

Music

Music Selection

The choice of music is one of the most important factors in music competition. The best approach to the choice of music is not “Can I get away with this particular piece of music?”, but rather “Which music will be most effective in my Christian service?”

1. Music should be inoffensive to **most** fundamental believers. The following will **not** be allowed:
 - a. Country and Western
 - b. Rock (of any kind)
 - c. CCM (written or popularized by a new CCM artist)
 - d. Jazz
2. IF THE RHYTHM IS QUESTIONABLE, PLEASE DO NOT USE THE SONG. If the words were taken away and the music would give the impression of being a pop, slow rock, country or CCM style, the material is not acceptable. Without the words, which genre would the song fit into?
3. Music should have a proper balance between melody, harmony, and rhythm. Rhythm, especially, should not overwhelm the other two aspects. Excessive use of syncopated rhythms (as the discretion of the judges), is unacceptable.
4. Interpretive slurring of notes should be avoided. The competitor is being judged on how accurately he follows the music as it is written and presented to the judges. Any changes must be clearly marked on the score.
5. All music must be of the genre Sacred, except in the instrumental competitions. Sacred music is something that would be played in a church service. Competitors performing in the instrumental categories may choose from either Sacred or Classical. For classification purposes, approved folk music will fall under the classical category.

General Performance Guidelines

If these guidelines are not followed, they will no longer be qualified to place. They may only perform for the critique.

1. Contestants will be required to provide 3 pieces of music (one per judge) to the judges when they are called to perform. There is no requirement as to whether or not the pieces of music need to be copies or originals. Each school is to do their own due diligence to assure they are in compliance with copyright and duplication laws. Each school is solely liable for the copies that are submitted.
 - All copies of music must have each measure numbered beginning with the first full measure, before handed to the judge. This excludes pick up measure.
2. Instrumentalists must perform music exactly as it appears on the score. If it is written as a piano accompaniment piece, it cannot be an instrumental or piano solo. Any predetermined alterations must be clearly noted on the music submitted to the FA Director in January.
3. If a piece of music was composed to have an accompaniment, it must have an accompanist. If a piece was written to be unaccompanied, accompaniment may not be added.
4. Vocalists must perform music exactly as it appears on the music. If notes or words are changed, the music should be marked to reflect these changes. Accompanists are not judged. All 7th-12th

grade competitions must sing at least half of the selection in parts. A “round” is not considered parts.

5. Appearance and poise points are also passed on intro and exiting. Students must introduce who they are, what school they are from and what song they will be playing. This applies to every performance category. Those performances consisting of more than one contestant may choose one spokesman for the introduction.
6. **Accompanists**
 - Only live piano/organ accompaniment is permitted.
 - The competitor must be rehearsed and fully prepared with his or her accompanist before arriving at the competition. Do not seek an accompanist after arriving for competition. Do not expect the ABCS Fine Arts Department to provide accompanist. Any last-minute change because of illness or emergency is the responsibility of the competitor. The Fine Arts Director must be informed of the substitutions made.
 - Accompanists are not judged. Judging will be based on the contestant’s performance, not the accompanist’s skill.
 - The accompanist does not need to memorize the piece.
 - Accompanists may transpose music if they mark the transposition on the judges’ copies.
 - A contestant may sing acapella (without accompaniment) only if the music was written as such. (i.e., if accompaniment is part of the selection, it must be played.)
 - It is wise for a single accompanist to only schedule themselves to accompany up to 12 performances. This is to keep any single accompanist from being overwhelmed as well as make scheduling realistic for the Fine Arts Director.
7. Music Memorization is required for:
 - Instrumental solos
 - All solos, choirs, and vocal groups
 - If sheet music is used by any of the above they will be disqualified for placing in competition, but are welcome to perform in order to be critiqued.
 - If accompanist is also singing in the group, they may not have the words or vocal parts on their music. Only the piano accompaniment may be in front of accompanist.
8. Music memorization is NOT required for:
 - Instrumental groups of two or more
 - Band/Orchestra/Chimes/Handbells
 - Piano Duets
9. No microphones will be allowed.
10. No substitutes are allowed after registration time, unless approved by the FA Director.
 - In case of an emergency or sickness, please contact the FA Director for directions in how to proceed.
11. No singing is to be done in instrumental pieces.
12. Ensemble and choirs – Schools may have two ensembles (5-8 participants) but only one choir (9+ participants) per competition grade division. Choirs or ensembles or combined grades will be judged at the highest grade level present in the group.
13. 4th – 6th grade students are not required to sing harmony when part of a group. 7th – 12th is required to sing harmony at least 50% of the song. A multi-membered singing group is

considered solely on the number of students singing, not the number of parts being sung. No more than two movements on each syllable in the melody.

14. A contestant is allowed only one entry per category. For example, a contestant will be allowed to participate in only ONE vocal quartet, ONE vocal trio, etc.
15. A keyboard duet may consist of one student on the piano and one on the organ, or two students on the piano.
16. Instrumental music will be categorized by grade level division. Contestants performing SACRED and CLASSICAL will compete in the same category.
17. Vocal solos are gender separated.
18. Choir entries must not include solos. For other music groups, no more than one verse should be sung as a solo.
19. A student or school may not perform the same piece of music two years in a row.

Piano

1. Skill levels are divided into three sections
 - a. Beginner: 24 months or less of lessons
 - b. Intermediate: 25 to 48 months of lessons
 - c. Advanced: 49 or more months of lessons
2. Appearance and poise points are also based on intro and exiting. Students must introduce who they are, what school they are from and what song they will be playing.

Time Requirements

Category	4-6 grade	7-9 grade	10-12 grade
Vocal Solos (Memorized)	5-minute max	5-minute max	5-minute max
Vocal Duets, Trios, Quartets, & Ensembles (ensembles are 5-8 students)	8-minute max	8-minute max	8-minute max
Choir (groups of 9 or more)	8-minute max	8-minute max	8-minute max
Instrumental Solos (Memorized)	1 minute minimum – 5-minute max	1 ½ min. (min)-8-minute max	1 ½ min. (min)-8-minute max
Instrumental Duets, Trios, and Ensembles (ensembles are 5-8 students)	5-minute max	8-minute max	8-minute max

JUDGING FORM - STRING SOLO

Name:	Grade:
School:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sacred <input type="checkbox"/> Classical
Name of Selection:	Instrument:

JUDGING CRITERIA - 10 points each category	Points Awarded
Level of Difficulty (10-difficult, 7-average, 4-simple)	
Personal Appearance, Poise, Approach/Departure	
Note Accuracy	
Rhythmic Accuracy	
Intonation and Tonal Control	
Phrasing, Fluency, Musicianship	
Dynamic Contrast	
Left Hand Position and Technique	
Bow Control and Technique	
Memory	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

JUDGING FORM - VOCAL SOLO

Name:	Grade:
School:	
Name of Selection:	
	Male <input type="checkbox"/> Female <input type="checkbox"/>

JUDGING CRITERIA - 10 points each category	Points Awarded
Level of Difficulty (10-difficult, 7-average, 4-simple)	
Personal Appearance, Poise, Approach/Departure	
Presentation – Posture/Eye Contact/Facial Expression	
Breathing and Projection	
Tone Quality	
Intonation	
Diction/Pronunciation	
Rhythmic and Melodic Accuracy	
Interpretation, Phrasing, Fluency and Dynamic Contrast	
Memory	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

JUDGING FORM - CHOIRS AND VOCAL GROUPS

School:	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 7-9 – Junior High <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 4-6 <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 10-12 – Senior High
Name of Selection:	
List Names for ensembles of 8 members or less	
1.	5.
2.	6.
3.	7.
4.	8.

Duet
 Trio
 Quartet
 Ensembles (5-8)
 Choir (9+)

JUDGING CRITERIA - 10 points each category	Points Awarded
Level of Difficulty (10-difficult, 7-average, 4-simple)	
Personal Appearance, Poise, Approach/Departure	
Rhythmic and Melodic Accuracy	
Breathing and Projection	
Tone Quality	
Intonation	
Diction/Pronunciation	
Balance and Blend	
Interpretation, Phrasing, Fluency and Dynamic Contrast	
Memory	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

JUDGING FORM - PIANO SOLO

Name:	Grade:
School:	<input type="checkbox"/> Sacred <input type="checkbox"/> Classical
Name of Selection:	

JUDGING CRITERIA - 10 points each category	Points Awarded
Level of Difficulty (10-difficult, 7-average, 4-simple)	
Personal Appearance, Poise, Approach/Departure	
Note Accuracy	
Rhythmic Accuracy	
Phrasing, Fluency, Pedaling	
Dynamic Contrast	
Finger Technique, Hand Position and Touch	
Balance between Hands	
Interpretation	
Memory	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____