

# STRINGS

## Scholarship and Open

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### SELECTIONS

You are to prepare two selections—one sacred and one classical. Playing from memory is not required. If competing in consecutive years, choose different selections than previously used. A sample listing of appropriate music is available at [garbcTFC.org](http://garbcTFC.org).

### MUSICAL SCORES

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, please 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

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 with tuning of your instrument.

### TIME

You will have ten minutes of playing time to divide between the two pieces as you wish. Tuning your instrument 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.

### SCALES

The judges will ask you to play two major scales from memory—two octaves, ascending and descending.

### SIGHT-READING

The judges will ask you to sight-read a score. You will have thirty seconds to look over the music before beginning

to play. If you are participating in TFC Open competition, you will be asked to sight-read, but you will not be judged in that area.

### CHURCH MINISTRY

To help you prepare for state competition, you are to play one of your pieces 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 solo and submit it to the state and national judges as described under **Submissions**.

### CRITERIA

Your playing will be judged in the following areas:

- **Technique**—facility, fingering and bowing, choice of execution, fluency
- **Intonation**
- **Note accuracy**
- **Articulation**—fingering and bowing, accurate interpretation of markings
- **Rhythm**—accuracy, steadiness
- **Musicality/interpretation**—artistry, dynamic contrast, phrasing, style, tempo, sincerity, spirit, assurance
- **Sight-reading** (required, but not judged in Open competition)
- **Scales**
- **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. 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 TFC by June 1 (e-mail: [tfc@garbc.org](mailto:tfc@garbc.org); fax: 847-843-3757; 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).