

PERCUSSION VOCABULARY

Musicianship/Technique & Execution

Musicianship / Artistry - The percussion section's ability to demonstrate a mature and professional approach to their performance.

Balance / Blend - The proper volume level of the percussion section in relationship to the ensemble and the entire band. The clarity and balance of the percussion ensemble within its own section and with the wind sounds.

Expression / Dynamics - Effective demonstration of musical expression and the appropriate use of different dynamic levels.

Accuracy / Clarity - The proper performance of rhythms and alignment/timing within the section as well as across the ensemble.

Technique / Uniformity - Demonstrate appropriate technique and proper handling of implements and the physical approach to the instrument as well as uniformity of technique within the field percussion and front ensemble.

Performance Effect

Coordination / Contribution - Consider the percussion sections ability to enhance both the musical and visual portions of the overall music program.

Showmanship / Intensity / Emotion - The performer's attitude and input to the performance. The performer's ability to elicit interest and excitement from the audience.

Style / Interpretation - The percussion section's ability to perform and convey the proper musical style of the music being performed.

Visual Execution - The execution of visual performance that the section communicates to the audience. If the section has field percussion, this will include marching and maneuvering. This also includes the visual performance, appearance and professionalism of the front ensemble

Tuning & Implement Selection - Appropriate sound and pitch from all tunable percussion instruments, including field percussion, concert bass, concert toms, timpani, etc. Use of suitable type of sticks or mallets to properly convey the musical style being performed.

Construction and Content - Evaluate each sub caption above based on the criteria. Performances are to be evaluated with the understanding that the achievement level must be determined by the construction and content of the program (what) in combination with the performance level that is being demonstrated (how). Judges are not to consider one of these elements without considering the other. **Always consider both front ensemble and field percussion in all areas.**

Listed below are some additional items or areas to consider when evaluating the construction and content of a program:

Musical Demand - The musical requirements that are placed on the percussion section. Consider the success of the section in performing the musical program.

Technical Demand - The physical requirements that are placed on the members. Consider the tempo, complexity and exposure that is required of the student.

Creativity / Variety - Consider the imaginative and expressive approach to the program. Also, consider innovative ideas or new interpretations of old ideas.

Staging / Presentation – Field placement of the percussion section. Consider proper placement for both musical and visual needs. Consider the integration of the percussion into the overall drill design.

Integration of Front Ensemble – The quality of musical opportunities for pit percussionist including exposure, contribution to the percussion arrangement, musical compatibility of pit and battery parts and relative demand of pit to battery music.

Percussion Evaluation Criteria

	Box 1 Novice 0-39	Box 2 Apprentice 40-59	Box 3 Proficient 60-79	Box 4 Distinguished 80-89	Box 5 Distinguished 90-100
Musicianship Technique Execution (100)	<p>There is little or no communication of musicianship or artistry.</p> <p>Ensemble balance and blend are not achieved.</p> <p>There is no expression or dynamic variety.</p> <p>There is a lack of rhythmic accuracy and clarity.</p> <p>There is little or no display of technique or uniformity.</p>	<p>There is an inconsistent display of achievement in the communication of musical artistry.</p> <p>Ensemble balance and blend are rarely achieved.</p> <p>The range of expression and dynamic variety is very limited.</p> <p>Rhythmical accuracy and clarity are seldom achieved.</p> <p>There is an occasional display of uniformity and understanding of technique.</p>	<p>Performers display an average level of achievement in the communication of musicianship and artistry.</p> <p>Attempts for balance and blend are evident but inconsistent.</p> <p>Expressive elements and dynamics are evident but sometimes lacking.</p> <p>Rhythmical accuracy and clarity are achieved through most of the performance.</p> <p>Most performers display uniformity and understanding of technique.</p>	<p>Performers display a high level in the communication of musicianship and artistry.</p> <p>Proper balance and blend is achieved. Lapses are infrequent and minor.</p> <p>Expressive elements and dynamics are utilized to a fairly high degree.</p> <p>Rhythmical accuracy and clarity are achieved through the performance. Lapses are infrequent and minor.</p> <p>Almost all performers display uniformity and understanding of technique.</p>	<p>Performers display superior achievement in the communication of musicianship and artistry.</p> <p>There is outstanding achievement of proper balance and blend by the entire percussion section.</p> <p>Expressive elements and dynamics are utilized to a very high degree.</p> <p>Rhythmical accuracy and clarity is exemplary through the performance.</p> <p>All performers display uniformity and understanding of technique.</p>
Performance Effect (100)	<p>There is little or no enhancement of the musical or visual program.</p> <p>There is little or no showmanship or emotional involvement.</p> <p>There is a lack of clarity in style and interpretation.</p> <p>No communication by the performers to demonstrate their understanding of the visual performance.</p> <p>Instruments have not been tuned properly and stick and mallet choices are not suitable for the musical style.</p>	<p>There is some enhancement of the musical and visual portions of the overall music program.</p> <p>Emotional involvement and showmanship is lacking. Performance seems mechanical and uninspired.</p> <p>Style or interpretation is seldom conveyed.</p> <p>Communication of visual intent is lacking.</p> <p>Some areas of instrument tuning need to be addressed and some stick and mallet choices are not suitable for the musical style.</p>	<p>There is moderate success in the enhancement of the musical and visual portions of the overall music program.</p> <p>The audience is entertained, although the level of emotion and showmanship is diminished.</p> <p>Interpretation and musical style is conveyed by most performers.</p> <p>Performers demonstrate an average understanding of their role in the visual performance.</p> <p>Instrument tuning is good and the appliances are suitable for the musical style.</p>	<p>There is a consistent high quality of enhancement of the musical and visual portions of the overall music program.</p> <p>The audience is constantly entertained and often affected by the display of intensities of emotional involvement and showmanship.</p> <p>An excellent style and interpretation is conveyed by the ensemble.</p> <p>Performers demonstrate a consistently high level of understanding and communication of their role in the visual performance.</p> <p>Instrument tuning is excellent and proper or acceptable appliances are used in most all occasions.</p>	<p>There is superior enhancement of the musical and visual portions of the overall music program.</p> <p>The audience is constantly entertained and absorbed by the display of intensities of emotional involvement and showmanship.</p> <p>An excellent style and interpretation is maximized by the entire ensemble.</p> <p>Performers demonstrate a superior level of understanding their visual responsibilities.</p> <p>Instrument tuning is at the highest level and sticks and mallets are appropriate throughout the performance.</p>

The Kentucky format percussion evaluation form is available at <http://www.kyband.com/judgingsheet>.

The Kentucky Format Percussion Evaluation Form was designed using the 2011 KMEA Marching Contests Judging Sheets as a template. One of the original intentions of this sheet is to provide a modern style form that will permit the host of KMEA sanctioned contest to give the same instructions to the percussion judge as they will present to the band judges during the judge orientation meeting. Several weeks have gone into the preparation of this sheet. Although this sheet is not officially endorsed by any organization and is ultimately a product of the kyband.com website, we did solicit input from over 30 percussion instructors from Kentucky including members of the Percussive Arts Society Kentucky Chapter Executive Committee, Percussion Professors from Kentucky Universities, Kentucky High School Band Directors and High School Percussion Instructors. This form includes the traditional captions and sub-captions of most common percussion assessment sheets. It was also designed to encourage the adjudicator to consider the front ensemble during all stages of the assessment. An additional feature of this sheet is the ability to reward those sections that march field percussion without penalizing groups that have chosen to ground their entire percussion ensemble. We would like to thank the many percussionists that contributed to this project.

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The original version of this sheet was created in 2008 using the KMEA template. It was updated in May 2011 to the current version. The Kentucky Format Marching Percussion Evaluation Form is designed to have the same appearance and to be used in a similar fashion to the KMEA Music Performance Judge Form. These forms have not been endorsed or approved by the Kentucky Music Educators Association Marching Band Committee or the Kentucky Chapter of the Percussive Arts Society.

For more information or to make suggestions regarding this form contact:

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