**Characteristics of an Outstanding Performance**

* Students perform with mature, characteristic sounds throughout the performance

• Pitches are centered and focused.

• Students perform with good balance/blend with only minor lapses that are quickly corrected.

• There is “near perfect” intonation within and between sections.

• Dynamic contrast is obvious and effective. Students perform with proper support and little or no distortion.

Students do not miss notes

• Manual dexterity and flexibility are near flawless with only minor flaws that recover quickly

• Precision and clarity are good at all tempos

• Rhythmic approach is uniform throughout the ensemble

• Articulation is appropriate and consistent throughout the performance

Students perform artistically with the appropriate musical style on all selections

• Students are very sensitive to musical phrasing, shaping phrases and giving direction to musical lines.

• Students give obvious attention to musical nuance and dynamic markings.

• Students perform the music at an appropriate tempo.

• Performers convey an artistic, energetic, and emotional understanding of the music to the audience.