

Student Name

Ensemble Name

Date

Recorded Performance Critique

On May 7 2013, I listened to a YouTube recording of Of Monsters and Men for my recorded performance critique. The group played the song *King and Lionheart* on the Canadian TV show, Studio Q. The song was performed live, and though I watched it later, was originally performed on November 27, 2012. The groups instrumentation varies, but this performance included two vocalists, several guitars, an accordion, a trumpet, and a drumset.

I'd give Of Monsters and Men's performance a 1, superior, on the state adjudication scale, because of their excellent tone quality, great dynamic contrast, and well-thought out articulations. The group's female vocalist stood out because of her varied diction. Often she intentionally clipped her notes short, creating a refreshing contrast with the more legato notes of the chorus. Her tone was outstanding, as was that of the male vocalist; their voices perfectly blended and complemented one another's. Another exceptional blend occurred between the trumpeter and accordion player, each of whom supported and enhanced the melody. Tempo changes were driven by the group's set player, who seamlessly executed both accelerandos and ritardandos. Each musician was able to express the song's mood and connect emotionally to the audience.

Based on my personal experiences, I'd give Of Monsters and Men's performance of *King and Lionheart* a 1 (1 being the best, 10 the worst). I was really impressed by how well-balanced

the group was, and how easily each part blended with the others. They varied their dynamics throughout the piece effortlessly, and noticeably contrasted their softest dynamic from their loudest. The vocalists also knew exactly which syllables to accent; the accents, which were almost abrasive, were nonetheless tasteful and always in unison throughout the group.

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