

Judges' Guidance – Performing Arts

For all entries: If you are not familiar with this type of art/science, can the entrant explain clearly the information you seek, based on their knowledge and research, in a verbal format?

Documentation:

- **For instrumental music and vocal music (chorale, madrigal, religious):**
 - Was information on the following provided?
 - composer, region, and time period of the original piece;
 - discussion of original theory, performance styles, language, and voices/instruments available &/or appropriate for the music;
 - discussion of any changes made by the performer(s) to the score (ficta/recta, ornamentation, etc.);
 - discussion of the performers' interpretation of the piece, including any compromises made;
 - citations/references?
 - Who would have performed it?
 - Was the documentation organized and legible?
 - Was a copy (and transcription &/or translation, if necessary) of the score included?
 - If it was an original piece, how was it based on a period model?
- **For spoken poems, stories, plays, or bardic-tradition vocal music:**
 - Was a general description and/or purpose or type of piece performed given?
 - Did the documentation lists dates and places when it would have been performed?
 - Who would have performed it?
 - Were drawings, pictures, and diagrams included that pertain to the piece?
 - Was justification of mixing period and modern music included if it was done?
 - Was there discussion of the performance techniques chosen?
 - Did it include references to similar performances in period?
 - Were unusual or important aspects of the music or spoken piece made known in the documentation?
 - Did the entrant cite examples, list sources, and include a bibliography?
- **For dance:**
 - Was the general description and/or purpose of the dance given?
 - Did the documentation lists dates and places when music, steps, and any special costumes would have been used?
 - Were drawings, pictures, and diagrams included?
 - Was justification of mixing period and modern music or dance steps included?
 - Was this an original dance based on period steps and styles?
 - Who would have performed it?
 - Did the entrant cite examples, list sources, and include a bibliography?

Complexity:

- **For instrumental music and vocal music (chorale, madrigal, religious):**
 - Was this a solo or ensemble performance?
 - How involved was the piece performed with respect to the number of parts &/or the complexity of parts (with respect to tempo(s), range, and overall intricacy)?
 - Did the entrant(s) use a modern edition or develop an original transcription?

- What was the degree of difficulty of vocal &/or instrumental techniques attempted?
- If vocal, how difficult were linguistic &/or pronunciation issues?
- Were any special costumes or props created or used?
- **For spoken poems, stories, plays or bardic-tradition vocal music:**
 - What was the complexity and variety of piece performed?
 - Did the entrant develop it from a period source, use a modern translation, or is this an original composition?
 - Was there difficulty of execution of the techniques?
 - Was this a solo or ensemble performance?
 - Were any special costumes or props used?
 - What was the difficulty of performing techniques?
 - Was it a physically challenging or complex, intricate presentation?
- **For dance:**
 - What was the complexity and variety of steps, sequences, and music?
 - Did the entrant develop it from a period source, use a modern translation, or was this an original work?
 - Was there difficulty of execution of the techniques?
 - Were any props, special costumes, or live musicians used?
 - Was this a solo or ensemble performance?
 - Was the dance physically challenging, complex or did it require a particularly intricate presentation?

Creativity:

- **For instrumental music and vocal music (chorale, madrigal, religious):**
 - Did the performer(s) add embellishment &/or ornamentation to the piece?
 - Was the piece modified to match the capabilities of the performer(s)?
 - Overall, did the performer(s) use any special techniques to enhance the performance?
- **For spoken poems, stories, plays, or bardic-tradition vocal music:**
 - Was the entry creative?
 - Did the entrant make an exact copy of a period piece?
 - Did the entrant base an original work in the style of a period piece?
 - How much did the entrant's piece differ from the original?
 - If vocal music, did the performer add any appropriate vocal embellishments?
- **For dance:**
 - Did the entrant make an exact copy of a period piece?
 - Did the entrant base an original work on a period piece?
 - How much did the entrant's piece differ from the original?

Authenticity:

- **For instrumental music and vocal music (chorale, madrigal, religious):**
 - If instrumental or mixed ensemble, were pre-1600 or modern instruments used?
 - Did the performance adhere to the interpretation (including tempi, phrasing, articulation, ornamentation/embellishment, etc.), vocal &/or instrumental performance styles & techniques, and (if ensemble) vocal &/or instrumental combination in keeping with the stated time period and culture of the piece?

- If vocal, was the use of language and linguistic elements in keeping with the stated time frame and culture?
- If compromises were made, did the entrant(s) explain these?
- Overall, to what degree would this performance have fitted into and been accepted in the setting of the stated time period and culture?
- **For spoken poems, stories, plays or bardic-tradition vocal music:**
 - To what degree had the entrant gone to use period techniques, structures and processes to create the entry?
 - If modern substitutes or conventions were used, did the entrant explain why?
 - Did the spoken or sung piece give the appearance and impression of period work be it song, story, poem or play?
- **For dance:**
 - To what degree had the entrant gone to use period steps, music, and embellishments create the entry?
 - If modern substitutes or conventions were used, did the entrant explain why?
 - Did the dance give the appearance and impression of period dance?
 - Did it seem appropriate to the type of dance stated in the documentation?

Aesthetic qualities:

- **For instrumental music and vocal music (chorale, madrigal, religious):**
 - Was the performance smooth?
 - Did the performance sound polished?
 - If there were any mistakes, was recovery good?
 - Were pitch, rhythm, tempo, and overall energy level maintained?
 - Were the expression, interpretation, and any ornamentation of the piece well executed?
 - If an ensemble performance, was the blend and overall sound good?
 - If vocal, were linguistic elements consistent and well handled?
 - Did the entrant(s) use special costuming or props, and did these enhance or detract from the performance?
 - Did the performer(s) appear to enjoy themselves?
- **For spoken poems, stories, plays or bardic-tradition vocal music:**
 - Was the performance smooth?
 - Did the performance sound polished?
 - If there were any mistakes, was recovery good?
 - Did the entrant use special costuming or props and did they enhance or detract from the performance?
 - Were the vocal expression and interpretation and ornamentation of the piece appropriate?
 - Did the performer(s) enjoy themselves?
 - Were you moved, entertained, or informed by the selection?
- **For dance:**
 - Was the performance smooth?
 - Were the dance steps and music periods appropriately combined?
 - If there were any mistakes, was recovery good?
 - Did the entrant use special costuming or props and did they enhance or detract from the performance?

- Did the entrants enjoy the dance?
- Were the style and props/costumes authentic to the period of the dance?

Workmanship:

- **For instrumental music and vocal music (chorale, madrigal, religious):**
 - How well did the performer(s) handle:
 - support & pitch;
 - tone;
 - rhythm(s);
 - tempi;
 - articulation;
 - phrasing; and,
 - any embellishment or ornamentation?
 - Were rhythm(s), tempi, phrasing, articulation, and any embellishment/ornamentation logical and appropriate to the piece?
 - Were pre-1600 techniques used?
 - If vocal, were pronunciation, accentuation, and other linguistic elements consistent and practiced?
 - Was the performance clearly audible, and did it convey the appropriate emotion and hold the audience interest?
 - Were the performers at ease and practiced?
- **For spoken poems, stories, plays or bardic-tradition vocal music:**
 - Was the voice properly supported and in tune?
 - Were articulation and enunciation clear?
 - Were rhythm, tempi, phrasing, and articulation logical and appropriate to the piece?
 - Was the performance clearly audible and visible?
 - Did it convey the appropriate emotion and hold the audience interest?
 - Were period techniques used?
 - Was the piece memorized?
 - Were the performers at ease and practiced?
- **For dance:**
 - Were the techniques, steps, and gestures used appropriate to the period of the dance?
 - Were steps and motions sure, graceful, and in time with the music?
 - Were the figures danced well balanced and executed?
 - Was the dance directed at the audience and did it capture their attention?
 - Was the dance memorized?
 - Were upper body movements appropriate to this dance?
 - Were the dancers at ease and practiced?