressive performance with appropriate style, phrasing, tempo, and dynamics. Melody is appropriately prominent.
- Superior/Excellent: Minor lapses in dynamics, phrasing, correct, tempo, and style elements; the melody is occasionally obscured by the accompaniment.
- Excellent/Good: Occasionally, rigid and mechanical expression. Correct tempo and dynamics, but lacks expressive elements. Melody is often lost.
- Good/Fair: Mechanical expression, most of the time. Little attention given to melodic line. Lacks in correct phrasing, tempo, dynamics, style, etc.
- Fair/Poor: A lack of understanding of correct style, dynamics, phrasing, and tempo with the melodic line of obscured most of the time.

Performance Factors: choice of literature, appropriate appearance, poise, general conduct, mannerisms, memory.

- Superior: Literature, chosen, is appropriate to the students skill level. Appearance and performance demeanor are outstanding. Song is well memorized.
- Superior/Excellent: Song is memorized, but the literature choice is slightly more difficult than the solo its current abilities. Excellent performance demeanor.
- Excellent/Good: Appropriate literature, but the difficulty level is too high for the performer. General poise and conduct needs some minor improvement.

- Good/Fair: The literature is not appropriate and/or is not with the ability to perform. Some memory lapses.
- Fair/Poor: General proper performance conduct is lacking. Major memory flaws.