

Criteria Mark Sheet – National Brass Band Championships 2016

Test Piece: The Journey of the Lone Wolf – Simon Dobson

Band number:

Band name:

	FAIR					GOOD					VERY GOOD					OUTSTANDING					SCORE
	-	-	-+	+	+	-	-	-+	+	+	-	-	-+	+	+	-	-	-+	+	+	
Technical accuracy	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Rhythmic precision and clarity	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Control of full dynamic range	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Ensemble precision	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Tuning/intonation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Band sound quality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Balance/clarity of textures	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Quality of soloists	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Overall understanding - direction and shaping of the entire work, phrasing, appropriate tempi and articulation of the music	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	
Total musicality from the band - style, commitment, elegance, beauty, control of all moods	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	11	12	13	14	15	16	17	18	19	20	

Short clarifying comments:

TOTAL

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Here is a detailed guide for allocation of marks, *which can be used at the 'judges' discretion*

Criteria for allocation of marks

Please note there are higher (+) and lower (-) descriptions for each section

	FAIR	GOOD	VERY GOOD	OUTSTANDING
Technical accuracy	+ A brave attempt with rather too many major errors.	+ Fine in most technical details but some quite frequent and noticeable small errors.	+ Virtually all details totally correct. Nothing major of concern.	+ Totally accurate, with no discernable errors. All details audible and executed to perfection.
	- Very noticeable and constant errors.	- Mostly clean but too frequent errors rather spoil the performance.	- A generally clean performance with one or two quite noticeable errors that do detract.	- An outstandingly accurate performance with only the tiniest of slips.
Rhythmic precision and clarity	+ Some quite noticeable rhythmic insecurities.	+ One or two rhythmic sections not played with enough clarity, but generally fine.	+ Virtually all details totally correct. Nothing major of concern.	+ Outstanding rhythmic playing, executed with total conviction from start to finish.
	- Disappointing attention to rhythmic detail.	- Whilst the impression is positive some lack of rhythmic detail detracts.	- Some slight cause for concern and possible lapses in clarity.	- A full grasp of all details executed with style and verve.
Control of full dynamic range	+ Use of dynamics is disappointing and extremes often not controlled or musical.	+ Composer's markings faithfully attempted throughout, but some noticeable rough or wild moments.	+ A very good use of dynamic contrasts with no serious lapses in detail or quality.	+ Outstandingly well controlled large dynamic range that shows the mark of true quality.
	- Frequent over blowing and/or disregard for the composers intentions.	- Good choice of dynamics but with either lack of contrasts or uncontrolled moments detracting.	- Impressive use of dynamics with only occasional over-blowing or loss of control.	- Very impressive use of dynamics that seems totally appropriate for the piece.
Ensemble precision	+ Ensemble precision needs some serious attention as frequent lapses cause concern.	+ Most ensemble moments played with precision and style, but some poor moments do concern.	+ Generally very good precision with all sections of the piece having a sense of unanimity.	+ Immaculate precision from beginning to end. A unanimous effort delivered with the utmost clarity and élan.
	- Poor sense of ensemble cohesion throughout.	- Several sections of concern where the sense of ensemble wavers.	- Ensemble precision is of a high level but one or two moments detract from an otherwise very good showing.	- Highly impressive sense of ensemble with discipline and musical cohesion in abundance.
Tuning/Intonation	+ Frequent tuning issues are a major disappointment in the performance.	+ A high level of general tuning but with frequent lapses in exposed sections or extremes of dynamics	+ Generally no areas for concern save for the odd moment, either individually or in the full band.	+ Totally convincing with no areas of tuning/intonation concerns whatsoever.
	- Very disappointing lack of attention to this facet of the performance.	- Tuning is a negative factor in the appreciation of the performance.	- Very good intonation but marred by a few poor moments that detract.	- Very impressive solo and section playing from start to finish. Almost faultless tuning.

Band sound quality	+ Band sound is not one of the strengths of the performance, perhaps harsh or thin sounds dominate.	+ A well sounding band but a few features just detract from the overall impression.	+ An impressive band sound with rich tones and lyrical beauty.	+ Tremendous brass band sound, enhanced by total control, balance and a sublime quality.
	- Not a beautiful sound, with lack of blend, warmth and quality.	- A band sound that lacks a little quality but still maintains a consistently good level.	- Very pleasing band sound with only a few colours missing.	- Outstanding sound quality which leaves a lasting impression
Balance/Clarity of textures	+ Not enough care taken with balance with one of two sections of the piece suffering very badly.	+ A generally good balance throughout, but the performance is less effective due to some balance issues.	+ Very good balance generally with only the slightest imperfection detected in one of two moments.	+ A sense of total balance throughout with all parts heard, and one senses a revelatory quality with respect to the score.
	- Disappointing balance for large sections of the piece.	- Some noticeable and frequent problems with balance.	- One or two moments where voices dominate, e.g. percussion not in balance.	- Outstanding balance, showing impressive and meticulous preparation and understanding.
Quality of soloists	+ Either nerves of fragility seem to be a factor here.	+ Fine playing but some insecure moments have a slightly negative effect on the performance	+ Very fine team of soloists who deliver with confidence and accuracy. Just the odd uncomfortable and noticeable moments.	+ All soloists perform with style, accuracy and beauty of tone, delivered with a sense of complete mastery.
	- Not the best day for all the band's soloists.	- Some very fine moments but rather too many errors on the day.	- Quality soloists but slight slips do detract.	- Outstanding solo playing with only the slightest detectable errors.
Overall understanding - direction and shaping of the entire work, phrasing, appropriate tempi and articulation of the music	+ Not a concise vision of the music at all. Strange choices of tempi, incoherent musical ideas	+ Good direction evident and most decisions seem to reflect well in the performance, but not totally unanimous	+ First class direction and shaping of the music. Moments of outstanding quality.	+ Outstanding direction and shaping of the music. Brilliantly conceived musical ideas, delivered to perfection by the band.
	-Very mediocre in direction with the players seemingly unsure how to perform the music	Some concerns about tempi, phrasing and shaping of the music. Some articulation concerns too.	-Very good direction and the band responds well to the controlling influence of the conductor	+ Highly impressive musical leadership, with the band almost totally unanimous in its delivery of the musical ideas
Total musicality from the band - style, commitment, elegance, beauty, control of all moods	+ The band and conductor never seemed really comfortable with the piece to try anything more than the notes. Very lack lustre.	+ Whilst a good performance, some musicality fails to communicate and moods seems conceived in a rather dull way.	+ Very good artistry shown, with all stylistic elements clearly realised with some really fine moments. Moods captured well, musicality really noticed and appreciated.	+ A totally convincing reading with every facet of the piece impressing, and continually impressive moments of sublime beauty with no weaknesses noticeable at all.
	- Lack of persuasive musical moments and band seem ill-equipped to perform as required.	- Some nice musical moments but the overall impression was not very persuasive or stylish.	- Overall a really fine reading with some captivating moments. Some truly beautiful moments from the band.	- Outstanding and impressive performance that really told a story and had moments of magic that transcended the notes. Fine portrayal of moods, all highly stylish.