

The League of New Hampshire Craftsmen consider three primary areas of expertise for State Jury status. As well as technical proficiency and aesthetics, the jurors evaluate "**Spirit of the Maker**".

Spirit of the Maker is what makes each craftsperson's work truly their own.

Spirit of the Maker goes beyond technique and shows attention to detail in every aspect of the work.

Spirit of the Maker is the catalyst that brings technical proficiency and aesthetics to life.

Spirit of the Maker is respect; respect for materials and tools; respect for those who have helped nurture and inspire you and for those who you will help nurture and inspire in the future.

Spirit of the Maker is part dedication, part humanity, part personal vision and all important.

Spirit of the Maker is the heartfelt need to simply make good art. Your creations must come from the heart if you want them to work.

STANDARDS CRITERIA FOR MUSICAL INSTRUMENTS

Successful League-juried musical instruments can originate in any of a number of media (ceramics, wood, metal, etc.). An applicant must successfully meet the standards guidelines of the particular medium in which the instrument is crafted. **Refer to specific media guidelines.**

The applicant will provide the jury with either a live performance, or the opportunity for jurors or consultants to play the instrument. Jurors will evaluate, not the technical proficiency of the performance or aesthetics of particular musical selections, but rather the extent to which the particular musical instrument is capable of sound that is consistent with other instruments of its type and/or the intention of its maker.

A successful jury result means the applicant has been approved only for the class of instrument for which he or she was juried. If the individual later wishes to represent other types of instruments as "League juried" he or she must repeat the jurying process for the new instrument class. For example, a successful "violin" result does not generalize to "classical guitars". Nor does a successful "recorder" generalize to "flutes".

Technical Guidelines:

- 1. Quality of sound.** The successful League-juried instrument should demonstrate that the builder has technical knowledge of the aesthetic qualities of the sound produced by an instrument. These include loudness, sustain, complexity of waveform, richness of overtone structure, speed of attack, and balance of volume across the range of the instrument.
- 2. Musical accuracy.** The instrument must produce technically correct sound within the context of its manufactured genre (other instruments of a similar type). This may include temper, tuning, and intonation, befitting the context of its design.
- 3. Technical excellence.** The instrument must demonstrate high levels of technical craftsmanship and quality showing a thorough and professional understanding of that type of instrument. Innovations to the instrument should be justifiable (e.g., contribution to the desired sound, durability of the instrument, ease of maintenance, ease of playability, overall aesthetic visual impact, etc.).
- 4. Repair ability.** All instruments need repair and maintenance. The instrument must be designed and built to make this straightforward.

5. Materials. The overwhelming majority of the instrument must be hand-made by the maker. Instruments constructed from kits are not acceptable.

Commercial Production Techniques:

The League's focus is on work made by hand by individual craftspeople. Commercial production methods used solely for speed or high volume are not acceptable by League Standards, although exceptions may be made. Craftspeople who utilize machine assisted production methods must maintain an extremely high level of originality and expressiveness of design. The juried craftsperson must create the imagery, color choices, and design.

Truth In Labeling:

Work made by the individual state juried craftsperson may be personally signed or stamped. Craftspeople are encouraged to permanently sign or stamp their work. Labeling must comply with League state and juried standards.

Standards Guidelines for Juried Work - Applicable to all media categories

Components and Accessories

Components or accessories are parts that are not made in the studio of the juried LNHC member, which are incorporated into craft objects. Such components and/or accessories are acceptable and appropriate only if: they are of high-quality construction and materials; they do not visually dominate the finished object; and they would not be reasonably interpreted, based upon appearance, as objects created by juried LNHC members.

Health and Safety Guidelines

The craftsperson is responsible for assurance that craftwork meets all federal, state, and local health and safety requirements.