



Cheshire East Young Musician of the Year Performance Assessment Criteria

The judging of musical performance is notoriously subjective and, often, divides opinion. Whilst the below is by no means an exhaustive list, the most successful performances will demonstrate most if not all of the following criteria:

Balance

The balance between soloist and accompaniment (if accompanied) is good - no parts are overpowering, but important musical lines are given prominence as appropriate.

Communication

The performer 'connects' with the audience. They do more than simply sing or play the music, but engage the audience in a performance.

Dynamics

Appropriate use is made of a range of dynamics. Whilst the adjudicators do not have printed sheet music in front of them, it is clear that the individuals are performing using dynamics which complement the style and mood of the music and, where present, the lyrics.

Expression

The style and mood of the music is clearly conveyed to and understood by those listening. Musical phrasing (how a musical 'sentence' starts and stops) is good.

Intonation

Intonation (how well in tune a performer is, both relative to any accompaniment and to other notes which they themselves play or sing) is good.

Programme

The chosen repertoire is suitably challenging for the age/experience of the performer. Pieces are not so difficult that a high quality performance is unobtainable, but equally the performer is challenged to demonstrate a command of their instrument/voice, their musicianship and their technical ability.

Quality of sound

The individual performs with a good quality sound, demonstrating skill and competence.