Vocal Guidelines for Vocal Ensembles

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.

Vocal Ensemble

An entry in a Vocal Ensemble/Solo category is for the art of presenting a vocal song selection with ministry effectiveness in mind.

- A Vocal Ensemble, Small may consist of two (2) to four (4) eligible students.
- A Vocal Ensemble, Large may consist of five (5) to ten (10) eligible students.
- Bilingual entries are not permitted.
- A time limit of five (5) minutes is allowed for all vocal solos and ensembles. There are 90 seconds allowed for set up and 90 seconds for tear down.
- Music must be memorized.
- Participants may not ask for special sound settings. To ensure consistent sound level, microphones are set prior to the Festival by an official sound technician. It is the responsibility of the participants to make sure the microphones are turned on and to move microphones to accommodate blend and volume.
- Soundtrack levels may be adjusted to compensate for different recording levels. Background vocals are allowed for solo entries. Background vocals are not allowed for group entries.

Vocal Ensemble 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.