



QUALITY OF SOUND

• Is the sound of the ensemble in the developing stages or fully mature?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

BALANCE & BLEND

• How is the overall balance of the ensemble? • How is the balance within the saxophones? • How is the balance within the trumpets? • How is the balance within the trombones? • How is the balance within the rhythm section? • How is the balance between the rhythm section and the horns? • Are the extreme dimensions of the ensemble audible and in tune? • Are the inside voices of the ensemble audible and in tune? • Does the balance stay intact or is it distorted when moving through different volume levels? • Does the ensemble match sounds? • Is there a “ring” with each section?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

INTONATION

• How is the intonation of individuals? • How is the intonation of lead players? • How is the intonation of each section? • How is the intonation of the full ensemble? • How is the intonation at different dynamic levels? • How is the intonation of the ensemble at unisons, octaves and chords?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

TIME

• Is the time rushing? • Is the time dragging? • Does the ensemble “lay back” when needed?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

PHRASING

• How is the concept of style....does it swing, bop, rock, funk, bossa, samba, etc.? • Is the jazz language understood? • Are phrases connected? • Are phrases smooth and flowing?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

DYNAMICS

• Is there a musical use of dynamics? • Is there a shaping of phrases with dynamics? • Are dynamics misused, overdone or beyond the context of the piece? • Is there shading, expression and sensitivity of dynamics behind the soloist? • Is there an energy level within the band at different dynamic levels? • Is the time of the band still good at different dynamic levels?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

PRECISION & TECHNIQUE

• How is the precision of the attacks? • How is the precision of the releases (early or late)? • How is the precision of the articulations? • How is the precision of the rhythmic figures? • How is the facility of individuals? • How is the facility of sections? • How is the facility of the ensemble?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

RHYTHM SECTION

• How is the drum feel? • How is the drum support (preparation, fills, drive)? • How is the comping and fills of the piano/guitar/mallets? • How is the rhythm section punctuation? • How is the rhythm section energy behind the band? • How is the rhythm section energy behind the soloists? • How is the rhythm section communication with the horns? • How is the rhythm section communication with one another? • How well do the horns play off of the rhythm section? • How well does the rhythm section provide musical leadership?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

SOLOISTS

• How is the style? • How is the tone quality? • How is the rhythmic drive and energy? • How is the projection? • How is the musical confidence? • Is it a written solo or is it improvised? • Is the solo within the changes? • What is the quality of melodic development? • What is the quality of rhythmic development? • What is the level of harmonic understanding? • Is there structure (cadence points, climax, telling a story)? • Is there emotion (or mood)? • Is there spontaneity? • Is there communication with the audience? • Is there communication and interaction with the rhythm section?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

MUSICAL EMOTION & PRESENTATION

• How is the feel/groove of the music? • How is the intensity/energy of the music? • Is the "soul" or "spirit" of the music understood? • Are the members of the ensemble listening to one another? • Is there body language within the band while performing? • Is there a musical confidence within the band while performing? • Is there communication with the audience? • Does the band visually display some of its musical emotion (energy)? • Is there spontaneity?

1 2 3 4 5 6 7 8 9 10

Three things that the ensemble could work on to improve its performance:

1)

2)

3)

Three positives that the ensemble is already doing:

1)

2)

3)

Judge: _____ **TOTAL SCORE:** _____