

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, 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 recording of piano accompaniment. If using a recording, 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 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 dress shirt and slacks 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

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.