



### **Philosophy Statement**

The primary focus of *The Queen City Music Fest* is a quality evaluation program with an informal spirit. The Queen City Music Fest gives students the opportunity to prepare a piece(s) to the best of their ability and in return they are given personal feedback that encourages them to understand what they have done well and what they can continue to work on to make their performance even better.

Fundamental issues which suggest lack of preparation and/or significant learned errors will be addressed on the evaluations but in a manner that offers encouragement and recognition. The Queen City Music Fest is open to all piano students from Kindergarten to 12<sup>th</sup> Grade.

Evaluator preparation will include overall performance expectations and consistent standards. Evaluators will be expected to write thoughtful, thorough, and meaningful comments for every student performance.

### **Judging Criteria and Information**

A minimum of 1 and maximum of 5 stars will be given for each student performance whether performing 1 or more pieces. Students will receive a written comment sheet and the requisite number of stars will be indicated on the comment sheet. Queen City Music Fest believes that students should not be awarded inflated ratings and should only be given lower rating with substantial feedback and thorough evidence of performance lacking preparation and/or execution. Judging is subjective but QCMF judging orientation is committed to be fair and consistent.

**1 star** – the student shows up; clearly wants the experience but is not prepared for the performance – there are significant missed notes, rhythms and the performance is just not ready yet

**2 stars** – the student knows the piece from beginning to end, but there are too many stumbles/starts/stops to give a performance where any further evaluation can be measured

**3 stars** - the piece is recognizable but has stumbles and areas of weakness that are integral to the integrity of the piece; correct rhythms are measured with a higher weight than notes in most instances and if there are fundamental flaws with rhythm or learned errors that have not been corrected, 3 stars will be awarded

**4 stars** - it is generally secure and stable with some attention to detail; reasons why not a full 5 star-performance: not enough dynamic contrast, no attention to phrase shapes and musical line; some missed notes and/or rhythms and mechanical performance

**5 stars** - a musically engaging performance, executed with ease and significant musical intent with phrasing, dynamics, musical nuance, etc.

# Feedback Form



<b>Student:</b>	<b>Instrument:</b>	<b>Age:</b>
<b>Piece(s)/Composer(s):</b>		
<b>Location:</b>	<b>Date:</b>	<b>Time:</b>

Skills	Comments
Fundamentals (notes, rhythms, pulse)	
Flow (stability, continuity)	
Technical Ease	
Expression (dynamics, phrasing, articulation)	
Interpretation (style, character, performance)	

**Overall Remarks:**

**Evaluator:** \_\_\_\_\_

**Award:**

