



International Trumpet Guild®

to promote communications among trumpet players around the world and to improve the artistic level of performance, teaching and literature associated with the trumpet

Assessment Criteria (approved May 2024)

The ITG Outstanding Recording Awards recognize outstanding trumpet recordings via blind review by a jury of outstanding trumpet artists. Awards are given based on the artistic merit, technical achievement, innovation, potential for impact on the larger discipline, and overall quality of the album. While additional factors may be considered, the committee will assign the greatest value to the artistic and technical achievements of the performer in question.

While assessment of submissions is at its root a qualitative process, the jury will utilize the following definitions and criteria to scaffold their assessment.

Definitions

Categories

1. Albums submitted in the “Classical” category will be evaluated by the jury primarily on the merits of a performance of a written score. The definition of “classical” in this context is broad and thus encompasses music for modern and historic trumpets (including cornetto), as well as contemporary/new repertoire, electro-acoustic works, etc.
2. Albums submitted in the “Jazz/Improvised Music” category may be evaluated on both strength of the performer's improvisation and/or their performance of a written score. The definition of “Jazz/Improvised Music” in this context is broad and encompasses a variety of musics from the jazz/commercial tradition in addition to any music for which improvisation is central to performance.
3. Albums that may fit in either category may only be submitted once. The choice of which category is most appropriate is at the discretion of the performer.

Awards

1. The jury will award gold and silver medals:
 - a. Gold Medal (0-2 per year)
 - i. Submissions representing the highest levels of artistic and technical achievement and innovation. These recordings not only stand out among trumpet recordings, but compare favorably to releases by other top artists, regardless of instrument.
 - b. Silver Medal (0-4 per year)
 - i. Submissions that stand out for their artistic and technical achievement and innovation, but don't meet the threshold for a gold medal relative to other submissions or in absolute terms.

Assessment Criteria

1. Artistic Merit (similar to, but distinct from, technical achievement)
 - a. Albums may be assessed on any or all of the following criteria.
 - i. Expression
 1. Clear artistic vision that is evident to listener
 2. Nuanced performance indicative of mature artistry
 - ii. Innovation (performance practice)
 1. Novel interpretation of existing repertoire/musical style(s)
 2. Presentation of new repertoire that moves the instrument forward
 3. Novel use of technology in performance (digital or analogue effects, etc.)
 4. Novel use of extended techniques that move the instrument forward.
 - iii. Innovation (recording and production)
 1. Novel application of recording and/or production technology/technique that amplifies the artistic impact of the work
2. Technical Achievement (similar to but distinct from artistic merit)
 - a. Albums may be assessed on any or all of the following criteria.
 - i. Technique
 1. Virtuosity
 2. Command of Instrument (simple things done exceptionally well)
 - ii. Extended techniques
 1. Mastery of non-standard technique
3. Impact on the Larger Discipline
 - a. Albums may be assessed on any or all of the following criteria.
 - i. Potential to impact musical landscape beyond the trumpet community
 - ii. Comparison to work of other established artists, regardless of instrument
 - iii. Cultural significance
4. Overall Album Quality
 - a. Albums may be assessed on any or all of the following criteria.
 - i. Performance quality of assisting performers
 1. Individual performances
 2. Ensemble
 - ii. Cohesiveness of repertoire
 - iii. Recording quality
 1. Engineering (quality of overall sound)
 2. Production Quality
 - a. Editing (when applicable), mixing, mastering, etc.