Tips for Solo and Ensemble Festival Performance

The night before the festival:

- Decide what to wear. This is a special day - you should plan to dress up.
- Invite relatives to attend your performance. Be sure to tell them what time you play and what room. Remind them that there will be many students performing in different rooms, so we need to keep the performance areas quiet (especially the hallways).
- Write your accompanist a thank you note and pay them if necessary.

At the festival:

- Arrive in plenty of time to assemble instrument and get music ready.
- Find a practice room and warm-up carefully.
- Nervousness is normal. The best way to reduce nervousness is to be as prepared as possible.

Right before you perform:

- Give the judge an original copy of the music.
- Prepare your instrument (wet reeds, empty spit valve, etc.).
- Tune to the piano.
- Smile and announce your name, your accompanist's name, the title and composer of the work, and a single interesting aspect of the piece to listen for (what made you choose this piece?). Be mature.
- Position yourself so the judge can easily see what you are doing. Don't be afraid to move stands or chairs so that you are comfortable.
- Mentally prepare yourself.
- This is your opportunity to show everyone what you can do. Let any mistakes go by, and enjoy making music!

Congratulations! You did it!

- Approach the judge, politely listen to comments, and thank the judge.

Most importantly…

- Friends and relatives are allowed to listen to your performance if you would like.
- Remember to support your friends in their musical performances.
- If you are listening, please remember to be a polite listening audience. Everyone has worked very hard to get to this performance - don't be a distraction!
- No matter what rating you receive be proud of what you have done!