



Rating Scale:    **10-9 Outstanding**        **8-7 Excellent**        **6-5 Good**        **4-1 Needs Improvement**  
A rating of "10" is reserved for an **outstanding performance by memory**.  
A performance with two ratings of "10" is marked **with distinction**.

### **10-9 Outstanding**

- A score of "10" is reserved for students who perform with musicality, artistry, security, accuracy, and by memory.
- A score of "9" is given for a performance that is a "10" but is NOT memorized. A score of "9" may also be given for a performance that has a minor deficiency in one area, but it does not detract from the overall performance.
- If a student receives two marks of "10," their sheet is marked by a "with distinction" seal.

### **8-7 Excellent**

- Both an "8" and "7" are given for students who are well-prepared but could benefit from more coaching and practice time to refine the performance.
- A score of "8" is an accurate and musical performance that is deficient in one area. For instance, the piece may be performed securely and accurately but lacks dynamic contrast. Or, the performance may be accurate and have great dynamics, but is performed at an inappropriate tempo.
- A score of "7" is an accurate and musical performance that is deficient in two areas. For example, the performance is accurate but lacks attention to dynamics and articulation. Or, the performance is musical but has many issues in note and rhythm accuracy. A mark of "7" would not be considered "recital ready."

### **6-5 Good**

- Both a "6" and "5" are given for students who need more practice time to solidify and refine the performance. This performance would not pass the NSMS "notes and rhythms" standard for repertoire classes.
- A score of "6" is not accurate and not musical overall, but there is some redeeming quality, such as dynamic contrast or a strong sense of pulse.
- A score of "5" is not accurate and not musical, and the student may struggle to perform the complete piece.

### **4-1 Needs Improvement**

- This rating category is reserved for students who are totally unprepared for the performance and cannot even complete the piece.

#### Areas to consider in the rating:

- |                  |                               |
|------------------|-------------------------------|
| - Stage presence | - Dynamics                    |
| - Accuracy       | - Phrasing                    |
| - Pulse          | - Articulation                |
| - Tempo          | - Style (including pedaling)  |
| - Tone           | - Memorization (if indicated) |

\*Hand position and posture should NOT factor in your rating but should be part of your general remarks and comments.



Rating Scale:    **10-9 Outstanding**        **8-7 Excellent**        **6-5 Good**        **4-1 Needs Improvement**  
If the majority of skills are "10" and the remainder are "9", it is marked **with distinction**.

**10-9 Outstanding**

- A score of "10" is reserved for a skill played with accuracy, ease, and fluency.
- A score of "9" is for a skill that has a small deficiency that does not distract from the ease and fluency of the performance.
- If the majority of skills are "10" and the remainder are "9," the sheet is marked by a "with distinction" seal.

**8-7 Excellent**

- Both an "8" and "7" are given for students who are well-prepared but do not display the ease and security of an "outstanding" mark.
- A score of "8" is an accurate skill that is deficient in one area. For instance, the skill may be played too slowly, or there were minor errors in fingering.
- A score of "7" is generally accurate skill that is deficient in two areas. For example, the skill may be played with one or two wrong notes and slight hesitations in pulse.

**6-5 Good**

- Both a "6" and "5" are given for students who need more practice time to solidify the skill.
- A score of "6" has several wrong notes and hesitations, but the student displays a general understanding/ability.
- A score of "5" is not accurate and the student may struggle to complete the skill.

**4-1 Needs Improvement**

- This rating category is reserved for students who are totally unprepared for the skill and cannot complete the skill.

Areas to consider in the rating:

- |                    |                      |
|--------------------|----------------------|
| - Note accuracy    | - Tone quality       |
| - Control of pulse | - Tempo of the skill |
| - Fingering        | - Fluency and ease   |

\*Hand position and posture should NOT factor in your rating but should be part of your general remarks and comments.