

# Music Editing

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Music is the driving force of our creativity in dance. It sets the tone for choreography and performance of a team during competition. Song choice and the cohesive development of choreography, costuming and precision are the building blocks of a memorable and impressive routine for competition.

*Song selection should encompass the following elements:*

1. Style indicative of dance category.
2. Song with limited play that will be exciting to listen to and have a good beat or evoke a strong emotion.
3. Appropriate for audience and venue utilizing effective crowd appeal.
4. Variety of musicality  
Music should have a dynamic beginning and ending, and change tempo or beat style numerous times (we strive for some change at least every 64 counts)
5. Quality of sound  
Music should not distract from the performance but enhance it, i.e. too many cuts, musical distortion, unmatched sound levels, dropped beats between phrases, and numerous unnecessary tempo changes

Once song has been selected we begin the editing process. This process is best achieved by completing the following steps:

1. Listen to entire selection and note time of particular highlights you wish to include in the piece
2. Music charting of entire selection marking phrasing and dynamics
3. Selecting sections with variety of tempo and musicality (Finding Beginning and Ending)
4. Consider the blending of phrases (Key changes & doubling same sound, i.e. chorus or verses)
5. Time the chosen sections
6. Create a trial recording
7. Evaluate selection for interest or general effect, time limit, and effectiveness of your vision.

