

# **STANDARDS - ENSEMBLES**

## **1. Gold Standard**

- Mark Range:
- Criteria:
  - Technical Skill: Exceptional mastery of the individual parts, executing techniques with precision and fluency. There are very few noticeable errors or hesitations. Balance and ensemble tightness are excellent.
  - Musicality: High degree of expression and interpretation of the piece, showing a profound understanding of the music. Dynamic contrasts, phrasing, and subtle nuances are expertly conveyed. Voice and wind instruments: Exceptional tone and tuning.
  - Stage Presence: Confident and engaging with the audience, maintaining professionalism. Clear engagement and expression enhance the experience.
  - Creativity/Originality: Unique interpretation of the piece while maintaining its essence, demonstrating artistic innovation.
  - Overall Impact: A performance that captivates the audience and judges, leaving a lasting, exceptional impression.

## **2. Silver Standard**

- Mark Range:
- Criteria:
  - Technical Skill: Solid technical ability by the individual parts with some minor errors or areas of inconsistency. Performance may lack flawless execution but remains strong. Balance and ensemble tightness are good.
  - Musicality: Good expression and understanding of the piece, with minor lapses in execution or nuance. Dynamics and phrasing are clear but could be more refined. Voice and wind instruments: mostly good tone and tuning throughout the performance.
  - Stage Presence: Comfortable on stage, maintaining engagement with the audience. Moments of tension or slight hesitation may detract from a fully polished performance.
  - Creativity/Originality: Adheres to the style and intent of the piece with some group expression but does not significantly innovate.

- Overall Impact: A strong and enjoyable performance, though it may lack the expressive depth or technical excellence of a gold-level performance.

### **3. Bronze Standard**

- Mark Range:
- Criteria:
  - Technical Skill: Competent technical proficiency by the individual parts, with noticeable errors or inconsistencies. Some sections may lack accuracy, and the performers may struggle with difficult passages. Balance and ensemble tightness issues are apparent.
  - Musicality: Shows understanding of the piece but may not fully capture the expression or subtleties. Some aspects of phrasing, dynamics or expression may be mechanical. Voice and wind instruments: Tone and tuning issues at times during the performance.
  - Stage Presence: May appear somewhat nervous or disconnected from the audience, with limited engagement. Stage presence is still developing.
  - Creativity/Originality: Follows the basic structure of the piece without significant group interpretation or artistry.
  - Overall Impact: A satisfactory performance, but lacking polish, expressive depth, or technical refinement.

### **4. Participation Standard**

- Mark Range:
- Criteria:
  - Technical Skill: Technical issues by individual parts, with noticeable errors or inconsistencies. Many sections lack accuracy, and the performers struggle with difficult passages. Balance and ensemble tightness issues are apparent and significantly affect the performance.
  - Musicality: Shows understanding of the piece but does not capture the expression or subtleties. Many aspects of phrasing, dynamics or expression may be mechanical. Voice and wind instruments: Tone and tuning issues occur throughout the performance.
  - Stage Presence: Appears somewhat nervous or disconnected from the audience, with limited engagement. Stage presence is still developing.
  - Creativity/Originality: Follows the basic structure of the piece without significant group interpretation or artistry.

- Overall Impact: A weak performance, lacking polish, musical depth, or technical refinement.