

Adjudication Guidelines

Many thanks for agreeing to join us on the adjudication panel for the 2023 Brass in Concert Championship. We hope that the following will help you to understand the event fully, especially the system of adjudication, which does differ significantly to that employed at most other brass band competitions.

Fundamentally, Brass in Concert strives to be the finest brass band entertainment event in the world, and the theory behind the judging system is built upon the following statement, which has been issued to the competing bands:

The Brass in Concert Championship strives to provide a platform for the finest brass bands in the world to display, free of artistic restriction, their excellence as performers of high quality original and arranged brass band music, to be achieved through programmes and presentation reflecting the most current and progressive form of the genre and designed to appeal to both the general listener and aficionados of the discipline.

Put more simply, we consider that success at Brass in Concert is built upon choosing a good programme, playing it well and giving the audience something to smile about, and we hope that each of you will keep this in mind within your own specialist area on the panel.

The information given to the bands is as follows:

1.1. Adjudication will be OPEN for all adjudicators.

1.2. There will be **TWO** adjudicators for **Quality of Performance**. They will individually place each band in order of merit, which will be assigned a mark out of 60 points in accordance with the scoring system. Their combined marks will represent 60% of the total marks (and overall points differential) awarded for the contest. Though they will take solo playing into account in their assessment, they will not nominate the winning soloist. Their judgement will take into account all aspects of musical performance, including the fundamentals of brass band and percussion musicianship (e.g. accuracy and precision, balance, blend, tuning, intonation, control, dynamics, shape and expression) and to which degree the bands demonstrate their excellence as performers, for which the judges themselves will have demonstrated expertise and experience. They will also take into account all non-brass and percussion sounds in bands' performances. The relative musical difficulty of each programme shall also be considered in their comparative judgement. They will be specifically instructed to disregard all aspects of programme content and entertainment and presentation value, including personal preferences on the appropriateness of these in relation to brass bands.