

# PERFORMANCE DESCRIPTORS

For use in Evaluation of Teacher and Student Performances

- (a) **Repertoire:** technical and interpretive demands of the selection(s) are commensurate with performer's technical and musical abilities
  
- (b) **Physical aspects:**
  - Demonstrates balanced, erect posture
  - Demonstrates ease of movement, efficient motion (e.g., no unnecessary tension evident)
  - Appears physically comfortable
  
- (c) **Tone production:**
  - Tone is pleasing, resonant and full.
  - Tone varies when appropriate.
  - Volume is even but varies when appropriate.
  - (Strings & Flute) Uses vibrato as appropriate.
  
- (d) **Technical accuracy:**
  - Plays correct notes
  - Intonation is accurate.
  - Tempo is appropriate.
  - Musical pulse is steady, yet varies when appropriate (e.g., rubato, ritard).
  - Rhythm is accurate and precise.
  - (Harp) Plays without finger buzzes and pedal noise.
  
- (e) **Musicianship:**
  - Dynamics varied to create expressive effect.
  - Notes are articulated appropriately and consistently.
  - Creates motion in melodic line (phrase shape, rise and fall)
  - Phrases end gracefully (e.g., tapered dynamics, ending notes sustained).
  - Performance is consistent with (within the bounds of) stylistic convention.
  - Interpretive choices are consistent.
  - Performance conveys the character of the piece (e.g., march is march-like).
  - (Piano, Guitar & Harp) Performance demonstrates voicing of melodic lines and accompaniment.
  
- (f) **Stage presence:**
  - Demonstrates appropriate poise and bearing.
  - Acknowledges fellow performers (if applicable).
  - In the event of error, continues without pause.
  - Bows when appropriate.

**(g) Focus of attention:**

- Performance conveys sense of concentration.
- Performance conveys sense of confidence (little hesitation or timidity evident).
- Ensemble members convey attention and focus towards the conductor and/or demonstrate awareness of and response to the other members of the ensemble. \*

**(h) Ensemble concepts: For ensemble evaluation only \***

Ensemble demonstrates:

- attention to matched technical execution  
*bow distribution, bow placement, matched fingering, matched articulation...*
- a common sense of musicality in terms of dynamics, tone color, style and phrasing
- a blend of individual instrument sections and overall blend
- balance in the ensemble as is appropriate

**\*Added Performance Descriptors for Suzuki in the Schools (Approved 4/2019)**