



ST. CECILIA INTERNATIONAL COMPETITION

Hong Kong

Philosophy

St. Cecilia's International Music Performing Competition offers musicians of all stages of development, a performance opportunity and experience in a friendly, encouraging yet professionally-competitive environment. The Competition is based on international standards.

Criteria

Performers may choose to enter classes suitable to their age and current performance standard.

International adjudicators are appointed by the St. Cecilia School of Music to judge all competitors. All adjudicators are highly-qualified, fully-trained and experienced musicians and examiners.

Performers are judged on their whole performance i.e. technical ability, performance precision, musicianship & artistry, stage etiquette and appropriate performance dress.

The St. Cecilia School of Music respects the experience, professionalism and proper judgment offered by all qualified music teachers.

Stage Etiquette

Performers at all levels should observe proper stage etiquette (manners). The following guidelines may assist in performance preparation.

- Performers should approach the stage in a dignified and confident manner
- Acknowledgment of the audience should be made with a sincere bow

- The music should then be placed on the music stand, unless the performance is from memory
- Adjustment of stools, stands or other equipment should now be made
- The performance should commence after a few moments of contemplation and after checking posture and hand position/technique. The performer does not need to request permission from the adjudicator to commence performing
- At the end of the performance the performer must immediately acknowledge the applause from the audience
- Remove music from the stand and depart the stage in a confident and dignified manner
- Performers should never rush on and off the stage
- Audiences are always appreciative of a smiling, relaxed and happy performer
- Parents and teachers should limit their presence on the stage to assisting with setting up and tuning only.
- Performers are ultimately responsible for their performance and should be taught independence and stage manners well before the Competition.

Dress Standards

The manner of dress for all performance situations should be based on respect for the audience, the adjudicator(s), teachers and fellow performers/musicians. The following guidelines, whilst not conclusive, may assist parents and teachers in deciding the most appropriate dress standards.

What is Appropriate

- Neat, comfortable clothing and footwear
- Standard black and white clothing is always professional, inexpensive and versatile
- For girls/ladies, a smart dress or skirt with a loose-fitting blouse. Flat shoes in preference to high-heels
- For boys/gentlemen, long trousers with a shirt and tie OR a full suit. Jackets may be worn but care should be taken not to restrict the playing
- Singers have greater options and may choose more elaborate costumes to enhance their performance if desired
- Jewellery should be kept to a minimum

What is Not Appropriate

- Expensive, designer-labelled clothing is not expected
- Uncomfortable “party-style” clothing
- Sports clothing including sneakers and other casual footwear
- School uniforms
- Slacks, jeans, casual tee-shirts
- Any clothing which may restrict the performance

Performances from Memory

The St. Cecilia School of Music makes no ruling on whether performances should be given from memory or not. We acknowledge that many musicians feel uncomfortable relying entirely on their memory when performing whilst others feel less restricted.

The following observations may assist teachers and performers in their decision to perform with or without music.

- Performances from memory allow for greater freedom on stage. Carrying books to the stage and the placement and adjustment of music stands is no longer a hindrance
- Musicians can give 100% concentration to their performance and are not distracted by reading music and turning pages
- A more professional and competent image is projected
- With practise and experience, performing from memory can become a more comfortable and better option for many musicians
- Musicians who perform from memory are not subjected to copyright rules and laws

Memorised performances often (but not always) attract higher results and better audience responses due to the above observations. In the event of a “tied” result, performances from memory will be given credit. In all instances, the adjudicator(s) will make fair and proper decisions.