# PERFORMING

Develop the practical and musical skills needed for IGCSE Performing. Understand the solo and ensemble requirements, select suitable repertoire and develop accuracy, fluency, technical control, musical expression and ensemble awareness through rehearsal, recording and refinement.

**IGCSE Performing — Component 2**

Performing is worth **30% of the final IGCSE Music grade** and is marked out of **50 marks**. You will prepare two assessed performances: one **solo performance** and one **performance with others**. Performances may be sung or played on any instrument and may be chosen from any musical style or tradition.

**Performance Requirements**

| Requirement | Solo Performance | Performing with Others |
|---|---|---|
| Minimum duration | 2 minutes | 2 minutes |
| Instrument/voice | Any instrument or voice | Any instrument or voice |
| Other performers | Not required | At least one other live performer |
| Accompaniment | Accompanied or unaccompanied, as appropriate | Live performers and/or backing track |
| Recording | One continuous, unedited take | One continuous, unedited take |

Each performance must last **at least 2 minutes**. The total duration of the two performances together must not exceed **10 minutes**.

A performance may be recorded more than once so that the best version can be selected. However, the performance that is submitted must be a **single continuous recording and must not be edited**.

**Solo Performance**

You must perform a solo on an instrument or with your voice. The performance may be accompanied or unaccompanied.

If the music was written to be accompanied, an appropriate accompaniment should be used. Depending on the repertoire, this may be provided by another performer, a small group, a backing track or, where appropriate, by the candidate while singing.

The chosen piece should allow you to demonstrate both your **technical ability** and your **musical understanding**.

**Performing with Others**

Your second performance must demonstrate your ability to perform **with other musicians**.

You must perform with at least **one other live performer** as part of a duet or small group. A backing track may be used, but a backing track alone does not satisfy the requirement to perform with others.

Your individual part must be clearly identifiable and should give you an opportunity to demonstrate **rhythmic coordination and ensemble awareness**. Your part must not be extensively doubled by another performer.

The other musicians do not have to be IGCSE candidates, and a teacher may perform as part of the group.

**What Counts as an Ensemble Performance?**

Suitable ensemble performances could include a duet in which both performers have significant musical roles, a piano duet, a small instrumental or vocal ensemble, a band or other small group, or a performance using a backing track together with at least one other live performer.

An accompanied solo does **not automatically become an ensemble performance**. The performance must provide genuine musical interaction between the candidate and the other live performer or performers.

For example, simply adding bass or drums to a piece that remains essentially a solo performance may not provide sufficient evidence of ensemble skills.

**Choosing Your Music**

Choose repertoire that is appropriate for your **current technical and musical ability** and gives you opportunities to demonstrate a range of skills.

A more difficult piece does not automatically receive a higher mark. Music that is too difficult may affect accuracy, fluency, technical control and musical expression. Music that is too simple may not provide enough opportunity to demonstrate the full range of your ability.

The best choice is music that challenges you appropriately while still allowing you to perform **confidently, accurately and musically**.

**How Your Performance Is Assessed**

Each performance is marked out of **25 marks**. Five marks are available in each of five assessment areas. Your solo and ensemble marks are then combined to give a total of **50 marks** for Component 2.

| Assessment Area | Marks | What You Need to Demonstrate |
|---|---|---|
| Confidence, fluency and accuracy | 5 | A secure and confident performance with accurate notes and rhythms and minimal hesitation. |
| Tempo and rhythmic coordination | 5 | An appropriate and controlled tempo, secure pulse and effective coordination with accompaniment or other performers. |
| Character, style and ensemble awareness | 5 | Appropriate phrasing, articulation, dynamics and stylistic understanding, together with effective listening and interaction when performing with others. |
| Technical control | 5 | Secure control of the instrument or voice, including relevant aspects such as tone, intonation, coordination, breath control, diction or pedalling. |
| Performance as a whole | 5 | A convincing overall performance demonstrating an appropriate range of musical and technical skills. |
| **Total per performance** | **25** | |
| **Total Performing component** | **50** | **30% of the final IGCSE Music grade** |

The descriptions above summarise the assessment areas in student-friendly language.

**Preparing Your Performance**

Begin preparing your repertoire well before the final recording. Learn the notes and rhythms securely before concentrating on finer details such as phrasing, articulation, dynamics, tone and expression.

Practise difficult passages separately and then return them to the complete piece. Regularly record your performance and listen back carefully. This can reveal problems with pulse, accuracy, balance, phrasing or expression that may not be obvious while you are performing.

As the performance becomes more secure, practise complete uninterrupted performances so that you develop concentration, stamina and confidence from beginning to end.

For an ensemble performance, rehearsal should also focus on **listening and responding to the other performers**. Pay attention to balance, pulse, entries, endings, changes of tempo and dynamics, and the musical role of your individual part within the group.

**Final Recording**

The final performance should demonstrate the best level you can achieve consistently, rather than simply being the most difficult music you can attempt.

Before recording, make sure that the repertoire meets the performance requirements and that all performers, instruments and accompaniment can be heard clearly. Perform the complete piece without interruption and aim to communicate its musical character as well as playing or singing accurately.

The submitted version must be a **continuous, unedited performance**. Required supporting material, such as a score, lead sheet or other appropriate notation, should also be prepared for submission where applicable.

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