



## CRITERIA FOR FESTIVAL AWARDS

### AWARD CRITERIA

In order to qualify for Awards, direct entries cannot be changed, and if a performance exceeds the time limit it will be ineligible for an Outstanding Award, Excellence Award or the Perpetual Shield. Outstanding Awards and Excellence Awards will contribute towards the Zenith Overall Excellence Awards. Outstanding Awards, Excellence Awards and Merit Awards will contribute towards the Zenith Commendation Awards for Sustained Improvement.

Outstanding Awards and Excellence Awards are being introduced in 2017 as a two-tier system to replace the former Honourable Mention certificates. The adjudicator provides ratings and written feedback for performers on the adjudication form. 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
OUTSTANDING	Predominantly 'Excellent' ratings
EXCELLENT	Typically more 'Excellent' than 'Very Good' ratings with no more than 1 'Good' rating
MERIT	Ratings typically 'Very Good' or higher with no more than 1 'Good' rating
PARTICIPATION	All other participants

- ❖ The Adjudicators and Section Co-ordinators discuss the relationship between ratings and awards criteria prior to the Section performances.
- ❖ Adjudicators should carefully consider the difficulty of the performance in assigning their ratings. *For Musical and Drama Productions, adjudicators need to take into account the performance in its entirety (not to unfairly compare with other schools who may have better facilities). For Music sections – Adjudicators need to consider the complexity of the piece played.*
- ❖ As a minimum, performances in all sections shall receive a Participation Award
- ❖ Awards are not given to individual performers in groups/ensembles.

### Outstanding Award

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

- Exceptional performance
- Entertainment value
- Aesthetic appeal
- Evocative/reflective/profound performance
- Challenging performance
- 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.

**The above recipients are not publicly announced at the performance venue.** Award recipients will be notified via email only at the finalisation of each Section.

### Perpetual Awards (Shields)

An overall Perpetual Award for the most outstanding performances is to be selected by the Adjudicator at the conclusion of performances in each Section of the Festival. The Adjudication form for the recipient of a Perpetual Award should reflect the highest overall commendations given in the relevant section of the Festival.

The appropriate form (Festival Evaluation) 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 Festival Concert.

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

### **Major Awards**

#### **(The Zenith Awards for Metropolitan and Country Schools and Colleges)**

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

The criteria for the Zenith Awards are reflected in the levels of excellence in performance and participation by each school.

#### **The Zenith Commendation Award for Sustained Improvement (Primary/Secondary)**

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.