

Vocal and Instrumental Judging Information 2024

JUDGES

The judges are an extremely important part of the competition. They are volunteers from the participating schools. Every attempt will be made to have three judges (one head judge and two assistants) in every category. All individuals (faculty, staff, parents, etc.) who feel qualified in a particular area are urged to volunteer. Judges should be familiar with the rules and responsibilities that they are responsible to judge (including judging forms) before arriving at Fine Arts Competition. These forms are a part of this document.

Judges should attempt to remain on campus throughout the competition or, at a minimum, until their category has been completed *and the Competition/Tally office has approved the awarding of places for that category.*

Parents should never judge a competition where their own child is a competitor.

Thursday

1. Each entry must have 3 judging forms included. Student information must be filled out, but the judging area is left blank.
2. Volunteers to judge **non-performing** entries should be at the host school by **12:00 p.m.** A judging meeting will promptly start at 12:00 for nonperformance categories. Please make sure you have brought the correct ratio of judges to projects submitted.
3. Lunches will be provided for the judges.

Friday

1. Judges should report to the judge's meeting room at **9:00 a.m.**
2. Lunches will be provided for the judges.

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 measures.
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 based 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**
 - A. Only live piano/organ accompaniment is permitted.
 - B. 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

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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.

- C. Accompanists are not judged. Judging will be based on the contestant's performance, not the accompanist's skill.
 - D. The accompanist does not need to memorize the piece.
 - E. Accompanists may transpose music if they mark the transposition on the judges' copies.
 - F. 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.)
 - G. **It is wise for a single accompanist to only schedule themselves to accompany up to 15 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:
 - A. Instrumental solos
 - B. All solos, choirs, and vocal groups
 - C. **If sheet music is used by any of the above they will be qualify for placing in competition, but are welcome to preform in order to be critiqued.**
 - D. 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:
 - A. Instrumental groups of two or more
 - B. Band/Orchestra/Chimes/Handbells
 - C. Piano Duets
 9. No microphones will be allowed.
 10. No substitutes are allowed after registration time, unless approved by the FA Director.
 - A. 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 of combined grades will be judged at the highest grade level present in the group.
 13. 4th-12th grade students are required to sing harmony when part of a group. 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. For INSTRUMENTAL SOLOS, please specify on the registration form the division: BRASS, WOODWIND, STRING (BOW), STRING (PLUCKED), OR MISCELLANEOUS (includes such instruments as accordion, melodic percussion, recorder, bagpipe, harmonicas, etc.) Drums and amplified instruments are not permitted.
 18. INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS consist of two or more approved instruments other than the piano or organ.
 19. Vocal Solo competitions are gender separated.
 20. Choir entries must not include solos. For other music groups, no more than one verse should be sung as a solo.
 21. A student or school may not perform the same piece of music two years in a row.
 22. Due to limited entries, Band and Orchestra will compete together. Bells and Chimes will compete together. Also, two pieces must be performed in each of these categories. **Combining age groups is allowed.**

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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
Band/Orchestra (Groups of 9 or more) <u>2</u> <u>selections</u>			<u>10 min. max per selection</u>
Chimes/Handbells choir (Groups of 9 or more) <u>2</u> <u>selections</u>	Combining age groups is allowed.		<u>10 min. max per selection</u>

STANDARD GENERAL DEDUCTIONS FOR SPEECH AND MUSIC

4th -12th NO COPIES = Disqualified

4th-6th TIME: Short/Over by 0-30 seconds = 1 point
TIME: Short/Over by 31 seconds or more = 2 points

7th-9th TIME: Short/Over by 0-30 seconds = 2 points
TIME: Short/Over by 31 seconds or more = 3 points

10th-12th TIME: Short/Over by 0-30 seconds = 2 points
TIME: Short/Over by 31-60 seconds = 3 points
TIME: Short/Over by 61 seconds or more = 4 points

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**** HINTS FROM THE JUDGES ****

In evangelistic style piano playing, the key word is COMMAND. This is the time for the pianist to demonstrate his/her authoritative attack in precision playing. The weak pianist will not be a good evangelistic pianist. Strength needs to be demonstrated. Long introductions should be avoided.

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JUDGING FORM - VOCAL SOLO

Name:	Grade:
School:	
Name of Selection:	
Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.	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 If music is used by vocalist, they are not qualified to place.	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

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JUDGING FORM - CHOIRS AND VOCAL GROUPS

School:	<input type="checkbox"/> Grades 4-6 <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 7-9 – Junior High <input type="checkbox"/> Grades 10-12 – Senior High
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Name of Selection:

Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.

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 If music is used by vocalists, they are not qualified to place.	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

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JUDGING FORM - PIANO SOLO

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

Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.	
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 If sheet music is used, they are not qualified to place.	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

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JUDGING FORM - PIANO DUET

Name:	Grade:
School:	_____ Sacred
Name of Selection:	_____ Classical

Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.	
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	
Interpretation	
Balance of Parts (Dynamics between players)	
Coordination and Timing between Parts	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

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JUDGING FORM - INSTRUMENTAL SOLO

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

Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.	
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	
Articulation	
Phrasing, Fluency, Musicianship	
Dynamic Contrast	
Playing Technique (Hand Position, Finger Technique, Posture, Breathing)	
Embouchure and Tone Quality	
Memory If sheet music is used, they are not qualified to place.	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

JUDGING FORM - STRING SOLO

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

Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.	
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 If sheet music is used, they are not qualified to place.	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

JUDGING FORM - INSTRUMENTAL GROUPS

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

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

Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.	
JUDGING CRITERIA – 10 points each category	Points Awarded
Level of Difficulty (10-difficult, 7-average, 4-simple)	
Personal Appearance, Poise, Approach/Departure	
Balance and Blend	
Tone Quality	
Intonation	
Articulation	
Rhythmic Accuracy	
Note Accuracy	
Dynamic Contrast	
Interpretation, Phrasing, Fluency	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

JUDGING FORM - HYMN PLAYING

Name:	Grade:
School:	
Name of Selections:	
Contestants must score at least 50% to qualify to place.	

JUDGING CRITERIA - 10 points each category	Points Awarded
Personal Appearance, Poise, Approach/Departure	
Follows Hymnal Harmonies	
Note Accuracy	
Rhythmic Accuracy	
Fingering Technique – Hand position and touch	
Phrasing, Fluency, Musicianship	
Dynamic Contrast	
Proper use of Fill-in Technique	
Improvisation (Individual creativity)	
Sets the Spiritual Mood for the Service	
TOTAL	

Comments:

(Judge's Signature) _____

