Vocal Guidelines for Rap

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.

Rap

Rap is the urban art of communicating through rhythm and rhyme.
- A Rap Group entry may consist of two (2) to ten (10) eligible students.
- Rap entries must be the original words of the student(s) and not previously submitted in this festival.
- All Rap entries have a time limit of five (5) minutes. There are 90 seconds for set up and 90 seconds for tear down.
- Three sets of lyric sheets must be hand delivered to the evaluators at each level of participation. Lyric sheets must be typed with the lyrics divided into the sections of the song (chorus, verse, bridge, etc.) and must have a title page or heading that includes the following information:
  - Title
  - Category
  - Composer(s)
  - School name, City and State
- A keyboard and standard drum set are provided. Students wishing to use drum machines must provide their own equipment and adhere to the set up and tear down time limits.
- All entries must be memorized.

Rap Evaluation Criteria

Each entry will be evaluated on this criterion established by LCS Festival:

• **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 – creative structure of verse and/or chorus with music and vocals.
  o Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.

• **Communication**
  o Clear concept – understandable concept of lyrical message
  o Expression – facial expression and body language that reflect the tone and intent of the lyrics
  o Stage presence – command of stage and/or instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
  o Vocal clarity – enunciation of words, projecting with the correct, clear inflection and control appropriate for
       the presentation.
  o Interpretation - overall effectiveness/impact of the message

• **Presentation/Technique**
  o Motions – hand and arm gestures that enhance the performance.
  o Precision/stability – lyrics, motions and music complement each other.
  o Energy – demonstrates the emotion with exaggerated energy for the lyrics.
  o Creativity – unique physical response to rhythm and rhyme.
  o Timing – allows for lyrical delivery and audience response.
  o Phrasing – employs creative and innovative wording rather than trite or cliché.
  o Control – maintaining quality sound with appropriate volume.
  o Synchronization – multiple vocalists' gestures or movements in proper rhythm with each other and the
       music (ensemble).

• Effectiveness
  o Evident ministry – evidence of spiritual motivation demonstrated with sincerity and passion.
  o Preparation – an apparent effort of thought and time in preparation.
  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.