

**SECTION F: INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE**  
*No adult accompanist or performer*

AN ENSEMBLE PERFORMANCE OF CONTRASTING PIECES				
Code	Categories	Year	Description	Time Limit
F1	Primary Recorder Ensemble	1-6		5 min
F2	Secondary Recorder Ensemble	7-12		8 min
F3	Primary String Ensemble	1-6		5 min
F4	Secondary String Ensemble	7-12		8 min
F5	Primary Brass Ensemble	1-6		5 min
F6	Secondary Brass Ensemble	7-12		8 min
F7	Primary Woodwind Ensemble	1-6		5 min
F8	Secondary Woodwind Ensemble	7-12		8 min
F9	Primary Percussion Ensemble	1-6		5 min
F10	Secondary Percussion Ensemble	7-12		8 min
F11	Chamber Music Ensemble	7-12		8 min
F12	Acoustic/Classical Guitar Ensemble	4-12		8 min
F13	Electric Guitar Ensemble	4-12		8 min
F14	Other Instrumental Ensemble	4-12		8 min
F15	Primary Concert Band	1-6	No more than <b>2 entries per school</b> may perform <b>on any one night</b> . Entry from combined schools allowed.	10 min
F16	Junior Concert Band	4-10	No more than <b>2 entries (in total) per school</b> may perform <b>on any one night</b> . Composite of primary & secondary students or beginning secondary band. Entry from combined schools allowed.	10 min
F17	Secondary Concert Band	7-12	No more than <b>2 entries (in total) per school</b> may perform <b>on any one night</b> . Entry from combined schools allowed.	20 min
F18	Symphonic Orchestra	7-12	No more than <b>2 entries (in total) per school</b> may perform <b>on any one night</b> . Entry from combined schools allowed.	20 min
F19	Big Band	7-12	Max <b>30</b> performers. No more than <b>3 entries (in total) per school</b> may perform <b>on any one night</b> .	15 min
F20	Jazz Combo	7-12	Max <b>12</b> performers. No more than <b>3 entries (in total) per school</b> may perform <b>on any one night</b> .	15 min
F21	Contemporary Band	4-12	Max <b>15</b> performers. No more than <b>3 entries (in total) per school</b> may perform on any one night. <b>NB: For composite schools:-</b> <b>Years 7 - 12: max bands - 3</b> <b>Years 4 - 6: max bands - 3</b>	12 min (This includes setup time)

## TESTING & TAGGING OF ALL ELECTRICAL CABLES & EQUIPMENT

**\*\* PLEASE** ensure that testing & tagging of ALL electrical cables and/or equipment have been passed by a qualified electrician, with a tag showing evidence of such.

If any faults occur within a venue as a result of your equipment not being passed & tagged, the cost of the call out fee for an electrician to rectify the fault will be charged to your school.

## GENERAL EDUCATIONAL AIMS & POLICY

Suitable Repertoire  
Care with Intonation  
Disciplined Ensemble  
Fine Musicianship  
Performance

An opportunity exists for ensembles to improve their performances by regular participation in the Festival.

Groups should concentrate on achieving discipline and control as an ensemble.

They will need to pay special attention to the control of dynamics to give an expressive performance.

## ENSEMBLES & BANDS

### Ensembles & Bands - Preparation Details:

- The selected pieces should be of a suitable range and difficulty.
- Students should be positioned efficiently and have good stage manners.
- Students need to know how to tune and stay tuned to the ensemble.
- Students should always play with good posture.
- Articulation needs to be thought through to support the musical phrases.
- Instrumentalists should play with good tone, vitality, control and enthusiasm.
- (F1-18) The instrumentalists should observe expression and other performance markings.
- With Big Band, Jazz Combo & Contemporary Band the instrumentalists should play musically and with expression.
- The conductor/leader needs to find imaginative ways to achieve a vital and interesting performance.
- Attention should be given to nuances and contrasts especially in repeated sections.
- The interpretation should be consistent and stylistically correct.
- Students need to know how to acknowledge the audience.
- There is a strict adherence to the set time limits.

## Ensembles & Bands - Organisational Details:

- Good quality recorded backing ONLY allowed for *Primary Ensemble* performances. Performers are responsible for providing backing equipment and have music ready to play.
- A drum kit and some percussion equipment will be provided at the venue for percussion ensemble performances.
- (F21) It is the school's responsibility to help select appropriate repertoire.
- (F21) A brief description on Entry Form (Item Info) to be read by a student from your band on introduction. Must include influences of style. In the case of 'own composition' entries, announcers should give further details on how the composition evolved, and acknowledge the individual writers and arrangers.
- Students should play from an original copy. (NOT a photocopy)
- The performance commences only AFTER the Adjudicator gives the signal.
- Student transport arrangements are a school responsibility.
- Not all students may be able to see the bands perform and be seated in the auditorium.
- **\*\*\*Teachers\*\*\* please note** that the time allocation IS inclusive of the setting up of instruments. Please keep to the strict timeframe so as to not delay performances to follow.
- It is the responsibility of ALL schools to have a **FIRST AID KIT** or adequate provisions at every performance. Each school is responsible for their own students.
- Individual instruments CANNOT be tuned on stage.
- (F12-13) Students are NOT PERMITTED to provide their own amplification for backing tracks.
- ALL stage plans must be supplied to the Catholic Arts Office as per the date stipulated on the Entry Form. If the plans are NOT received by the due date the item WILL BE INELIGIBLE for an award. Stage plans ARE required for:
  - Concert Bands
  - Symphonic Orchestras
  - Big Band,
  - Jazz Combo, *and*
  - Contemporary Band
- Ensembles: Sections F1–F14: Stage plans for these sections are also to be supplied to the Catholic Arts Office as per the date stipulated on the Entry Form. There are no lighting arrangements for this section.
- Percussion Ensembles: **\*\*Note to schools to bring extra percussion gear\*\***.

## DEFINITION: CONCERT BAND / SYMPHONIC ORCHESTRA (F15-18)

The traditional instrumentation of a Concert Band should be adhered to with regard to the music being performed. Schools may make use of a keyboard as a substitute instrument. However, if instrumentation is not correct, consideration should be given to entering the group as F14 (*'Other Instrumental Ensemble'*).

Concert Bands may perform with a vocalist. However, it should be noted that the adjudicator would class the voice as part of the instrumental line-up. No other accompaniment is allowed i.e. a choir.

### Concert Band / Symphonic Orchestra - Requirements

- No Student Limit
- Amplified / non-amplified instruments (NOTE\*\*\* Amplifiers not supplied at venue)
- 20 min performing time (*Secondary* - F17-18)
- 10 min performing time (*Primary* - F15 -16)
- No adult accompanist or performer.
- Can play *up to three pieces* of music within the time frame.
- IF you are *changing* OR *omitting* a piece from what you have submitted on your processed Entry Form, you will be INELIGIBLE for an award.
- *Stage plans* MUST be submitted to the Catholic Arts Office as per the *closing date* stipulated on the Entry Form. IF the plans are NOT received by the date the item will be INELIGIBLE for an award.

## DEFINITION: BIG BAND / JAZZ COMBO (F19-20)

- Big Band / Jazz Combo can encompass many distinctively different idioms including the following:
  - Jazz Band
  - Swing Band
  - Dixieland Band
  - Showband
  - Blues, *and*
  - Bbop (Progressive Jazz)
- **Jazz Combo** usually consists of smaller groups (e.g. less than 12 performers).  
**Big Band** consists of 12 to a maximum of 30 performers.
- Frontline singers may perform with bands in the Big Band / Jazz Combo Section.

### Big Band / Jazz Combo - Requirements:

- 30 members max on stage for Big Bands and 12 members max on stage for Jazz Combo.
- Costumes if wanted.
- Amplified/non amplified instruments.(Amplifiers not supplied at venue)
- 15 min performing time.
- NO adult accompanist OR performer.
- Can play up to three pieces of music within the time frame.
- IF you are *changing* OR *omitting* a piece from what you have submitted on your processed entry, you will be INELIGIBLE for an award.
- *Stage plans* MUST be submitted to the Catholic Arts Office as per the *closing date* stipulated on the Entry Form. IF the plans are NOT received by the date the item will be INELIGIBLE for an award.
- **\*\*\*NOTE:**

In the event that a performance of the Concert Band / Big Band /Jazz Combo Band Sections is nominated by the Adjudicator to receive the Section Shield, AND it is selected by the Festival Concert Committee to perform as part of the Final Festival Concert, the performance time will need to be limited to approximately 10 minutes maximum.

## DEFINITION: CONTEMPORARY BAND (F21)

- Contemporary Band section is open to both Primary *and* Secondary students in Years 4 to 12.
  - Contemporary music includes:
    - Rock
    - Electronica
    - Pop
    - Soul/Funk
    - Country, and
    - Folk Rock
  - Contemporary music is one of the most important musical developments of the twentieth century. The main characteristic of contemporary is the importance of rhythm and repetitive beat patterns. It also tends to be played by small ensembles and features amplified electronic instruments of some kind.
  - When rock began in the early 1950's, it was easy to categorize. However, since then it has diversified into a vast array of distinctly different styles, including some of the following:
    - Art Rock
    - Grunge
    - Punk
    - Reggae
    - Teen Pop
    - Heavy Rock
    - Ballad
    - New Wave, *and*
    - Rap
  - **\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\*: **\*\*Strictly NO Screamo or Death Metal Music permitted\*\*****  
*As the Festival caters for the general public and families some music can offend. The Festival comes under the Catholic banner for Catholic Schools & Colleges, thus music deemed too explicit will be considered unsuitable. The Committee reserves the right to advise schools if a particular piece of music is deemed unsuitable.*
-

## Contemporary Band (F21) - Requirements

- No more than *three* entries (in total) *per* school. These may perform on **any one night**.  
\*\*\*NOTE: For **Composite** schools:
  - Years 7 to 12: maximum band entries per school = **3**
  - Years 4 to 6: maximum band entries per school = **3**
- For **Contemporary Bands**, a maximum of **15** members are permitted on stage.  
\*\*\*NOTE\*\*\* No more than **25%** of a band's members can perform in another band.
- NO adult accompanist OR performer.
- Amplified / non-amplified instruments
- Mixer desks CANNOT be brought in by schools. ONLY the equipment provided by the venue is to be used.
- Can play *up to two* performance pieces ONLY, *and* within the timeframe.
- **Timeframe: 12 mins per band including** set up time.
- IF an item is *omitted* it CANNOT be replaced with another.  
\*\*NOTE\*\*A performance NOT LISTED on the Entry Form MUST HAVE PRIOR approval from Catholic Arts.
- IF you are *changing* OR *omitting* a piece from what you have submitted on your processed entry, you will be INELIGIBLE for an award.
- Bands who choose to *omit one* of their pieces will only play ONE piece.
- Schools MUST indicate what instruments are on STAGE PLAN so as to allow for correct type of microphone to be used.
- **Stage plans** MUST be submitted to the Catholic Arts Office as per the *closing date* stipulated on the Entry Form. IF the plans are NOT received by that date, the entry will be INELIGIBLE for an award.
- A brief description on the Entry Form (*'Item Info'*) to be read by a student from your band on introduction. Include influences of style. In the case of '*own composition*' entries, announcers should give further details on how the composition evolved and acknowledge the individual writers & arrangers.
- The **amp level is capped at 105 max** in accordance with national standards in relation to decibel levels and OH&S.
- It is NOT permissible for Band Directors to talk to sound desk operators during performances (*e.g. to indicate levels, etc.*)
- Casual Dress is appropriate for this section. Schools uniforms *are not* required.
- Performers can wear costumes if desired.

## COPYRIGHT INFORMATION – MUSIC SCORES

- Sections F1-F20: Music *must* be posted to the office *by the due date* stipulated on the Entry Form.
- Performers *must* provide Adjudicators with a photocopy of the original music. The copy is to be clearly marked “**Adjudication Copy Only**”.
- Performers should retain the original music for practice purposes and for use on the day of performance. The adjudication copy will be destroyed after the performance.
- APRA and AMCOS copyright clearances are the responsibility of the participating school.
- Section F21: No Music score is required.

## ADJUDICATION PERFORMANCE CRITERIA

### Criteria for Sections F1-11; F14-18

- Accuracy of intonation
- Beauty, consistency and correctness of tone production
- Correctness of technique
- Precision and accuracy of rhythm
- Accuracy and effectiveness of entries
- Beauty, expressiveness and effectiveness of phrasing
- Control and effectiveness of dynamics
- Effectiveness of the interpretation
- Balance
- Articulation
- Breath support or bowing (*Strings*)
- Suitability of music
- Posture
- Stage appearance, impact and presence

### Criteria for Guitar Ensembles & Electric Guitar Ensembles - Acoustic / Classical (F12, F13)

*As per above adjudication performance criteria (Sections F1-11; F14-18), and Accuracy of intonation / tuning for Section F12, Acoustic/Classical Guitar Ensembles - you don't have to just play the notes on the page! Extra strumming, percussion, theatrics, etc., are encouraged.*



## Criteria for Big Band, Jazz Combo & Contemporary Band (F19-21)

- Improvisation - *Big Band, Jazz Combo (only)*
- Programming - *Big Band, Jazz Combo (only)*
- Style / Interpretation
- Phrasing
- Effectiveness of dynamics
- Diversity of style
- Musicality
- Timing and Rhythm
- Ensemble - Band entries
- Ensemble - Intonation
- Ensemble – Balance
- Technique-consistency & correctness of tone or diction, its clarity & effectiveness
- Articulation
- Stage appearance, impact and precision
- Overall effectiveness of the performance

**\*\* IF UNSURE OF MUSIC GENRE, PLEASE SPEAK TO DISCIPLINE HEAD \*\***

**PLEASE NOTE THE FOLLOWING AT PERFORMANCE VENUES:**

**A warm-up room is provided for use but must be left in perfect condition**

**No food or drink may be consumed in the Room**

**Teacher or parent should be assigned to check the state of the room and supervise students at all times**