

OMTA Rating System for Piano

Characteristics of a I+ Performance:

Correct notes and rhythms
Correct articulations (legato, staccato, tenuto, portato, etc.)
Observation of note groupings and phrase shaping
Continuity and flow
Small mistakes do not detract from the overall performance
Appropriate tempo
Tempo steadiness and observation of expressive tempo changes (rit., accel, etc.)
Dynamic contrasts and expressive dynamic changes (cresc., dim., etc.)
Memory security
Balance between melody and accompaniment
Correct pedaling and pedal technique
Appropriate style/ mood

I+ performances should be accurate, artistic, engaging, confident and musically convincing.

I Rating: A well-prepared, accurate performance, but lacks the polish, style and expressiveness of a I+ performance. There are some minor deficiencies in some of the elements listed above. A promising start, but not quite there.

I- Rating: The student demonstrates some accomplishment and preparation, but there are some deficiencies that might include memory slips that detract from the performance, tempo problems, lack of dynamics and expressiveness, incorrect pedaling and problems with technique. However, there is enough accuracy and musicality to merit some form of I rating.

II Rating: The student demonstrates a lack of preparation that could include significant memory slips, inaccuracies in notes, rhythms and articulations, and lack of expression. The piece is not performance ready.

III Rating: The student is very unprepared and the performance breaks down.

IV Rating: A “theoretical” rating that should not be used in any circumstances.

Criteria apply equally to both District and State Achievement Auditions.

The quality of the performance determines the rating, not the length or difficulty of the repertoire.

If a student is unable to complete his/her performance he/she will receive a critique only and no rating. In addition, if a student arrives at District or State Achievement with a piece that does not meet the OMTA guidelines or is different from what was registered, he/she will play for critique only and no rating.