

OPEN NATIONAL CONCERT BAND CHAMPIONSHIPS



Judging Philosophy

The basis for evaluation by the judges at the BYBA National Open Concert Band Championships will be the achievement of the performers as displayed that day. It is the sum of the two elements of *what* is being presented and *how well* it is being performed. All judges must evaluate both.

The program is numerically rewarded to the degree to which it is successfully performed.

The contest encourages and should reward innovations and artistry through the presentation of new compositions and arrangements for Concert Band, as well as unique and successful entertainment devices used during the performance.

The scoring system is founded on a method of evaluation that focuses primarily on the positive qualities of the performance, rather than simply a recording of technical errors. The criteria-based reference system is designed to guide all bands, regardless of their experience or stylistic preferences, to the qualities they must achieve and display to receive a range of numerical scores. All groups and all program styles start with equal opportunities for success. The emphasis is on the performance of the performers.

Experienced and qualified judges will be drawn from both BYBA and the wider music community.

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Category: Musical Presentation

61 – 80 Superior – Players and the ensemble display brass and percussion training of the highest calibre, resulting in clear and meaningful shaping of musical passages. Interpretation is tasteful and idiomatically correct and at the highest degree of musical communication. Balance, blend, intonation, characteristic timbres, and uniform enunciation are all superior in nature. The performance reflects the highest standards of brass band skills.

31 - 60 Excellent – The performers' exhibit very good to excellent training resulting in an ensemble performance that usually achieves musical presentation of the material. While the players are sometimes taxed, lapses are infrequent and recovery is usually quick. There is a generally sensitive and tasteful interpretation of the musical material in an above average display of musicality and understanding. While minor inconsistencies may exist, general technical skills are well above average.

0 – 30 Good – While the ensemble may sometimes display technical and musical skills that are somewhat above average, there are frequent lapses in tone quality, intonation, balance, and blend. Dynamic contrast may be weak, phrasing inconsistent and rhythmic and tempo control present unresolved challenges to the group. The interpretation is sometimes mechanical in nature with many missed opportunities for musicality.

Category: Entertainment - *Entertainment is dependent on the engagement of the audience*

15 - 20 Superior – The program and its presentation by the performers constantly provides an optimum amount of audience intrigue, intensity, emotional involvement and aesthetic appeal. The audience seems continuously engaged and intrigued by the performers skilful blending of both musical and extra musical devices to achieve effect. Entertainment of a highly proficient and professional nature is constantly in evidence.

08 – 14 Excellent – The performance frequently displays imagination and creativity with an above average level of communication and involvement. Blending of all entertainment devices and their presentation by the performers is above average. Lapses of audience interest and intrigue are infrequent.

0 – 07 Good – While imagination and creativity are sometimes present, the performers often seem unaware of their roles in producing either accessible entertainment or aesthetic intrigue. Concentration seems inconsistent and programming choices fluctuate in their ability to hold the interest of the audience. Performance is sometimes mechanical and uninspired.

2 Judges using identical score sheets (CB1 and CB2) will mark each performance out of a maximum of 100 points. The Tabulators will add these marks together and divide the resultant number by 2, giving a final score out of 100 points.

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Rules and Guidelines

I. Rules

A. Band/Corps standard instrumentation: Eb Soprano Trumpet, Bb Cornet, Bb or F Flugelhorn, Eb Tenor Horn, Bb Baritone & Euphonium, Tenor & Bass Slide Trombone, Tuba, Flute, Piccolo, Clarinet (Bb, Eb, A & Bass), Oboe, Bassoon, Saxophone (all), G Soprano, G or F Mellophone, G Baritone & G Contra Bass, and a String Bass or Bass Guitar. Drum Kit, concert or marching keyboards, snare drum, tenor drum, bass drum, and ancillary orchestral and Latin American percussion equipment.

B. Total membership of each band will be unlimited, with a minimum age of 8 (on the day on the contest), with no more than 3 performers, plus conductor (total 4), over the age of 25 as at 1st January.

C. Any Concert Band which participates in the NOCBC using other than standard concert band instrumentation, as listed in paragraph A above, must make prior application and receive approval in writing from the Contesting Committee.

D. A band member is permitted to play with one band only. No special considerations will be made to accommodate any other situation.

E. Each conductor is permitted to conduct one band only.

F. All performers at contest must be bona fide members of the band in which they perform.

G. All bands' performances at the NOCBC may be recorded and remain the property of the BYBA for promotion and fundraising.

H. Timings:

i) Open Concert Band 14 – 18 minutes (extension to 20 minutes available, for 2006)

ii) Junior Concert Band 8 – 14 minutes

Entry to either Open Class or Junior Class will be based on the bands' own assessment.

iii) Freestyle Ensemble 5 – 10 minutes

Entry will be based on musical ensembles which may not fulfil the standard instrumentation Rule 1A, which offers performance opportunities for other ensembles such as Jazz/Swing Groups.

I. Judges will use cassette tapes to provide feedback.

II. Registration Requirements

A. A band must properly complete and return to the Contesting Committee an official Entry Form per unit, together with the appropriate Entry Fee (£30.00) per unit, which will be non-refundable and non-transferable, before the closing date for entries, 9th January, 2006. Failure to meet the deadline will require approval from the Contesting Committee.

B. Conductors Scores will not be required for 2006.

C. Each entry must include a colour photo of the band, and a brief biographical note. Bands are encouraged, but not required to supply photos in .jpg format and Bio's in MS Word and submit electronically.

III. CONTEST PROCEDURES

A The Contesting Committee will organise and administer the Draw for Order of performance at the start of the event. Each band will be notified of its respective order of performance and when it must be prepared to enter the warm-up room and be prepared to enter the contest stage. When a band has been drawn **first**, that band has the right to request that on the succeeding year their name be withheld from the draw for the first pick, thereafter their name is resubmitted into the pool.

B A band member may not compete with more than one band. No special considerations will be made to accommodate such situations. A list of members stating full name and date of birth will be required. 6 staff passes, plus 1 per 10 members in excess of 60 members will be issued.

C Each band, in turn, shall assemble at a specified location 10 minutes prior to their performance time. Event Staff will assist each band.

D Each band will provide a small team to arrange the stage seats to suit the band, and to ensure that percussion instruments are in position prior to the band taking the stage. The host of the BYBA National Open Concert Band Championships will notify all contesting bands of the percussion instruments that shall be available for their use (your support would be appreciated). Percussion equipment in excess of that provided by the host is the responsibility of the competing band. However, no additional set-up time will be permitted.

E Stages will be set-up in a standard brass band configuration with percussion instruments as will be furnished by the hosts and communicated to all competing bands in advance. Upon signal from the Event Staff, bands will be allowed up to 5 minutes to adjust the set-up of the stage and to place band members on the stage. An additional period of up to 5 minutes will be allowed for warming up and tuning. The set-up period will be concluded and the tuning/warm-up period will begin after 5 minutes or when the first musical note is sounded by a brass instrument, whichever comes first. Tympani tuning is not subjected to this rule and may begin during the set-up period. The performance time will begin following the introductory announcement, upon the first musical note. If the music does not begin within a few appropriate seconds the clock will be started, commencing the performance time block. Performance time will conclude with the Conductor's bow.

F As mentioned in paragraph E above, a maximum of two minutes will be permitted for tuning on the concert stage.

G If a band's program exceeds the maximum time, penalty points will be deducted from the adjudicators total at the rate of one point per second from the overall score.

H Judges will assess performances independently from separate positions in the auditorium.

I Any band that participates in the NOCBC and plays a program other than that submitted in its entry form shall be allowed to perform its program and receive adjudication, but shall not be eligible for any prize awards, unless the change is authorised by the Contesting Committee prior to the contest.

J The results of NOCBC will be announced at the end of the event, with Awards for 1st & 2nd place in each category. A Best Soloist Award will be added for 2006. *Additional Awards will be considered for 2007.* Adjudicator's tapes and written comments will be presented to each band, or a band representative. The adjudicator's decision shall be final on all matters relative to the adjudication. If for any reason a band representative is not present at the Finale the tapes and written comments will be mailed to the band on the next business day.

K The Contesting Committee shall have final authority regarding penalties for infractions and appeals to the contest rules.

L In case of physical emergency or mechanical malfunction, the Contesting Committee has the sole authority to suspend the timing of a performance. In order to ensure a smooth running competition and fair conditions for all bands, these instances will be limited to true emergencies that could not have been reasonably avoided by the competing band.

REMINDERS

- All bands receive 5 minutes to set-up, followed by 5 minutes of on-stage warm-up.
- All bands will perform at 30 minute intervals, thus allowing time for the performing band to exit the stage, and also allowing for both Concert Band and Freestyle ensembles.