

Tips for Achieving a Good Solo Performance

Preparation

- Choose your piece carefully – it's better to perform something you know well than choose a difficult tune which isn't quite ready.
- Remember the expected standards in each year;

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

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

Piano accompaniment

- It is an advantage to bring piano music for your teacher to play along with you – this goes for instrumental players and singers
- You can bring guitar chords for your teacher to play but try to bring a CD recording if it is for a pop song so your teacher can get an idea of the tempo and style

Memorising

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

Piano players

- Try to have a practice on the piano you will be doing your actual performance on – it's unlikely to feel the same as your own piano!

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!