

Tips for Achieving a Good Group Performance

Preparation

- Choose your piece carefully – try to involve everyone in the debate about which song to choose. If people agree with the choice they are more likely to work hard for the good of the group.
- Remember the expected standards in each year;

Year 7	Grade 1
Year 8	Grade 2
Year 9	Grade 3

You only need to play your part in a piece well at these standards to achieve a good mark

Teamwork

- You need to co-operate. Groups which argue tend to achieve lower marks

Piano/Guitar

- The piano (and sometimes the guitar) will be the most important part of the group. If the piano player can play the music then it will make everyone else sound better. If the piano player is struggling then it makes life difficult for everyone.
- The piano player (or guitarist) should have a big say in the choice of song.
- Piano players hate sight reading. Make sure they get the music well in advance

Memorising

- Instrumental players and piano players do not need to memorise their music
- Singers will gain marks for memorizing their lyrics

What if I don't do music exams?

- No problem – the grade guidelines are only there to give people an idea of the expected standards

Drummers

- Try to use all four limbs.
- The most important thing is to keep a steady beat – that is what your teacher will be looking for first and foremost

Singers

- Choose a song you know and like
- There is a large selection of songbooks in KGV library
- Simply bringing the lyrics from a CD (with no piano accompaniment) is likely to put you at a disadvantage. Try to get a song which has a piano part or, at least, guitar chords.

Communication with the audience

- Everyone gets nervous – try to look like you can control your nerves!
- If you look like you are having fun then the audience will relax with you – even if you are a bag on nerves on the inside
- Singers – you will get credit for trying your best. Don't be afraid – go for it!