

A Different Approach to Evaluating State Music Festival Performances



Davine Davis, Missouri
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Background

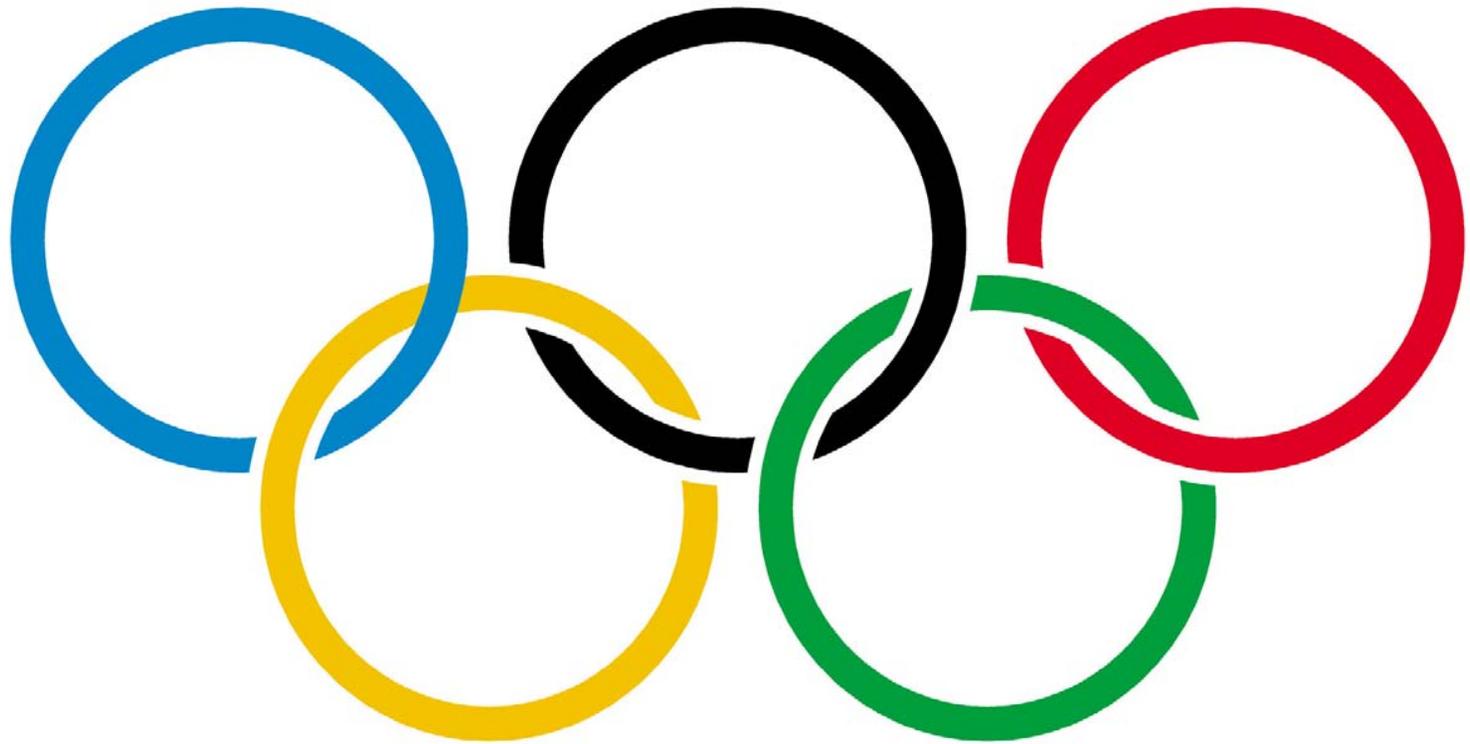
- Missouri has a 2 tier system of adjudication in place for solo/small ensemble festivals.
- Solos and small ensembles of 8 or fewer may advance to the state solo/small ensemble festival if awarded an Exemplary rating.
- Same process for adjudication used at state festival

District Evaluation Standards

- o District has five ratings available
 - o **Exemplary** – A performance that consistently demonstrates true musical expression and few technical errors. The performance is worthy of the distinction of being recognized as among the very best.
 - o **Outstanding** – A performance of distinctive quality yet has minor defects in musical expressions and fundamental techniques.
 - o **Satisfactory** – A performance showing accomplishment and marked promise, but lacking consistency of musical expression and fundamental technique.
 - o **Developing** – A performance indicating room for improvement in consistent musical expression and fundamental technique. Such a performance would include many technical errors, poor musical expression and ineffective use of existing instrumental or choral voicing
 - o **Ineffective** – A performance indicating obvious lack of overall preparation.

Issues Facing Committee

- o Do we continue with a 2 tier system?
- o If yes, how do we define the state solo/small ensemble adjudication expectations to set it apart from the district festivals?
- o Standards of Ratings and adjudication forms should clearly reflect this distinction.
- o Universal concept; something everyone can understand



MSHSAA State Solo/Small Ensemble Rating Descriptions

- o **GOLD Rating** – This rating is the *highest level of musical achievement performance* in the MSHSAA sponsored music festivals. This performance is musically artistic and exemplary in all aspects. It is worthy of the distinction of being recognized as among the very best. The performance is “thorough”, nearly flawless, and “always consistent” in maturity of tone, pitch center, technical facility and musical expression. The performer(s) demonstrate the highest level of preparation, poise and confidence. The adjudicator comments are positive and complimentary in all areas of the performance. There may be suggestions for continued growth and development.

MSHSAA State Solo/Small Ensemble Rating Descriptions

SILVER Rating – This rating is a *highly commendable level of musical achievement*. This performance is artistic and outstanding in many aspects. There are “minor” inconsistencies and the performance is not completely “thorough” and “consistent” in maturity of tone, pitch center, technical facility and musical expression. The performer(s) demonstrate an outstanding level of preparation, poise and confidence. The adjudicator comments are mostly positive and complimentary. There will be suggestions and techniques for continued growth and development regarding the minor inconsistencies in the performance.

MSHSAA State Solo/Small Ensemble Rating Descriptions

BRONZE Rating – This rating is a *commendable level of musical achievement*. This performance has some musically artistic aspects and shows accomplishment and potential but needs more polish and refinement. There are several inconsistencies in maturity of tone, pitch center, technical facility and musical expression. The performer(s) demonstrate an excellent level of preparation, poise and confidence. The adjudicator comments are somewhat positive and complimentary. There will be suggestions for continued growth and development regarding the several inconsistencies in the performance.

Adjudication Forms

- o A total of 12 forms have been created
- o Each form has 3 areas of focus
 - o Tone Quality & Intonation
 - o Technical Preparation
 - o Musical Effect
- o No check boxes; everything is written out
- o Each area has key terms to further describe the area.

Awards

- o Created new medals and certificates
- o Held a medal design contest with our member schools
- o School submitting winning design received \$500
- o 29 different designs were submitted

What We Hope to Accomplish

- o Established clearly defined expectations between district and state festivals
- o Using terminology that can be easily understood by students, administrators, school board members, parents and community
- o Provide quality feedback on performance to further the musical education of our young musicians

Contact Information

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