

Musical Priorities

Accuracy

Correct notes, fingerings, key signature, accidentals, correct partial, centered, audible, even?
(jazz improvisation)

Does the note choice reflect an understanding and control of the chord changes?

Rhythm

Are the fingers moving in time?

Does this include sub-division and complete accuracy?

(jazz improvisation)

Is the passage intended to be ahead, behind, or on the beat?

Is the rhythmic feel appropriate to the style?

Intonation

Are the intervals accurate in relation to one another (individually) and in relation to other members of the ensemble?

Tone Quality

Clear? Even? Open? Free? Resonant? Projected?

(jazz improvisation)

Does the sound concept fit with the musical context?

Articulation

Indicated by the composer or editor or as implied by the style of the piece...

Are the fingers and tongue coordinated?

(jazz improvisation)

Is the tongue being placed appropriately so that it propels the line forward and increases swing feeling? Is there any excessive slurring or tonguing?

Dynamics

Indicated by the composer or editor or as implied by the rise and fall of the musical line

(jazz improvisation)

Does the volume level fit with the interaction among the members of the ensemble?

Phrasing

The Organization of musical sentences (around targets) that provides connection of ideas

(jazz improvisation)

Is there enough space for phrases to be defined?

Do these phrases begin and end in reasonable harmonic locations?

Style

Establish integrity and remain consistent from phrase to phrase.

Is this passage march-like or song-like?

(jazz improvisation)

Are you playing like L. Armstrong on a W. Shaw tune?

Tempo

Is the speed exceeding the ability of the player(s) to execute all musical details with accuracy?

(jazz improvisation)

Does the speed allow for clear articulation and ideas?