

In light of the upcoming NATS Auditions, here's a little 'cheat sheet' especially for those who are new to adjudicating.

First and Only Rule:

**express positivity**

- a) consider beginning the adjudication with a positive comment about the singer's voice quality: "lovely warm tone quality developing here", or "bright young tenor sound", etc.
- b) within the adjudication, attempt to use phrases such as 'keep working toward', 'continue to improve on', 'even greater attention to' etc.
- c) it's always nice to end the adjudication with a positive comment on the overall performance: "thank you for an engaging performance today", "congratulations on a well-prepared performance today", etc.

Try to comment on both technical and performance aspects with some comments applicable to the singer overall and some specific to the song, keeping in mind that many technical aspects may have different ideals, depending on which style is being sung.

**Some Technical Aspects to Consider**

- a) breath management
- b) alignment / balance
- c) onset / offset
- d) sound quality: bright/dark, clear/breathy, nasal/non-nasal, etc.
- e) vibrato
- f) articulation (production of vowels and consonants)
- g) diction (intelligibility, appropriate accent, authentic-sounding languages, etc.)
- h) tuning
- i) fidelity to the score (including dynamic markings, and rhythmic and melodic accuracy)
- j) phrasing
- k) registration
- l) resonance

**Some Performance Aspects to Consider**

- a) facial expression
- b) storytelling / communication
- c) movement / actions
- d) body language
- e) level of artistry (appropriate to age / experience)
- f) interpretation
- g) engagement
- h) characterization

Feel free to pass along to anyone you feel may be interested,  
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