

SMALL VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Open



Your ensemble of three to eight people is to present two selections in English. One or both songs may be sacred art songs in classical style or Christian songs such as you would sing in church. (A group may sing one of each type of song or two of the same type of song.) One selection is to be memorized. The emphasis is on musicianship and the quality of the group's vocal performance. If competing in consecutive years at national competition, choose different selections than you previously used. You may not use a conductor.

MUSICAL SCORES

Please supply the judges with one score of each of your selections with the measures numbered. If you alter the rhythm to coincide with your interpretation, edit those changes into the musical score provided for the judges. At the competition all musical scores must be **original music** except when:

- The accompanist has the original music in the room, in addition to the original music supplied to the judges, but uses a photocopy of the music.
- The musical score is out of print and under active copyright. If so, provide for the judges written permission from the publisher to photocopy the score.

ACCOMPANIMENT

You are to use only a piano for your accompaniment. You may provide your own piano accompanist or use a CD of piano accompaniment. If using a CD, you are to provide equipment for playing the recording. Your accompanist may assist you during warm-ups.

TIME

You will have ten minutes of singing time to divide between the two pieces as you wish. Warm-ups are not included in the ten minutes. At the end of ten minutes, the timekeeper will stand, signifying that your time for singing has ended.

CHURCH MINISTRY

To help you prepare for state competition, your ensemble is to perform one of the songs in your church or in another ministry opportunity approved by your pastor. Prepare a church ministry statement that specifies the date and setting in which you presented your song and submit it to the state and national judges as described under **Submissions**.

CRITERIA

You will be judged in the following 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, countenance, eye contact, confidence
- *Blending*
- *Memorization* (one required)
- *Difficulty of music*

DEDUCTIONS

- *Attire*—You are to wear business dress as described in the TFC guidelines: a coat and tie for men and a dress or skirt ensemble for women. Attire should be modest. Ensemble members may wear coordinated collared shirts with slacks for men and skirts for women. A three-point deduction will be made for attire that does not follow these guidelines.
- *Required materials*—You are to provide prepared scores (and permission letter from publisher if needed) and your church ministry statement. A three-point deduction will be made for having only some of the materials; a five-point deduction for having none of the materials.

SUBMISSIONS

- *State competition*—Submit to the judges on the day of competition your musical scores with measures numbered (and permission letter from publisher if needed) and your church ministry statement.
- *National competition*—Submit your church ministry statement to GARBC/TFC by June 1, 2012 (e-mail: tfc@garbc.org; fax: 847-843-3757; mail: 1300 N. Meacham Rd., Schaumburg, IL 60173-4806). Submit to the judges on the day of competition your musical scores with measures numbered (and permission letter from publisher if needed).



2012 ADJUDICATION SHEET

SMALL VOCAL ENSEMBLE—Open

Name of Church _____ City/State _____

Title of First Selection _____

Title of Second Selection _____

Circle the points received in each category—put the total for each section in the appropriate box at the bottom of each section and in the total boxes.

Use a (+) or a (-) next to the subcategories (under the main categories) to indicate areas of excellence or areas that need improvement.

							SONG 1	SONG 2
1	Breath Support	Very little support given to the sound. 1-2	Some evidence at supporting the sound, but needs work. 3-4	Good attempt at supporting the breath with room for improvement. 5-6	Solid breathing and support from diaphragm. 7-8	Excellent breath control and diaphragmatic support. 9-10		
2	Posture	Upper frame totally collapsed. 1-2	Some attempt to stand erect, but frame is slouched. 3-4	Standing tall, but needs to lift the frame. 5-6	Well-balanced, erect stature. 7-8	Excellent stance promoting good sound production. 9-10		
3	Tone/Intonation ___ Control ___ Pitch ___ Diction ___ Attack/release ___ Resonance ___ Maturity, quality	Major problems hindered musical expression. 1-2	Tonal concept was under way, but needs further refinement. 3-4	Tone was clear, but lacked maturity. 5-6	Tone was characteristic of student grade level. 7-8	Tone was profoundly well developed and mature. 9-10		
4	Rhythm ___ Accuracy ___ Flow	There were significant rhythm problems. 1-2	Rhythms were unclear in several places. 3-4	Most rhythms were correct, with only a few spots of inaccuracy. 5-6	Rhythms were accurate. 7-8	Rhythms were precise. Attacks and releases were executed exactly. 9-10		
5	Interpretation ___ Artistry ___ Dynamic contrast ___ Phrasing ___ Style ___ Tempo	The performance did not express musical ideas effectively. 1-2	Expression was inhibited or too subtly conveyed to the listener. 3-4	Performance was expressive, but certain areas were still lacking. 5-6	Musical expression was evident throughout. 7-8	Performance clearly displayed musical expression. 9-10		
6	Musicality/Communication ___ Sincerity ___ Countenance ___ Eye contact ___ Confidence	There was no noticeable expression in this performance. 1-2	Some of the musical elements, beyond pitches and rhythms, were evident. 3-4	There was a noticeable effort to perform the selection as written. 5-6	All markings were observed and expressed through performance. 7-8	The performance expressed profound comprehension of the composer's intent. 9-10		

Comments: _____

Circle the points received in each category—put the total for each section in the appropriate box at the bottom of each section and in the total boxes. Use a (+) or a (-) next to the subcategories (under the main categories) to indicate areas of excellence or areas that need improvement.

							SONG 1	SONG 2
7	Blending	Voices lacked a tone quality allowing blend throughout the piece. 1-2	Voices stood out from one another and occasionally there was a successful blend. 3-4	All parts were sung so that parts could be heard. Occasionally some voices stood out from others. 5-6	All parts were sung so that each part could be heard equally well. 7-8	Blend was so successful that the voices sounded as one. 9-10		
8	Difficulty of Music	Music selection was novice level. 1-2	Music selection was easy for student grade level. 3-4	Music selection was moderately easy for student grade level. 5-6	Music selection was suitable for student grade level. 7-8	Music selection was exceptionally difficult for student grade level. 9-10		
9	Memorization	The lack of memorization was catastrophic to the success of the performance. 1-2	Significant memory problems interfered with the continuity of the performance. 3-4	Memory errors were apparent, but did not interrupt the flow of the performance. 5-6	There were virtually no memory errors. Minor lapses were handled well. 7-8	There were no memory errors. 9-10		
TOTAL								

Deductions

Attire

- Does not meet TFC guidelines (-3 points)

Required Materials

- Numbered scores
- Church ministry statement
- Partial materials (-3 points)
- No materials (-5 points)

Total for first selection (90 points)	
Total for second selection (90 points)	
Average Score	
Total Deductions (-8 points max)	
FINAL SCORE (90 points max)	

#1 Rating—65 points or greater

#2 Rating—50 points or greater

Comments: _____

 Signature of Judge