## Performance Information

# TCSAAL Small Ensemble Instrumental Competition - Scoring Rubric

| Criteria | Score | Notes |
|---|---|---|
| **TONE** | **____/10** | |
| **INTONATION** | **____/10** | |
| **ARTICULATION**<br>Attacks and releases/ Slurring | **____/10** | |
| **ACCURACY**<br>Note Accuracy / Rhythmic accuracy | **____/10** | |
| **DYNAMICS** | **____/10** | |
| **BALANCE AND BLEND** | **____/10** | |
| **INTERPRETATION**<br>Phrasing / Expression / Tempo / Style | **____/10** | |
| **PRECISION AND CONTROL** | **____/10** | |
| **PRESENTATION** | **____/10** | |
| **SELECTION**<br>Difficulty | **____/10** | |

| CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION | CATEGORY | DESCRIPTION |
|---|---|---|---|
| **TONE** | 9–10: Beautiful, well-supported tone from all players; consistent richness and clarity throughout ranges; tone quality enhances ensemble blend. | **BALANCE AND BLEND** | 9–10: Excellent ensemble blend; melody and harmony are balanced naturally. |
| | 7–8: Generally strong tone; minor inconsistencies or moments of imbalance. | | 7–8: Generally balanced sound; minor overpowering or uneven sections. |
| | 5–6: Tone occasionally thin, harsh, or unfocused; uneven tone quality across ensemble. | | 5–6: Some imbalance between instruments or voices; inconsistent blend. |
| | 3–4: Frequent tonal issues; weak or strained sound. | | 3–4: Frequent imbalance; one or more parts dominate or disappear. |
| | 1–2: Poor tone quality throughout; no blend or tonal support. | | 1–2: Poor balance and blend throughout; ensemble lacks cohesion. |
| **INTONATION** | 9–10: Outstanding tuning within and across instruments; ensemble consistently in tune in all registers. | **INTERPRETATION** Phrasing / Expression / Tempo / Style | 9–10: Artistic, expressive phrasing and shaping; tempo and style are appropriate and unified; ensemble displays deep musical understanding. |
| | 7–8: Mostly accurate intonation; occasional mismatches between parts. | | 7–8: Solid interpretation; expressive phrasing mostly consistent; minor stylistic lapses. |
| | 5–6: Noticeable tuning problems in certain sections or chords. | | 5–6: Some phrasing and expression present; interpretation occasionally mechanical. |
| | 3–4: Frequent intonation issues affecting musical unity. | | 3–4: Limited expressiveness or inconsistent tempo; unclear stylistic approach. |
| | 1–2: Ensemble consistently out of tune; severely impacts performance quality. | | 1–2: No interpretive cohesion; performance lacks style or emotion. |
| **ARTICULATION** Attacks and releases/ Slurring | 9–10: Attacks are clean and precise; releases coordinated; articulation style matches musical intent perfectly. | **PRECISION AND CONTROL** | 9–10: Ensemble performs with tight synchronization, control, and confidence; technical passages are clean and precise. |
| | 7–8: Clear articulation; minor inconsistencies in attacks or releases. | | 7–8: Generally precise; small lapses in control or coordination. |
| | 5–6: Some unclear or uneven articulation; slurs occasionally imprecise. | | 5–6: Several moments of looseness; ensemble occasionally uncoordinated. |
| | 3–4: Frequent articulation errors; unclear coordination between players. | | 3–4: Frequent control problems; ensemble struggles to stay together. |
| | 1–2: Articulation lacks clarity and control throughout. | | 1–2: Performance lacks precision and ensemble unity. |
| **ACCURACY** Note Accuracy / Rhythmic accuracy | 9–10: Excellent rhythmic precision and note accuracy; ensemble highly coordinated. | **PRESENTATION** | 9–10: Professional and poised stage demeanor; confident entry, posture, and communication; clear ensemble focus. |
| | 7–8: Mostly accurate; minor rhythmic discrepancies or wrong notes. | | 7–8: Generally confident presentation; minor signs of nervousness or distraction. |
| | 5–6: Occasional rhythmic unevenness or pitch errors; ensemble timing inconsistent. | | 5–6: Acceptable presentation; somewhat disengaged or uncertain. |
| | 3–4: Frequent mistakes in rhythm or pitch disrupting performance. | | 3–4: Uneasy stage presence; posture or focus inconsistent. |
| | 1–2: Performance lacks rhythmic and pitch stability. | | 1–2: Lacks professionalism or attention to stage etiquette. |
| **DYNAMICS** | 9–10: Wide dynamic range; expressive use of volume adds depth and contrast. | **SELECTION** Difficulty | 9–10: Piece demonstrates high technical and musical challenge; appropriate and impressive for ensemble skill level. |
| | 7–8: Some dynamic contrast evident; could use more variety or balance. | | 7–8: Piece matches ensemble ability; some challenge present. |
| | 5–6: Limited dynamic shaping; contrast present but inconsistent. | | 5–6: Appropriate but moderate difficulty; limited range or depth. |
| | 3–4: Minimal dynamic variation; performance feels flat. | | 3–4: Below ability level or lacks musical complexity. |
| | 1–2: No dynamic control or expression. | | 1–2: Selection too simple or unsuitable for competition level. |