

OPTIMIST ADJUDICATOR'S RUBRIC

LEVELS 2 & 3

LEVEL 2 — Ensembles in this level generally have 2-3 years of instruction and may be having their first festival experience.

LEVEL 3 — Ensembles in this level generally have 3-4 years of instruction.

	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS
SOUND	Tone is unfocused, strident and/or lacks control. Significant intonation concerns. Ensemble out of balance. Sounds do not blend. Overall sound detracts from performance.	Tone is often unfocused or uncontrolled. Intonation inconsistent. Instrumental and melodic balance inconsistent. Section and ensemble blend requires attention.	Tone is usually focused and controlled. Intonation generally consistent with issues occasionally arising. Instrumental and melodic balance generally maintained with occasional issues. Tones blended within sections and/or ensemble with occasional issues arising.	Tone is focused and controlled, with occasional issues in extreme ranges. Intonation secure and consistent, with issues only arising in exceptional circumstances. Ensemble and melodic balance secure. Tones blended within sections and ensemble.	Tone is focused and controlled across full range. Virtually no intonation issues. Ensemble is well balanced. All sounds well blended.
TECHNIQUE	Significant pitch, rhythmic and/or articulation errors. Tempo is erratic and uncontrolled.	Inconsistent pitch and rhythmic accuracy. Little to no variety or consistency in articulations. Tempo fluctuations evident.	Very few pitch errors. Articulations consistent with errors occasionally happening within sections and/or ensemble. Tempo consistent with issues arising at points of transition.	High degree of pitch and rhythmic accuracy. Articulations consistently interpreted within sections and ensemble. Tempo consistent with little fluctuation perceptible.	Virtually no pitch, rhythmic or articulation errors. Tempo is secure.
MUSICALITY	Breathing and phrasing erratic. Attention to dynamics, expression and style not apparent.	Phrasing inconsistent with little attention given to shape and breathing. Dynamics inconsistent with markings and limited dynamic range. Little attention to style and detail apparent.	Phrasing generally consistent with style and markings, with occasional errors. Dynamics consistent with markings, narrow dynamic range. Attention to style and details apparent with some inconsistencies within ensemble.	Phrasing usually consistent with few errors. Dynamics consistent with markings, wide dynamic range. Attention to style and details apparent.	Phrasing consistent within ensemble and demonstrates nuance. Dynamic levels are accurate and show great contrast. Obvious attention to style, details and nuance.

OPTIMIST ADJUDICATOR'S RUBRIC

LEVELS 4 & 5

	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS
SOUND	Tone is unfocused, strident and/or lacks control. Significant intonation concerns. Ensemble out of balance. Sounds do not blend. Overall sound detracts from performance.	Tone is often unfocused or uncontrolled. Intonation inconsistent. Instrumental and melodic balance inconsistent. Section and ensemble blend requires attention.	Tone is focused and controlled, with occasional issues in extreme ranges. Intonation secure and consistent, with issues only arising in exceptional circumstances. Ensemble and melodic balance secure. Tones blended within sections and ensemble.	Tone is focused and controlled across full range. Virtually no intonation issues. Ensemble is well balanced. All sounds well blended.	Tone is focused, controlled and vibrant across full range. No intonation concerns. Ensemble is fully balanced. All tones can be heard clearly and are well blended.
TECHNIQUE	Significant pitch, rhythmic and/or articulation errors. Tempo is erratic and uncontrolled.	Inconsistent pitch and rhythmic accuracy. Little to no variety or consistency in articulations. Tempo fluctuations evident.	High degree of pitch and rhythmic accuracy. Articulations consistently interpreted within sections and ensemble. Tempo consistent with little fluctuation perceptible.	Virtually no pitch, rhythmic or articulation errors. Tempo is secure.	All parts performed with technical facility and virtually no errors. Tempo is firmly established and secure.
MUSICALITY	Breathing and phrasing erratic. Attention to dynamics, expression and style not apparent.	Phrasing inconsistent with little attention given to shape and breathing. Dynamics inconsistent with markings and limited dynamic range. Little attention to style and detail apparent.	Phrasing generally consistent with style and markings, with occasional errors. Dynamics consistent with markings, narrow dynamic range. Attention to style and details apparent with some inconsistencies within ensemble.	Phrasing consistent within ensemble. Dynamic levels are accurate and show great contrast. Obvious attention to style, details and nuance.	Phrasing consistent within ensemble and demonstrates attention to details and nuance. Dynamic levels are consistent with style of music and markings, show great ensemble control and dynamic range. Musical maturity evident with great attention to style, details and nuance.

OPTIMIST ADJUDICATOR'S RUBRIC

LEVEL 6

Often ensembles in this level are a select or auditioned group and/or rehearsals occur in addition to regular instruction.

	1 STAR	2 STARS	3 STARS	4 STARS	5 STARS
SOUND	Tone is unfocused, strident and/or lacks control. Significant intonation concerns. Ensemble out of balance. Sounds do not blend. Overall sound detracts from performance.	Tone is unfocused or uncontrolled at times. Intonation inconsistent. Instrumental and melodic balance inconsistent. Section and ensemble blend requires attention.	Tone is focused and controlled across full range. Virtually no intonation issues. Ensemble is well balanced. All sounds well blended.	Tone is focused, controlled and vibrant across full range. No intonation concerns. Ensemble is fully balanced. All tones can be heard clearly and are well blended.	Tone is focused, controlled, vibrant and of a professional nature. Superior intonation. Ensemble balance and blend are of a superior nature.
TECHNIQUE	Significant pitch, rhythmic and/or articulation errors. Tempo is erratic and uncontrolled.	Inconsistent pitch and rhythmic accuracy. Little to no variety or consistency in articulations. Tempo fluctuations evident.	High degree of pitch and rhythmic accuracy. Articulations consistently interpreted within sections and ensemble. Tempo consistent with little fluctuation perceptible.	All parts performed with technical facility and virtually no errors. Tempo is firmly established and secure.	All parts performed with great technical facility and ease. Tempo is firmly established and secure. Technical aspects are of a professional nature.
MUSICALITY	Breathing and phrasing erratic. Attention to dynamics, expression and style not apparent.	Phrasing inconsistent with little attention given to shape and breathing. Dynamics inconsistent with markings and limited dynamic range. Little attention to style and detail apparent.	Phrasing consistent within ensemble. Dynamic levels are accurate and show great contrast. Obvious attention to style, details and nuance.	Phrasing consistent within ensemble and demonstrates attention to details and nuance. Dynamic levels are consistent with style of music and markings, show great ensemble control and dynamic range. Musical maturity evident with great attention to style, details and nuance.	Phrasing and dynamics consistent within ensemble and in keeping with music and style. Superb attention to style, details and nuance evident. Overall effectiveness of piece is professional in nature.