

What are the types of comments that help?

Comments that help the teacher understand if the student performed as they expected them to.

Did they blank out at the beginning?

Fall apart in the middle and if so, how well did they recover.

Did they play out or try to play softly.

Perhaps to hide any mistakes?

Did they lose control of the steady beat?

Did they count correctly?

Did they bring out the motif?

If they are playing a Minuet did it sound graceful and elegant?

Does the Gigue show great spirit?

Beginner Level comments. These pieces are mainly types of dances.

1. Beginner pieces are almost exclusively dances.

Is it a good tempo for dancing the Minuet, a very elegant dance.

(All these dances can be seen on u-tube. Just look up Bourree dance)

Are they keeping a steady beat and not changing tempo.

Are they playing with a nice tone. Or does it sound thin.

Are the ends of phrases coming off gracefully?

Are they shaping the phrases?

Intermediate Level comments.

If they are playing **Little Preludes and Fugues**

Are they allowing you to hear which hand has the main motif

Are they remembering to show voicing.

Are they showing various articulations to help emphasize voicing?

Are they playing with terraced dynamics?

Do detached quarter notes have a nice consistency.

If they are playing an **Invention**,

did they show the subject throughout the piece?

Does it show good direction?

Are they shaping the phrases?

Are they helping the listener hear the key changes which equates to mood changes.?

Are they helping the listener hear a final cadence, usually w/ l.h.

Late Intermediate comments. French and English Suites

Are they playing with clarity, therefore with a nice hand position.

Do the scales passages sound clean and not hanging onto notes.

Advanced Level comments Preludes and Fugues

Everything mentioned above is needed to make these pieces work.

Categories to focus on:

Tempo

Tone and clarity of sound
Phrasing and phrase endings
Clear motifs or subjects throughout the piece
Dynamics

What makes for a good judge?

Arriving **at least** 15 minutes before your judging time and preferably 30 minutes before. This is needed so the chairman will definitely know that all the judges are in place. If the judge shows up right on time, it means the chairman is playing a guessing game. If the judge does not show up, it will take at least 10 minutes to find a substitute.

NVMTA is a “professional” organization so we need everybody to show that it is.

It is extremely important that the judges show that they are in charge and in a very friendly way. You will definitely have parents telling you that they need to go first because they have to leave. It is important that you say in a nice way that you are sorry, but everybody in the room has a busy schedule; therefore we go in order. Besides it is important that every child has an audience. Plus hearing others perform is half of the learning experience.

Judging comments that helps the teacher hear how the student performed. Plus clues to the student on how they might improve the piece. There is a good chance the teacher has already told them this and it helps the teacher to re-enforce what they have already said. Being as positive as possible, but not sugar coating.