

New York State School Music Association
Spring Evaluation Festival
General Information

Dear Student:

Congratulations on your decision to participate in NYSSMA's Spring Evaluation Festival. We are confident that you have found this experience to be an important addition to your musical training. Your adjudicator has evaluated your performance by rating your performance in each of seven major categories. Notable strengths (+) or weaknesses (-) in your performance are indicated in the box next to each sub-category. An unmarked box next to a sub-category indicates that this aspect of your performance was acceptable. If a concern should arise as a result of this evaluation, your teacher is encouraged to discuss your concern(s) with the NYSSMA Representative. If your concern(s) remains unresolved, the NYSSMA Representative will inform you of further steps which can be taken. In order to help you understand the basis for your evaluation, definitions for the various categories and sub-categories in which your performance was evaluated are provided below. The **Comments Only** category is for evaluative comments only. Study this form carefully. Take time to review it with your teacher(s) so they will be able to help you further develop and refine your musical skills. Best wishes for your future success.

EVALUATION CATEGORIES

OUTSTANDING	- Distinguished level of accomplishment
EXCELLENT	- Above Average level of accomplishment
GOOD	- Average level of accomplishment
NEEDS IMPROVEMENT	- Below Average level of accomplishment
COMMENTS ONLY	- No Numerical Score (must be requested prior to performance)

DEFINITIONS

SOLO EVALUATION

TONE – The sound produced by the instrument

Playing Area – Striking area on instrument

Stroke – The manner in which sound is produced

Choice of Mallets – Mallets should be consistent with the style of the solo

TECHNIQUE – The physical ability and mechanical dexterity required to produce notes correctly

Hand Position – The manner in which sticks/mallets are held

Mallet Control – Preciseness of execution and muscular coordination

Evenness of Rolls – The ability to sustain a sound using evenly-spaced single strokes or stick bounces

Articulation – Clarity of rhythms

Extraneous Sounds – Sounds not pertinent to the performance of the solo

Damping – Stopping the sound

ACCURACY – The exact realization of the notated music

Accuracy of Notes – The performance of notes as written

Accuracy of Rhythm – The performance of rhythms as written

Pulse – The performance of natural accents implied by the meter of the composition

INTERPRETATION – The performer's realization of the composer's aesthetic intent and the performer's artistic expression

Tempo – The speed of the music according to the metronomic, stylistic and/or expressive markings of the music

Accents – Specific emphasis on notes as indicated

Dynamics – The contrast between loud and soft

Sticking – Appropriate use of right and left hands

MUSICIANSHIP – The quality which gives distinctive character and excellence to artistic expression

Style – The understanding of the composer's musical intent consistent with the historical period of the composition

Phrasing and Expression – The way written and/or unwritten dynamics are combined to give character to the solo

Artistry – The performer's musical and expressive involvement in the music

BASIC PROFICIENCY EVALUATION

BASICS – Basic proficiency requirement as listed in the NYSSMA Spring Evaluation Festival Rules and Regulations –
Evaluates one aspect of basic musicianship

Scale #1 – Accuracy of scale requested by adjudicator

Scale #2 – Accuracy of scale requested by adjudicator

Scale #3 – Accuracy of scale requested by adjudicator

Tempo (MM) – Speed as specified in requirements

SIGHT-READING – The ability to perform a musical excerpt at sight

Accuracy of Notes – Correct pitches are struck

Accuracy of Rhythm – The performance of rhythms as written

Accuracy of Tempo – The appropriate speed

Accuracy of Dynamics – The contrast between loud and soft