

Improvisation Rubric

Objective	Exemplary - 4	Proficient - 3	Developing - 2	Basic - 1
IN TONE				
Tone Quality	Tone is open, mature, resonant, focused, and well-supported throughout.	Tone is usually focused and well-supported. Minor breathing and embouchure problems occur in outer ranges and dynamics.	Tone is inconsistent and sometimes supported with a medium breath. Tone is thin, harsh, or uneven within different registers.	Sound is unsupported by the breath. Tone is thin, harsh, or sharp throughout the range. Correct tone production skills are missing.
IN TIME				
Tempo and Steady Beat	Maintains a steady beat through entire excerpt at teacher given tempo.	Maintains a steady beat through most of the excerpt at teacher given tempo.	Maintains a steady beat some of the time Plays at own tempo.	Rarely maintains a steady beat Plays at own tempo.
Rhythmic Accuracy	Rhythms are varied and idiomatic to the style of the music.	Rhythms are mostly varied and remain within the style of the music.	Rhythms are primarily repeated or do not fit the style of the music.	Rhythms are simple and repetitive or don't find the style of music.
IN TUNE				
Pitch Accuracy	Pitches are from the scale and chords of the excerpts.	Most pitches fit within the key and chords.	Several wrong or ill-fitting pitches are played.	Pitches are played unaware of the excerpt's tonality.
Tuning Accuracy	Accurate intonation control in all ranges and registers. Pitch adjustments are made instantly.	Minimal intonation control difficulties. Pitch adjustment is successful with errors isolated to extremes of range and dynamics. (1-2 errors)	Intonation control problems on some notes. Pitch adjustment skills are still developing and occur throughout performer's range. (3-4 errors)	Intonation control problems on many notes. Pitch adjustment skills are undeveloped, and the performer is not in tune with themselves. (5+ errors)
IN TOUCH				
Articulations and Dynamics	Notes and articulations are dynamic and match the emphasis of the beat.	Notes and articulations are varied and fit the general feel of the excerpt.	Notes and articulations are overly similar and do not emphasize the feel of the excerpt.	Notes and articulations are the same and do not emphasize or emphasize incorrectly the style of the excerpt.
Phrasing	Creates a natural musical line and phrase that feels like it has direction and pacing.	Creates a musical line that is mostly flowing and well paced.	The musical line is mostly flowing but feels jolty with stops or starts.	The musical line feels directionless or lacks pacing throughout the excerpt.
Style	Musical, confident, expressive, and correct style and interpretation throughout.	Accurate expression most of the time. Occasional lapses in style and/or interpretation.	Usually rigid and mechanical expression. Correct style and/or interpretation are often missing.	Correct style and/or interpretation are missing, or interpretations diminishes the performance.
TECHNICAL CONSIDERATIONS				
Posture	Holds instrument properly. Sits up straight with head up. Both feet flat on the floor.	Holds instrument properly. Sits up most of the time, head up. Feet flat on the floor most of the time.	Holds instrument properly. Sits up some of the time, head down. Legs/ankles crossed or off the floor.	Holds instrument improperly. Rarely sits up straight, head down. Legs/ankles crossed or off the floor.
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