

PRINCIPAL PLAYERS

What do I listen for in sectionals?

- Correct notes (the larger the “clash,” the more playing wrong notes)
- Correct rhythms

After this is accomplished we must start polishing the music. Listen for:

- Correct articulations
- Correct length for articulations (Separated? Long? Stretched?) at the beginning and end of the note
- Correct tonguing (Da for legato, Ta for regular)
- Correct dynamics - is that *really* a forte? Is that *really* a piano?
- Correct tone (check posture and encourage them to listen to principal players. This is not a “quick fix” but can be developed only over time.)
- Correct balance within section. Bottom parts usually must give more to support the chord / sound of the section than first. We try to set this up for success by placing more on the bottom, less on 2nd parts, and least on 1st parts. In some sections this is not doable due to numbers so those sections may have a bit more of a challenge.
- Is it musical? Can anyone not associated with music understand you....
 - Got softer / stronger?
 - Slowed down / Sped up?
 - Played together / sound like one?