

## *Acknowledgements*

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**Amy Barlowe**, violinist, received her B.M. and M.M. degrees from the Juilliard School after studies with Ivan Galamian and Margaret Pardee. Her chamber music studies include work with Josef Gingold, Felix Galimir, Samuel Rhodes and Earl Carlyss. She is the recipient of numerous awards including the Helena Rubinstein Scholarship, Atkinson and Northwest Area grants. Her critically acclaimed solo recitals and chamber music performances have taken her throughout the United States, Canada and Mexico, as well as to the major concert halls of New York City. Ms. Barlowe has been featured on PM Magazine, performed as guest artist on numerous radio stations and toured extensively throughout the Northwest as violinist of the Oregon Trio. Formerly Associate Professor of Violin at Willamette University in Salem, Oregon, Ms. Barlowe has held teaching positions at the Juilliard Pre-College and New York's School for Strings as well as at the Estherwood and Bowdoin Summer Music Festivals. Currently she is on the faculty of the Meadowmount School of Music and has a private studio in Akron, Ohio.

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## INTRODUCTION

- The Happy Listening Guide can be used by parents, teachers and students. Checklists and a sample listening chart have been provided for convenience. Students should ask their teachers for advice on how best to use these.
- As you begin to be a CAREFUL listener, remember to be a CONSTRUCTIVE listener.
- At first you can allow yourself little mental vacations. When tiring of a performance, permit your mind to wander where it would like. When refreshed, focus in again on a feature mentioned in your guide, perhaps on one of the checklists. Gradually, your need for these little vacations will diminish, and your attention span will increase proportionally.
- When attending a live performance, allow "watching" to help you listen and learn. If you can become totally involved in the creation of a moment of beauty, it will remain with you forever.
- Everyone listens in a different way. Discover your own approach.
- Don't forget about the section for autographs! Performers need to know how much they are loved. Don't be shy about going backstage after a recital to tell an artist how much you enjoyed his or her playing. After all...someday it could be you!

*Happy Listening!*

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**WHAT TO LISTEN FOR DURING  
LIVE PERFORMANCES BY SOLOISTS**

**CHECKLIST A**

**Check here**

1. Sound and color of solo instrument (individual's sound, e.g. warmth of tone)
2. Overall sound (beauty of sound)
3. Acoustics of hall or room (Is there a lot of echo? Or is the sound distant and muted?)
4. Vibrato, (if appropriate): (Where is it used? How much? Speed? Variety?)
5. Rhythmic accuracy
6. Intonation
7. Dynamics
8. Phrasing
9. Articulation
10. Breath control (where appropriate)
11. (If accompanied) Balance
12. (If accompanied) Ensemble
13. Coloration effects
14. Stylistic interpretation
15. Can you recognize a sense of musical form (structure)?
16. Are themes differentiated by character changes?
17. Does the music sing? If not, how could this be improved?
18. Emotional impact; overall effect

Can I borrow anything I've heard and use it in my own performance?

**REMEMBER: ALWAYS LISTEN CONSTRUCTIVELY!**