

CMEA – BAY SECTION CHORAL PERFORMANCE RUBRIC

Group Classification

Group Classification	CLASSIFICATION 1	FAIR 1	2	3	4	GOOD 5	6	7	8	EXCELLENT 9	10	11	12	SUPERIOR 13	14	15
	CLASSIFICATION 2	FAIR 1	2	3	4	GOOD 5	6	7	8	EXCELLENT 9	10	11	12	SUPERIOR 13	14	15
	CLASSIFICATION 3	FAIR 1	2	3	4	GOOD 5	6	7	8	EXCELLENT 9	10	11	12	SUPERIOR 13	14	15

QUALITY OF SOUND

Tone Quality

- Basic tone quality concepts are underdeveloped.
- Tone is unsupported, forced, or spread.
- Vowels are inconsistent and/or incorrect.
- Breath support and/or air management need attention.
- Basic intonation skills need to be developed; problems are seldom corrected.

Blend/Balance

- Concepts of blend and balance are seldom evident.
- Individuals and sections tend to overbalance.
- Listening and attentiveness skills are seldom evident.

TECHNIQUE

Rhythm/Precision/Facility

- Fundamental technical skills need development.
- Rhythmic precision and note accuracy are seldom evident.
- Flexibility and good vocal technique need further development.

Articulation/Diction

- Pronunciation of consonants and vowels is inaccurate.
- Articulations are seldom evident.

MUSICALITY

Interpretation/Style/Phrasing

- Musicality concepts lack refinement.

Expression/Sensitivity/Dynamics

- Effort in concentration and attentiveness to the conductor need attention.
- Phrasing, dynamics, expression, and style are rarely evident in the performance.

OTHER FACTORS = 10 POINTS

Choice of Music (1–6 points)

- Appropriateness for the ensemble's ability level.
- Quality and suitability for the festival.
- Variety of selections (styles, tempos, periods).
- Overall programming effect.

Sub-total points

Stage Presence (1–2 points)

- Professionalism and deportment.
- Appearance (uniformity, posture).
- Voicing.

Sub-total points

Effect of Presentation (1–2 points)

- Any noticeable characteristic of the ensemble that the adjudicator feels has a positive or negative affect on the group's presentation.

Sub-total points

Other Factors

Total Points

QUALITY OF SOUND

Tone Quality/Intonation

- Fundamental concepts of tone and vowel shape are underdeveloped.
- Breath support/management need further development.
- Severe intonation problems occur frequently.
- Basic intonation skills need further development.
- Obvious intonation problems occur and are seldom corrected.

Blend/Balance

- Concepts of blend and balance are underdeveloped.
- Listening and attentiveness skills need attention.
- Individuals and sections tend to dominate the ensemble sound.

TECHNIQUE

Rhythm/Precision/Facility

- Fundamental note accuracy and rhythmic precision need development.
- Basic vocal technique needs further development.
- A basic understanding of musical elements is lacking.

Articulation/Diction

- Articulation and diction skills require further development.

MUSICALITY

Interpretation/Style/Phrasing

- Effort in concentration and attentiveness to the conductor need attention.
- Musicality concepts lack refinement.
- Phrasing, dynamics, expression, and style are underdeveloped.
- Breath support and management require further development.

Expression/Sensitivity/Dynamics

- Limited ability to perform beyond the technical aspects of the music.
- Some limited use of accents and word stress.
- Attempts at dynamic contrasts are not effective.
- The ensemble has limited understanding of dynamic range.

QUALITY OF SOUND

Tone Quality/Intonation

- Most individuals/sections demonstrate correct tone production.
- Tone is affected at extremes of register and dynamics.
- The ensemble is somewhat in tune.
- Melodic intonation and harmonic tuning are inconsistent.
- Listening and adjusting skills are developing; some attempt to correct intonation problems.
- Less demanding melodies, intervals, and harmonic structures performed successfully.

Blend/Balance

- Blend and balance are affected by problems in extremes of dynamics and registers.
- Characteristic ensemble sound sometimes achieved; overall listening skills are evident.
- Voicing issues adversely affect the ensemble sound.

TECHNIQUE

Rhythm/Precision/Facility

- Note accuracy is sometimes evident; occasional errors occur.
- Attacks and releases require more consistent accuracy.
- Rhythmic precision and note accuracy are evident; occasional errors occur.
- Singers demonstrate some awareness of pulse and tempo, although lapses occur.
- Technical facility is evident some of the time; minor mistakes are noticeable.

Articulation/Diction

- Articulation, diction, and technique are somewhat uniform, but lack consistency.
- Diction is somewhat clear and stylistically appropriate some of the time.
- Diphthongs are performed correctly some of the time.

MUSICALITY

Interpretation/Style/Phrasing

- Performers pay attention to the conductor much of the time, but are inconsistent.
- Interpretation and style are appropriate some of the time.
- Tempos are fairly consistent, but may not always be stylistically accurate.
- Phrasing concepts are developing. Inconsistencies in phrase length and contour affect the overall performance.
- Appropriate use of accents and word stress at times, but not always consistent.

Expression/Sensitivity/Dynamics

- Communication between the conductor and ensemble is developing. Eye contact and response to conductor's gestures is inconsistent.
- Attempts are made to perform with dynamic contrasts within a limited range.
- Crescendos, diminuendos, and other dynamic indications are inconsistently performed.
- Dynamic extremes are not always performed tastefully.
- Facial expressions are rarely evident.

QUALITY OF SOUND

Tone Quality/Intonation

- Consistent tone quality and vowel uniformity achieved most of the time.
- Problems in breath support and management are minor and quickly corrected.
- The ensemble is in tune most of the time.
- Melodic and harmonic intonation is consistent; errors occur during dynamic changes or in extreme registers.
- Listening and adjusting skills are advanced and the ensemble is able to correct most pitch problems.

Blend/Balance

- Blend within individual sections and across the ensemble is evident.
- Balance between melodic and harmonic lines reflects developing listening skills.
- Characteristic ensemble sound fully achieved most of the time, with occasional problems in register extremes and dense textures.

TECHNIQUE

Rhythm/Precision/Facility

- Note accuracy and precision are evident; minor mistakes occur during difficult passages.
- Pulse and tempo are under control most of the time.
- Technical facility is well developed; minor flaws occur during the most demanding passages.

Articulation/Diction

- Pronunciation of consonants and vowels are appropriate, but not always uniform.
- Enunciation of text is clear, precise, and stylistically appropriate most of the time.
- Diphthongs are performed correctly most of the time.

MUSICALITY

Interpretation/Style/Phrasing

- Performers pay attention and follow the conductor most of the time.
- Appropriate style is demonstrated most of the time and the performance is very musical, but slightly inconsistent.
- Tempos are stylistically appropriate most of the time.
- Expressive shaping and contouring of phrases are appropriate, with minor inconsistencies.

Expression/Sensitivity/Dynamics

- Effective communication between conductor and ensemble is evident.
- Overall performance is expressive, sensitive, and tasteful most of the time.
- Effective use of dynamics, but the full range is not completely explored.
- Crescendos, diminuendos, and other dynamic indications are performed tastefully most of the time.
- Facial expressions are sometimes evident.

QUALITY OF SOUND

Tone Quality/Intonation

- Superlative tone quality and vowel uniformity achieved throughout the performance.
- Tone is consistently focused, full, clear, resonant, and uniform.
- Exceptional breath support and management.
- Performers demonstrate outstanding sense of tonal center.
- Melodic and harmonic intonation is always evident.
- Highly developed listening and adjusting skills.

Blend/Balance

- Blend and tone across the ensemble are consistently uniform.
- Balance between melodic and harmonic lines reflects exceptional listening skills.
- Exceptional blend and balance in all registers and textures.

TECHNIQUE

Rhythm/Precision/Facility

- Ensemble cohesiveness is outstanding at all times.
- Remarkable control of pulse, tempo, and rhythmic patterns.
- Precision and clarity are exemplary.
- Attacks and releases are performed correctly.
- Technical facility is superb.

Articulation/Diction

- Pronunciation of consonants and vowels is correct and language-appropriate.
- Enunciation of text is clear, precise, and stylistically appropriate.
- Diphthongs are performed correctly.

MUSICALITY

Interpretation/Style/Phrasing

- Performers intently follow the conductor all of the time.
- Stylistic elements are always appropriate and the performance is highly musical.
- Tempo choices are tasteful and appropriate.
- Mature, expressive, and dynamic shaping of musical phrases at all times.

Expression/Sensitivity/Dynamics

- Exemplary communication between conductor and ensemble creates a polished and professional performance.
- Expression is authentic, sensitive, and highly effective.
- Extraordinary performance that explores the entire dynamic spectrum.
- Facial expressions are evident.