

2016 Kitchener-Waterloo Kiwanis Music Festival

SURVEY REGARDING COMPETITION, SEALS AND RIBBONS

INTRODUCTION

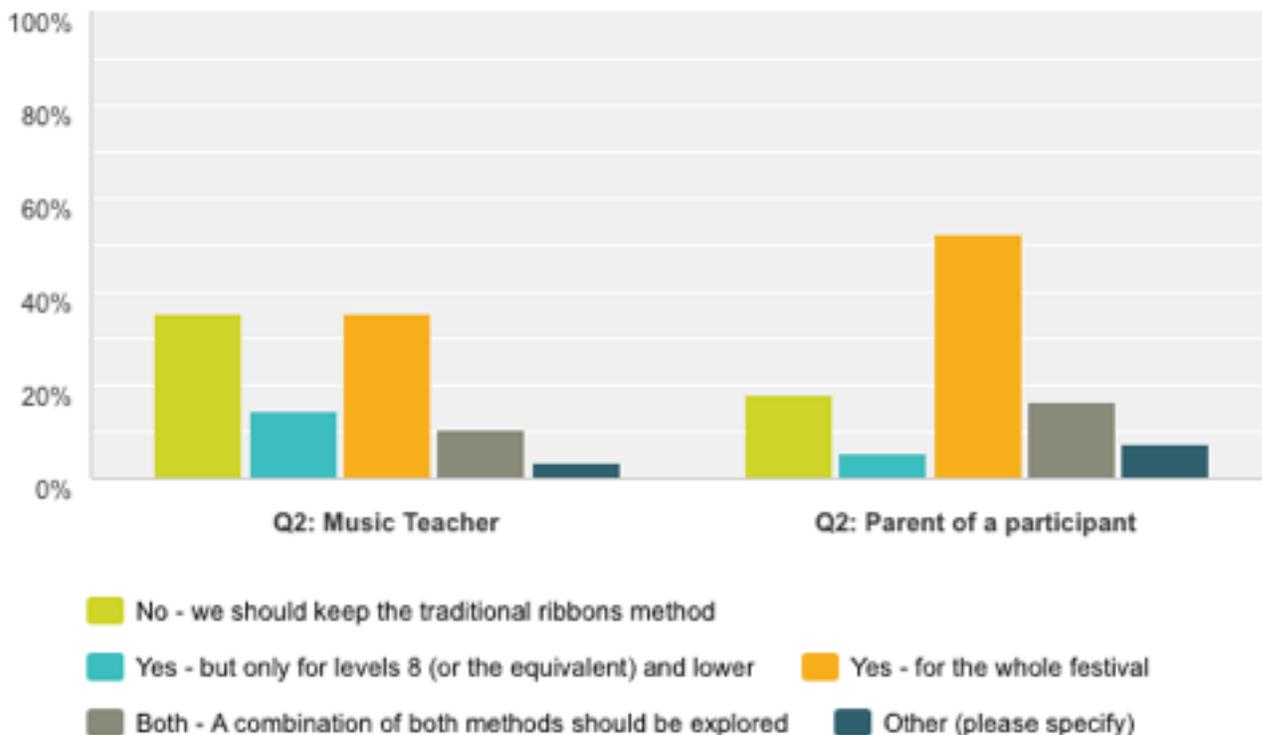
Some music festivals like ours have transitioned away from the long-held traditional method of awarding first, second and third place ribbons to the participants who receive the top marks in each class.

A new method, “Seals by Standard” has been offered as an alternative, and it works like this: festival participants still receive marks out of 100, but instead of receiving ribbons according to the top marks of each class, all participant who place in a certain range of marks receive a seal that corresponds to that mark. For example, all participants who achieve a mark of 83 or lower receive a bronze seal, recipients of a mark between 84 and 89 receive a silver seal, recipients of a mark between 90 and 94 receive a gold seal, and recipients of 95 or above receive a platinum seal. This seal (a prestigious sticker in the colour of the seal) is placed on a festival certificate, which commemorates the name of the participant, class description and event details, and the date. Some feel that the “Seals by Standard” way of recognizing the achievement of festival participants is more in line with the spirit of youth music festivals for various reasons. Others feel that the experience of competition that is produced by the first-second-third way is worth preserving. There are pros and cons to both methods of acknowledging the achievement of festival participants.

The Kitchener-Waterloo Kiwanis Music Festival is considering if and/or how the “Seals by Standard” method might be appropriate for our community. We are conducting this survey as a way to hear the perspectives of local music teachers, parents of participants, participants themselves, and others who wish to offer feedback.

Do you think the KWKMF should consider implementing the "Seals by Standard" method of recognizing festival participant's achievement?

Answered: 83 Skipped: 0



	No - we should keep the traditional ribbons method	Yes - but only for levels 8 (or the equivalent) and lower	Yes - for the whole festival	Both - A combination of both methods should be explored	Other (please specify)	Total
Q2: Music Teacher	35.71% 10	14.29% 4	35.71% 10	10.71% 3	3.57% 1 Responses	33.73% 28
Q2: Parent of a participant	18.18% 10	5.45% 3	52.73% 29	16.36% 9	7.27% 4 Responses	66.27% 55
Total Respondents	20	7	39	12	5	83

SUMMARY OF COMMENTS

PROS for First-Second-Third

“this way makes students practice harder because of the competition”

“Competitive Ribbons - some kids enjoy and really work hard for the placement and to have their names in the newspaper. Some students really thrive on competition and work towards being the best. So ribbons for these cases are needed and there is no other place they really can compete for number 1 in their community.”

“I like the traditional way as it conveys an example of how real life challenges are. Challenges helps children to be stronger and better human being. Please don't follow how our school system is. We appreciate how the festival is trying to help kids to stride to be better. Thanks!”

“I feel that the Kiwanis festival already offers the option to participants to compete or to not compete. In competition, by its very nature, participants experience the ranking. I believe it is helpful in character development, performance and experience to know where participants rank in a competition. By awarding the seals, ranking as a very key aspect of competition is masked.”

“I believe the competitive nature of the music festival needs to be upheld. There are non competitive options for those who don't wish to compete but for those who do I believe we should honour that.”

“Not having placements takes away the transparency of the competition, especially on the topic of nominating students to OMFA. A competition by nature should have placements. Giving everyone seals as a "pat on the back" encouragement defeats the purpose of a competition and artificially shields students from the competition experience which deprives them of training for rigorous competition at provincial, national, and international levels. Students who participate in Kiwanis solely for the purpose of engaging in the music community and practice performing can enter non competitive classes. Competitive classes should remain competitive and have definite ranks.”

“prizes come from achievement, not participation”

CONS for First-Second-Third

“Ribbons are not really a true representation of how much work and practice it takes to get a great mark”

“I have found my son's experience varies greatly by who happens to be in his class. I don't think if someone gets marks in the high 80s or low 90s it is appropriate that they only get a participant ribbon because the others in their class happen to be even better. Whereas, in a different group of participants the same mark could earn a first place ribbon.”

PROS for Standard by Seals

“Actually getting these types of seals would push kids to know exactly what they are working for and feel even more proud of their accomplishment”

“The seal recognizes the achievement of each performer. I think students would relate to Olympic style of bronze, silver, gold. I think it would raise the level of self esteem of those who don't win in their class. It's sad to see tears and disappointment if they don't place. This way everyone should feel good about their evaluation. It may make the performance experience a little less tense overall.”

“This new idea is a very good choice and also in line with Royal Conservatory of Music gradation standards.”

“Competition can help foster egos and/or bad feelings (and potentially, discouragement), neither of which makes a musician *better*. School groups have benefitted from the change to the seals by standard system”

“I think the seals by standard method recognizes the hard work, effort and achievement of all participants.”

“non competitive has been very helpful for my students and parents who don't agree with competing but more a way to work on performance and becoming comfortable playing for an audience. If anything I think this may be a good area to introduce the standard seals, because these children work equally hard to memorize and perform but it is for different reasons than competing and being graded and placed. The seal would provide them with a standard much like I obtained honours, first class honours or first class honours with distinction.”

“I think the seal along with a certificate with the details is a great idea. Regardless of marks, it encourages those who gave it their all to walk away with something to recognize the effort. This will translate into confidence and determination to keep working to continue with the great work.”

“Seals by Standard is an excellent method to recognize the success of each child against a recognized standard rather than the talents of the child's peers.”

“Seals by standard seems fairer, since under the 1/2/3 system you can place 1st with 82 in one class, and 4th with 87 in another class. Also music is not about winning, it is more about whether a performance is bad, good, great or excellent.”

“I strongly believe in the standard method, especially for the younger students. There could be options for students to take a placement or standard class, or to offer this option for higher grades.”

“My children and I think this new idea is wonderful. It puts a more positive spin on the performances and less pressure of being in the top 3. This way more children are given prestigious ribbons for a job well done. We hope this gets implemented for the upcoming year”

CONS for Standard by Seals

“Dilutes the achievement of students”

“Not Competitive if everyone receives a prize”

“Students won’t practice as hard if they know they will get Gold”

“My main concern about the "Seals by Standard" method is that the marking standard is notably quite varied between adjudicators. As well, this seems to remove the competitive nature of the Festival. It almost seems to be more of an individual examination, rather than a competition, changing the dynamic of the Festival dramatically.”

“For strings, I am definitely seeing a decline rate of participations in the last few years. I think if you eliminate the ribbons, even less people will participate in this festival. I do understand the concerns about the competition, however, it is a good experience for the kids as well.”

PROS for a Combination of First-Second-Third and Standard by Seals

“My experience is you need both something for those who are motivated by competition and something for those that want to try and are looking to share and be rewarded with a pat on the back. For non competitive their are studio recitals and alternatives too. But again they don't have a sense of standing. I like the setup of our festival it is suited for both types of parents and children, competitive and non competitive.”

“A seal on certificate but with ranking marked on certificate”