

Vocal Guidelines for Worship Team

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.

Worship Team

A Worship Team entry is the art of leading others in worship.

- Worship Team entries may consist of two (2) to ten (10) eligible students.
- Worship Team is allowed a time limit of seven (7) minutes with a 2 and 1/2 minutes for set up and 2 and 1/2 minutes for tear down. Participants may have assistance with set up.
- All individuals within a Worship Team entry must meet the age or grade requirements. No adult accompanists, vocalists are allowed.
- Worship Team entries must consist of both vocalists and instrumentalists. Entries are required to have more than one vocalist.
- All music must be memorized.
- Additional instruments and equipment and/or additional percussion accessories are permitted but must be provided by the participants and only if they can be set up and torn down within the allotted time limit. Individuals are not allowed to bring their own drum sets.
- Sound engineers are provided by the festival.

Worship Team / Christian Band 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 Arrangement – well-rounded, cohesive musical statement
- o Originality – use of original and creative ideas; demonstrates a fresh approach.
- o Appropriate – appropriate level of difficulty; appropriate for this festival
- o Musical transitions - thoughtful flow of music; theme unity (holiness, the cross, etc.); smooth flow from one song to the next

• Communication

- o Posture – relaxed body stance for proper breath control.
- o Expressiveness – both facial expression and use of body language to lead in worship.
- o Stage presence – command of stage and/or instrument; control, confidence and comfort.
- o Communicative skill – interprets the overall musical intent (i.e. emotion, energy, musical line, personal involvement/connectivity to theme of arrangement).
- o Unity – cohesiveness of vocalists and instrumentalists.
- o Worshipful lyrics - appropriate lyrics for application of audience; avoiding trite expressions

• Presentation/Technique

- o Dynamics – effective use of contrasting volumes.
- o Phrasing – completeness of a musical statement.
- 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 articulate phrases (i.e. 'staccato' – short, 'marcato' – marked, and 'legato' – connected).
- o Breathing – proper breath management.
- o Rhythmic precision – ability to internalize the pulse.
- o Blend – creates a balanced sound.
- o Energy – demonstrates vitality appropriate for the selection(s).
- 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; able to draw a worshipful response.
- 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.