



# **FIRST PERFORMANCE**

## NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION

Dear Director:

**SUBJECT:** FIRST PERFORMANCE National Day of Celebration—A Beginner Demonstration Concert

We can all remember the excitement of our FIRST PERFORMANCE—dressing uniformly; being the center of attention yet within the security of a group setting; and especially hearing the rousing applause of an excited and supportive audience. These are all memories that last a lifetime. Certainly, a fully programmed concert is desirable from the director’s musical standpoint but with beginners, there will never be a more enthusiastic group of performers and audience members than these young musicians and their family and friends. A demonstration concert at this stage in their development can help ensure a strong program overall.

**The objectives of FIRST PERFORMANCE are:**

- To reduce beginner dropout rate.
- To provide short-range incentive goals.
- To encourage communication with parents.
- To further strengthen administrative support and
- To celebrate the musical accomplishments of the students.

**The FIRST PERFORMANCE kit contains all of the concert support you will need including:**

- A sample letter/invitation to parents.
- A sample letter/invitation to administration.
- A fillable PDF Certificate of Advancement.
- A complete 20-minute concert with scripted narration.

**All you will need to supply is:**

- Appropriate performance material to play during the performance, likely either from your beginning band method book or from Music Achievement Council’s own “First Performance – A Demonstration Concert” publication.
- A representative from your school administration, parent organization or the high school director to serve as the narrator.
- Advance publicity across the school and community including posters and school-wide announcements. (You may want to have a contest to design an appropriate cover.)
- Light refreshments to be provided following the performance
- Printed certificates for each student musician celebrating this major achievement.

It is recommended that the date of the FIRST PERFORMANCE gets announced at the first parent meeting to ensure that it is recorded in the parents' calendars. A simple statement such as, "On \_\_\_\_\_, we will be back together to hear the progress of this year's group of young musicians, so mark your calendars for our FIRST PERFORMANCE. You won't want to miss it."

Remember, FIRST PERFORMANCE NATIONAL DAY OF CELEBRATION has been designed as a demonstration of progress. Many of the materials referenced above are also posted online at [www.musicachievementcouncil.org](http://www.musicachievementcouncil.org) so that they may be downloaded and personalized for your particular situation.

The Music Achievement Council and your local music dealer hope that this event will help in your efforts to bring the joy of instrumental music-making to many children in your school.

Best wishes!

THE MUSIC ACHIEVEMENT COUNCIL  
[www.musicachievementcouncil.org](http://www.musicachievementcouncil.org)