

Scale Performance Levels-Symphonic Band

- 1-20 The student attempted to play the scale, but it is unrecognizable.
- 2-35 Tone quality may be poor and many of the notes are wrong, or the student did not finish the scale.
- 3-50 Some of the notes are correct. Tone quality may be poor and the correct range may not have been performed.
- 4-65 Most of the notes are correct, but rhythm may be uneven. Tone quality may not be refined, but would not be considered poor. The correct range was attempted, but may not have been completed.
- 5-70 All notes are correct. Rhythm is even or very close. Metronomic precision is even or very close. The correct range was performed.. Tone is developing properly, but may be inconsistent in the extreme ranges. Vibrato may or may not be present. Articulation is consistent, but may be in need of further attention.
- 6-80 Start and articulation are clear and tone quality is characteristic. Technique is even and there is not smearing. The scale is not perceived as slow. Rhythm is totally accurate regarding the subdivision of the quarter note in relation to the eighth notes: the scale does not rush or drag on the key notes. Metronomic precision is correct. Octave tuning has been addressed though there may be inconsistencies in the extreme ranges. Vibrato is present on long notes and the last note finishes the phrase musically.
- 6.5-85 Takes on all positive characteristics of a “6”, but at a faster tempo. There is melodic direction and the scale begins to take on a refined feeling.
- 7-8.5-90 Tempos are approaching the maximum for the instrument. Tone quality is consistent and characteristic over all ranges. Vibrato is refined and mature. Inconsistencies in pitch in extreme ranges may exist to a small degree. Articulation is clear over the range of the scale and does not cause distraction.
- 9-95 Maximum tempo is used for your instrument. The scale is well in tune and the performance is perceived as effortless. The performer plays the scale melodically with proper phrase direction, shape, and tonal energy: all elements of musicality are present.
- 10-100 There are no discernible flaws to the most discriminating listener. The presentation takes on all positive characteristics of a perfect performance at the required tempo.

Symphonic Band Expectation

Minimum score of 6 on every scale.

Your highest score will be reached by playing the easier scales at a faster tempo and the more difficult scales at a slower tempo.

***Consult your Band Objectives for scale tempo requirements.**

FAST AND SMEARY WILL NOT BE REWARDED.

