

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLE

Open



Your ensemble of two or more people is to present two selections: one sacred and the other classical or sacred. Playing from memory is not required. The emphasis is on musicianship and the quality of the group's instrumental performance. If competing in consecutive years at national competition, choose different selections than you previously used. You may 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. If you play the piece in a transposed key, provide the judges with the score in that same key, which may be handwritten. 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

A pianist may provide accompaniment for the ensemble. Your accompanist may assist with tuning of your instruments.

TIME

You will have ten minutes of playing time to divide between your two pieces as you wish. Tuning your instruments is not included in the ten minutes. At the end of ten minutes, the timekeeper will stand, signifying that your playing time has ended. You will be judged on your performance to that point.

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** below.

CRITERIA

You will be judged in the following areas:

- **Technique/articulation**—facility, fingering, fluency, tonguing, slurring, bowing
- **Rhythm**—accuracy, steadiness
- **Interpretation**—artistry, dynamic contrast, phrasing, style, tempo
- **Note accuracy**
- **Tone**—embouchure, characteristic timbre, control, production, quality
- **Musicality/communication**—sincerity, spirit, assurance
- **Blending**
- **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 2, 2017 (e-mail: tfc@garbc.org; mail: 3715 N. Ventura Drive, Arlington Heights, IL 60004). Submit to the judges on the day of competition your musical scores with measures numbered (and permission letter from publisher if needed).