Vocal Guidelines for Choir

CATEGORIES

- Choir
- Rap Solo
- Rap Group
- Songwriting
- Vocal Ensemble, Small
- Vocal Ensemble, Large
- Vocal Solo, Female
- Vocal Solo, Male
- Worship Team

A participant may enter the same song in more than one category. For example, the student may sing a solo version of a song that is used in a vocal ensemble. However, a student or group of students may not enter the same category twice.

Synthesizers / keyboards are only provided for Worship Team and Rap.
A piano or keyboard is provided for Songwriting, Vocal Ensemble/Solos and Choir.

GENERAL VOCAL DIVISION RULES

- Use of pre-programmed or pre-recorded loops/software is not allowed; any looping or sequencing technology must function only in response to manual and live hands-on control.
- Click tracks, metronomes, or other rhythmic stability assistance devices or technology are disallowed.
- Choir is the only Vocal Division category allowed a conductor/director as part of the presentation. No other Vocal category is permitted to have a conductor. Participants in those categories receiving rhythm, balance/blend or cut-off cues from coaches or directors seated in the audience will receive rule-violation point deductions.
- Choir, Vocal Ensemble/Solo Accompaniment:
  - Choir and Vocal entries may choose to have or not to have accompaniment.
  - Accompanists are not considered part of the entry.
  - The accompanist may be an adult or student.
  - Accompanists are allowed to use music.
  - A maximum of four instruments from the allowed instruments list may be used for live accompaniment. A piano is the only instrument that will be provided for Vocal Ensemble/Solo entries.

Choir

A Choir is for the art of presenting a sacred choral song selection with ministry effectiveness in mind.

- A Choir entry must consist of 11 to 75 eligible students.
- Choirs are allowed five (5) minutes to present their entry. There are 2 1/2 minutes for set up and 2 1/2 minutes for tear down.
- Background vocals are not permitted on soundtracks.
- Soundtrack levels may be adjusted to compensate for different recording levels.
- A director is allowed. This person may use music.

Choir Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on criteria established by LCS Festival including the following:

• **Selection**
  o Christian message – presents a clear Christian message with ministry effectiveness in mind.
  o Appropriate - appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
  o Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement.
  o Display of vocal range – demonstrates a wide vocal range

• **Communication**
  o Posture – relaxed body stance for proper breath support and management.
  o Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language.
  o Stage presence – command of stage; control, confidence and comfort.
  o Unity – demonstrates ensemble cohesiveness.
  o Communicative skill – ability to connect with audience.

• **Presentation/Technique**
  o Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
  o Phrasing – completeness of a lyrical statement.
  o Breathing – proper breath management.
  o Intonation – ability to sing in tune.
  o Tone quality – ability to produce clear and pleasant tone.
  o Diction – proper enunciation of words.
  o Articulation – executes clear and coherent phrases
                (i.e. 'staccato' – short, 'marcato' – marked, and 'legato' – connected).
  o Blend – creating a balanced sound.
  o Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
  o Harmony—knowledgeable and effective use of unison and multi-part harmony

• **Effectiveness**
  o Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  o Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparing the selection.
  o Memorization – strong knowledge of the lyrics and melody of the song(s).
  o Understandable concept – the combination of music selection, communication, presentation/technique, and
                effectiveness in attaining a response.