



THE NATIONALS  
**MUSICFEST CANADA**  
FINALES NATIONALES

**Traditional Choral Listening Guide – Explanation of Terms**

**Sound:**

- Is the tone appropriate for the styles being performed
- Is the sound in each section blended. A good blend is achieved when each musician makes their tone part of the section rather than a separate distinct sound.
- Is the tone well supported, strong with controlled air
- Is the sound forced
- Is the music in tune
- Is the ensemble singing with uniform vowels

**Balance:**

- Is the melody always audible
- Are the chords full
- Can you hear everyone
- Are the sections well balanced
- Is the accompaniment overpowering or too soft

**Time/Rhythmic Feel:**

- Is there a good sense of rhythmic energy
- Is everyone in the ensemble working together
- Does the music speed up or slow down inappropriately

**Technique:**

- Do all the musicians have control of material
- Do they make the performance sound easy or do they struggle
- Does the ensemble follow the conductor
- A group sounds "tight" when everyone has the same concept of where notes begin and end.  
Do members of each section match one another
- Do the sections match each other

**Musicality :**

- Is there sufficient variety in dynamic (Volume) levels
- Is the music expressive when called for
- Does the group generate excitement at the appropriate time in each piece performed. One sign of a highly musical performance is positive audience response.
- Is there a good balance between the exciting and the emotional aspects of the performance
- Are there any changes in the mood

**Overall Impression:**

- Does the music sound easy or too difficult
- Are the pieces performed in a satisfying order
- Do the musicians appear at ease on stage
- What are your general impressions of attitude, appearance, and discipline



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Concert Choir Listening Report

Name of

Ensemble: \_\_\_\_\_

Category: \_\_\_\_\_

CLASS: \_\_\_\_\_

Prepared by: \_\_\_\_\_

Sound
Balance
Time/Rhythm
Technique
Musicality
Overall Impression