

Musical Performance Evaluation Criteria:

I. Dynamics

Are they generally effective? If not, where and why?

Which suffers the most, soft or loud dynamics?

If there seem to be dynamic issues, what is the specific cause? (i.e. equipment, concept, room, staging?)

Is the dynamic range used effectively for situations of contrast? Are dynamics effectively paced?

What about balance between the instruments?

Are dynamics being paced throughout the sections, by all of the performers?

II. Note Preparation

Are the melodies being played from memory, and are there any mistakes?

Do any of the passages sound strained or forced. If not, where and why?

Is the playing technique relaxed and in control? Why or why not? Where specifically, and what is the solution?

Is there any issue with endurance? Do most mistakes come early or late in the work?

Melodic Line concept - Are we hearing music or a series of notes?

III. Soloing

Are the solos memorable?

Are the soloists making the changes?

Is there use of motives or riffs? When and where?

Are the solo phases balanced in length?

Are there instances of pattern based passages that occur?

Are there any clichés being used?

Is the melody ever used as a source of improvisation material?

Any use of quotes from other tunes?

IV. Rhythm

Are the rhythms generally correct? If not, where specifically are the issues?

Is there a convincing feel of subdivisions or pulse?

Is the swing feel convincing when used?

Are the rhythms serving the total musical idea?

Are the rhythms flexible yet solid?

V. Tempo

Is there a good choice of tempo for all movements, or pieces?

Is the tempo stable and consistent? If not where? And why?

Is the use of rubato, accelerando, and ritardando expressive and controlled?

Is there any metric modulation or hemiola, and are they any trouble to the performer?

Are the tempo relationships organic, or do they seem arbitrary and/or forced?

Is the Groove authentic or not? Are all the performers locked into the groove?

VI. Articulation

Is the articulation literally correct?

Is it well defined, as in 't' or 'd.?'

Is the line concept legato? Does articulation interrupt the melodic line

Is the use of staccato appropriate to the style?

Is there any slap-tonguing or undefined articulation?
Are there any unintended accents?
Are the various articulations clear, e.g. marcato/staccato, fp/sfz?
Picking style appropriate?

VII. Tone and Intonation

Is the tone quality consistently musical at all dynamics? Is the pitch stable at all dynamics?
Does Vibrato enhance the musicality?
Does the vibrato effect the pitch?
Is the sound being produced on each instrument appropriate to the situation?
Are there instances of scooping, or un-centered pitch? Are there any intonation issues between instruments, or only within the soloist? What notes, positions, or registers are a problem? And how to solve?

VIII. Performance Manner

How does the performer appear on stage? Are there any nervous issues, especially early on?
Are the performers fulfilling their specific roles in the group? How could it be improved?
Is there too much unity or variety in the performers?
What about comping? Are there any conflicts, and how is the interplay between piano, guitar, and snare drum interjections?
Is everyone relaxed and confident? Do they ever appear uneasy?
When speaking can they be heard clearly?
What about their body language, does it detract or add to the spirit of the music?
Is the stage setup conducive to communication between the performers and the audience?
Where and why?
How are the performers compensating for the sound characteristics of the concert room?
Was the pacing of the program well-thought out? Does it enhance the overall program?
Is the length of the program appropriate?
Did the performer leave the stage at appropriate times?
Does the bow look comfortable?
How was the audience reaction?
Comprehension of the music:
-Are the stylistic characteristics emerging in the performance?
-Does the performer understand the performer's intentions?
-For earlier music, is there an understanding of historical practices; is this informing the interpretation?
-if a transcription: how does the arrangement differ from the original?

IX. Equipment

Is the equipment of good quality and in good working order? Are there any issues with, reeds, strings, picks, cords, amps, etc.?
Is the lighting of the stage appropriate for the ensemble?