

CONTEST POINTERS

"Things you should teach your participants before going to contest"

1. Be prepared! Know your music!! Relax and enjoy your music by having adequate preparation.
2. Arrive at least one hour ahead of your performance time. Check your performance room for acoustics, set-up, temperature, etc. so you feel more comfortable. See if they are on schedule, ahead or behind. Adjust your performance time accordingly.
3. Check your appearance - make your best impression.
4. Observe contest etiquette. Be a responsible contestant in the hallways, warm-up rooms, cafeteria and performance rooms.
5. **No recording devices of any kind in the performance room.**
6. Listen to other performers and compliment them.
7. High school students should bring money for medals if you wish to purchase them.
8. Be patient while waiting for your rating. Use the time to listen to others.
9. Be a good sport. Ratings are not a reflection of you, personally. They only reflect a single performance event as judged by one person.
10. The contest value is not in the rating, the value of the contest is in the learning.
11. The judge's opinion is subjective.
12. Appreciate your accompanist.
13. Wait a moment after performance to acknowledge applause.
14. Keep your lips, reeds, fingers, instrument, voice, etc. moist and warmed-up prior to the judge's O.K. to start.
15. Only use piano warm-up room just prior to your performance.
16. Make sure your accompanist is positioned so that your solo will be accompanied and not overpowered.
17. Do not eat just prior to performing. Brush your teeth before playing your wind instrument.
18. Make sure you have memorized your scales, have your measures numbered (both solos & ensembles) and have a published (not copied) copy of the score for the adjudicator (both solos & ensembles).

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