



GCSE Performance

How to get an A*



Marking Criteria

- The exam is marked using three criteria:
- Accuracy
- Expression
- Communication

Choose the right piece

- Grade 4
- Maybe an exam piece
- In a style you enjoy
- Shows off your technical ability
- You have shown it to your teacher and they agree

Accuracy

- Play all the right notes and rhythms – every wrong note played is a mark lost.
- Play at the tempo which is marked.

Expression

- The following must all be over-exaggerated:
- Articulation: staccatos and legatos
- Dynamics: louds and softs (and if there aren't any marked you must put some in yourself)
- Instrumental techniques
- Breathing and clear words for singer



Communication

- Play confidently – really attack the music if that is what is required
- Over-exaggerate dynamics
- You can only get a good mark here if you know the piece inside out and feel confident about it, so **PRACTISE!**

What should I do if I can't play at Grade 4 standard?

- Pick a piece at a standard with which you are comfortable, even if that is Grade 1.
- Perform it confidently.
- Over-exaggerate all the louds and softs.
- REMEMBER: You will get a better mark playing an easier piece more confidently than you will by struggling through a more difficult piece.

