

YOU be the judge!

Debbie Gillette, ISMTA Convention

A. Who is an AIM Performance Judge?

- 1. Approved by Local AIM Chairman**
- 2. Thorough knowledge of the AIM levels to be judged.**

B. The Dream Judge

- 1. Welcoming, warm, empathetic. Try to put the student at ease.**
- 2. Supportive and respectful of the student/teacher relationship.**
- 3. Judges to the agreed standard – AIM is *not* a competition.**
- 4. Judge, *not* teach. Leave your teacher hat at the door.**
- 5. Is able to hear the big picture: strengths, weaknesses.**
- 6. The best judges are *not* known as easy or hard, but fair.**
- 7. Recognizes musically gifted students as well as encourage slower students. Encourage future musical growth.**
- 8. Only judges the performance, makes no assumptions about the preparation, regardless of age or time studied.**

C. The Art of Judging

- 1. Be able to set aside preconceived standards/ideals to adopt the agreed standard.**
- 2. Flexibility to consider other interpretations, technical approach.**
- 3. Sandwich praise. Constructive criticism equals helpful suggestions for improvement. Master the art of positive tips.**
- 4. Learn to phrase suggestions in positive language**
 - a. Can you**
 - b. Now try this....**
 - c. Have you ...**
 - d. Try.....**
 - e. Listen to...**
 - f. Consider this....**
- 5. Support score with comments. Be specific as time allows.**

D. How to Improve Judging

- 1. Cultivate critical listening skills.**
- 2. Practice judging your own students, recorded music.**
- 3. Partner new judges with experienced judges.**