

OMTA Rating System for Strings

Characteristics of a I+ Performance:

Resonant tone and excellent intonation
Correct notes and rhythms
Correct articulations (staccato, legato, 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.)
Observation of dynamics and expressive dynamic changes
Memory Security (if played by memory)
Appropriate style and mood

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

I Rating: A well-prepared, accurate performance that lacks the polish, style and expressiveness of a I+ performance. Full resonance of tone is lacking and there may be intonation inaccuracies. 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 may include memory slips that detract from the performance, tempo problems, or lack of dynamics and expressiveness. Tone and intonation need work, but are progressing. There is enough accuracy and musicality to merit some form of I rating.

II Rating: The student demonstrates lack of preparation in a number of areas, including significant issues with accuracy. Tone and intonation are deficient and show inadequate study.

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

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.