



PERFORMING ARTS FESTIVAL

CRITERIA FOR FESTIVAL AWARDS

AWARD CRITERIA

Outstanding Awards and Excellence Awards were introduced in 2017 as a two-tier system to replace the former Honourable Mention certificates.

The Adjudicator provides ratings and written feedback to performers on the *Adjudication Form* provided. At the conclusion of the relevant Section of the Festival, the Adjudicator shall determine the various awards.

Adjudicators will be strongly encouraged to determine awards on the following basis, but the final decision rests with the Adjudicator:

AWARD	ADJUDICATOR'S RATINGS
<i>Outstanding</i>	Predominantly ' <i>Outstanding</i> ' ratings
<i>Excellence</i>	Predominantly 'Excellent' or above
<i>Merit</i>	All participants will receive a Merit certificate except for those who have received an Outstanding or Excellence Certificate

Entrants become ineligible to receive an Outstanding or Excellence Award, nor the Perpetual Shield if:

- i) changes have been made to their direct entry, as this is **not** permitted (*i.e. a change to their music score*), and/or
- ii) a performance exceeds the category time limit.

- The Adjudicators and Section Coordinators discuss the relationship between *ratings* and *awards* criteria **prior** to the Section performances.
- Adjudicators carefully consider the difficulty of the performance, complexity of the piece played and the age of the performer(s) in assigning their ratings.

NB: For Musical & Drama Productions, Adjudicators need to consider the performance in its entirety so as not to unfairly compare with other schools who may have better facilities & resources.

- Recipients of Outstanding and Excellence Awards are not to be publicly announced at the performance venue. These award recipients will be notified via email **only** at the conclusion of each Section. The email comes from the Chair and will be addressed to the Principal of the school.
- Awards are not given to individual performers in groups/ensembles.
- Adjudicators are not to enter into any form of discussion with the participants, teachers or parents in regards to the awards or adjudication report.

Outstanding Award

Apart from the perpetual Shield, an Outstanding Award is the most highly ranked and can be awarded for:

- i) Exceptional performance
- ii) Entertainment value
- iii) Aesthetic appeal
- iv) Evocative/reflective/profound performance
- v) Challenging performance
- vi) Originality

Excellence Award

These are awarded based on similar criteria to the Outstanding Award. Whilst the quality of performance is still excellent, this is generally at a lower standard compared to an Outstanding Award.

Merit Award

These performances are considered to be worthy of merit but are of a lower standard than an Excellence Award. Whilst these awards may provide encouragement to recipients, they are not 'encouragement' awards. They should reflect a high level of performance and acknowledge the time and practise spent in preparing for the performance.

PERPETUAL SHIELD AWARDS

An overall Perpetual Award for the most outstanding performance is to be selected by the Adjudicator at the conclusion of performances in each Section of the Festival.

The *Adjudication Form* of the recipient of a Perpetual Shield Award should reflect the highest overall commendations given in the relevant section of the Festival.

The appropriate form (*Festival Evaluation Form*) to be completed by the Adjudicator will also include a recommendation as to whether the performance by the recipient of a Perpetual Award is considered suitable for inclusion as an item at the annual Final Concert.

In the event that the Adjudicator cannot decide between two or more Shield recipients, the *Section Coordinator* in conjunction with the *Catholic Arts Executive* will make the final decision.

MAJOR SPONSOR AWARDS

The Zenith Awards

The Zenith Awards for overall excellence in performance *and* participation in the spirit of the Performing Arts Festival are presented each year at the Final Concert.

There are 4 Zenith Awards: *Primary Metropolitan, Secondary Metropolitan, Primary Regional* and *Secondary Regional*.

The criteria for the Zenith Awards are reflected in the levels of *excellence in performance* and *participation* by each school. Outstanding and Excellence Awards will contribute towards the '*Zenith Award*,'.

The Zenith Commendation Award for Sustained Improvement

This award recognises a school (one *primary* and one *secondary*) for 'sustained and substantial improvement'. Improvement is measured across the previous five years of CPAF involvement.

Outstanding, Excellence & Merit Awards will contribute towards the '*Zenith Commendation Awards for Sustained Improvement*'.