



NON-SCHOLARSHIP GROUP CATEGORY SMALL VOCAL ENSEMBLE (3–8 PEOPLE)

REQUIRED SELECTIONS

Each group must prepare two selections and one must be memorized. The songs can be either sacred art songs (i.e., songs that are sacred in text and somewhat classical in style) or Christian songs (the kind an ensemble or choir would normally sing in church). One of these songs may be sung in a foreign language. If you choose to do so, you must provide an English translation. You may also use interpretive signing or some other enhancement. However, singing in a foreign language, signing, or using other enhancements will not add to or subtract from your score. Selections cannot be used two consecutive years at the national level.

MUSICAL SCORES

Supply the judges with one score of each of your selections with the measures numbered. If you desire to alter the rhythm to coincide with your interpretation, you must edit those changes into the musical score provided for the judges.

All musical scores used by participants and accompanists, as well as those given to the judges, must be original music with the following exceptions:

1. The accompanist has an original copy of the music but has photocopied it to make it easier to turn pages. In such a case, the accompanist must have the original music in the room.

2. The musical score is out of print. If the music is out of print and under active copyright, you must obtain written permission from the publisher to photocopy it and must make the letter available to the judges if they ask for it. All photocopies must be easily readable.

DIRECTING

A director may not cue or direct a small ensemble during the performance.

ACCOMPANIMENT

You must furnish your own accompanist if you

desire accompaniment. Piano is the only acceptable instrument for accompaniment. You may use a tape or CD recording of piano accompaniment, but you are to provide the necessary equipment for playing the recording. You are not to ask the judges or other contestants to serve as accompanists. You may have your accompanist assist you during warm-ups.

MEMORY

One selection must be sung from memory. An ensemble that sings both songs from a score will have points deducted.

TIME

You will be allowed ten minutes for your combined musical selections, divided between the two pieces as you wish. Warm-ups will not be included in your ten minutes' singing time. At the end of ten minutes the timekeeper will stand long enough to notify you that your allotted time has ended. You will be judged on your performance to that point.

CHURCH MINISTRY

To be eligible for state competition, your ensemble must perform one of its songs in your local church (or in some other ministry opportunity approved by your pastor). You must submit to the state judges a signed statement from your pastor or youth leader that you have done so.

ADJUDICATION AREAS

Breath support

Posture

Tone/Intonation—control, pitch, diction, attack, release, resonance, maturity, quality

Rhythm—accuracy, flow

Interpretation—artistry, dynamic contrast, phrasing, style, tempo

Musicality/Communication—sincerity, eye contact, countenance, confidence

Blending

Memorization (one required)

Difficulty of music

Appearance—appropriate attire, good grooming

SUGGESTED SELECTIONS

You are free to choose your own selections. An appropriate selection is an important factor in judging. Consult your local music dealer or school music department for assistance.

