

A Confluence of Rhythm + Melody + Harmony = Pipe Band Ensemble

Ensemble

The Outcome of Good Ensemble?
Listener Engagement

Rhythm

§ **Tempo:** Adherence to the time signature and meter of the tune unless dictated by the score; scores intentionally performed (e.g. no unplanned slowing or increase in tempo)

§ **Supportive Percussion:** All percussion supportive of melodic line and rhythmic intention; dynamic percussion effectively deployed; optimum levels of rhythmic accuracy.

Melody

- **Craftsmanship and Technique:** Selection of music must be structured logically, be harmonically interesting and technically polished, one allowing the best portrayal of the music presented
- **Coherence and Content:** The presentation portrays a sense of purpose, a musical intention, confident, moving; leaves a pleasingly memorable impression demonstrating sound understanding and best use of pipe band sounds and possibility. Was there merit in the presentation? What did you feel? [Maybe the most subjective of assessment areas]

Harmony

- **Sound Presence:** pitch and timbre of sounds engaging; instruments in tune and aligned. There is performance presence. Are sounds conducive to music-making?
- **Sound Interplay:** Mutually supportive; Are the band's voices interacting in a way that produces pleasing sounds?
- **Balance:** A harmonious arrangement or proportion of band voices; within the context of pipe band music one should not overpower the other unless intended