Musicianship Guidelines

General Guidelines

Judges will score students in the following areas for a total of ten musicianship points. Please note that a judge may ask a student questions not listed in these guidelines, though these questions will not count toward the student's score. Specific requirements according to grade level are listed below.

1. **Titles and Composers**
   Students of all grades are required to know the titles and composers of their pieces.
2. **Scales and chords**
   - Students should prepare scales and chords in the keys of repertoire pieces.
   - When playing a minor scale, the harmonic form should be used.
   - Special requirements for Contemporary pieces are listed below.
3. **Knowledge of musical markings**
   Students will be asked to demonstrate knowledge of some or all of the points mentioned below regarding marks of expression, tempo markings, etc.
4. **Recognition of form**
   Students need not identify a form by label (e.g., ABA, Rondo) but should be able to point out the larger sections. For example, rather than identify ABA, a student could explain that the outside sections are alike and the middle one is different.

Specific Requirements According to Grade Level

GRADE K-1

1) Know titles and composers
2) a. Play and name any white key, or identify as judge plays.
   b. Direction on keyboard: high and low.
   c. Identify finger numbers.
3) Identify symbols in the performance pieces.

GRADE 2-3

1) Know titles and composers
2) In a tonal piece:
   play 5-finger pattern or warm-up appropriate to method used, hands alone.
   In a piece of contemporary idiom:
   explain and/or demonstrate technique used (e.g., modal, whole tone).
3) Identify marks of expression in the pieces.
4) Recognize similar rhythmic and melodic patterns.

GRADE 4-5

1) Know titles and composers
2) In a tonal piece:
   a. Play scale one octave (hands together).
   b. **I V I** or **I V^7 I** chord progressions in the key or piece (hands together).
   In a contemporary idiom:
   Explain and/or demonstrate technique used (e.g., modal, whole tone, 12 tone).
3) Identify marks of expression and tempo markings in the pieces.
4) Point out larger sections of a piece as well as similar patterns of melody and rhythm.

GRADE 6-7

1) Know titles and composers
2) In a tonal piece:
   a. Play scale two octaves, hands together.
   b. I IV I V I or I IV I V I chord progression in key of piece, hands together.
   In a piece of contemporary idiom:
   same as previous level.
3) Identify marks of expression, tempo markings, phrase and articulation markings within the piece.
4) Explain simple form of piece. Know time period, style period and nationality of the composer if applicable (e.g., Bach, Mozart, Bartok).

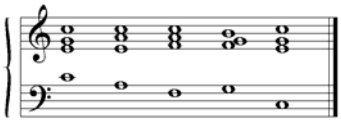
GRADE 8-9

1) Know titles and composers
2) In a tonal piece:
   a. Play scale hands together, three octaves, triplet rhythm.
   b. **I IV I V^7 I** chord progression in key of piece (**V^7** uses 4 notes).
   In a piece of contemporary idiom:
   same as previous level.

3) and 4) Same as previous level.

GRADE 10-12

1) Know titles and composers
2) In a tonal piece:
   a. Play scale hands together, four octaves.
   b. **I vi IV V^7 I** in key of piece



   In a piece of contemporary idiom:
   Same as previous level.

3) and 4) Same as previous level