QUALITY OF SOUND

Tone Quality/Intonation
- 1. Concepts related to tone production are developing.
- 2. Tone production is inconsistent, with frequent note errors.
- 3. Tone quality is consistent, with occasional errors.
- 4. Tone quality is consistently accurate.

Expression/Sensitivity/Dynamics
- 1. Performance is well controlled and attentive to dynamics.
- 2. To some extent, performers understand and apply dynamics.
- 3. Performance is consistent in dynamic expression.
- 4. Performers consistently understand and apply dynamics.

Blend/Balance
- 1. Blend of tones is sometimes good, but often distorted during passages with dynamic or range extremes.
- 2. Balance between melodic and accompaniment lines is usually achieved.
- 3. Complete, or nearly complete instrumentation allows ensemble to achieve a characterful ensemble sound most of the time.

TECHNIQUE

Rhythm/Precision/Facility
- 1. Interpretations of tempo / style marks are consistent, with occasional errors.
- 2. Rhythmic precision is mostly accurate, but with occasional errors.
- 3. Pulse, tempo, and interpretation of rhythms are erratic.
- 4. Pulse, tempo, and/or interpretation of rhythms are accurately performed.

Articulation/Bowing
- 1. Articulations / bowings are not always appropriate and uniformly across the ensemble.
- 2. Articulations, attacks, and releases are often inappropriate.
- 3. Articulations / bowings are often inappropriate.
- 4. Articulations and controls are performed tastefully.

MUSICALITY

Interpretation/Style/Phrasing
- 1. Interpretation of tempo / style marks is accurate, with occasional errors.
- 2. Interpretations of musical style are mostly appropriate.
- 3. Phrasing lacks cohesiveness due to lapses in air management / bow control.
- 4. Interpretations of tempo / style marks, meters, and articulations are accurately performed.

Expression/Sensitivity/Dynamics
- 1. Meaningful and appropriate dynamic and expression interactions are evident.
- 2. Musical expression and sensitivity are generally consistent.
- 3. Articulations and dynamic expression are consistently applied.

OTHER FACTORS = 10 POINTS

Choice of Music (1–6 points)
- 1. Composition or arrangement is appropriate for the ensemble's ability level.
- 2. Composition or arrangement is well suited to the ensemble's ability level.
- 3. Composition or arrangement is well suited to the ensemble's ability level.
- 4. Composition or arrangement is well suited to the ensemble's ability level.

Stage Presence (1–2 points)
- 1. Articulations / bowings are well controlled and expressive.
- 2. Articulations and dynamic expression are consistently applied.
- 3. Articulations and dynamic expression are consistently applied.
- 4. Articulations and dynamic expression are consistently applied.

Effect of Presentation (1–2 points)
- 1. Interpretation of tempo / style marks, meters, and articulations is accurately performed.
- 2. Interpretation of tempo / style marks is accurate.
- 3. Interpretation of tempo / style marks, meters, and articulations is accurately performed.
- 4. Interpretation of tempo / style marks is accurately performed.

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