



2024 MUSIC RULES

(Changes or Corrections in RED.)

General:

1. Vocal and instrumental music must be classical, semi-classical, folk, patriotic, spirituals, traditional sacred, classic musicals, or movie music written in a traditional style. No pop, rock, country, jazz, or southern gospel music will be allowed.
 - A. The term “classical” is not limited to that specific time period, but applies to selections of a different time period, as compared to contemporary, popular music.
 - B. The terms “semi-classical” or “traditional” identifies music that is like classical music in form, style, and quality, but is less complex. **This is not a separate category.**
 - C. Music from musicals and movies must be arranged in a traditional or classical style. Directors should consider the association of the movie/musical itself; pieces from musicals whose plotlines include objectionable moral elements will not be approved.
 - D. Sacred music must be arranged in a traditional style.
 - E. Medleys are acceptable.
 - F. All music approval is at the discretion of the competition committee.
2. Only live piano accompaniment is acceptable for soloists and groups.
3. Choreography may only be used if indicated by the composer/arranger and is limited to only hand clapping, finger snapping, foot stomping, and whistling.
4. No additional instruments (such as bells, finger cymbals, flute, violin, etc.) may be performed as accompaniment or descant even if written by the composer/arranger.
5. **Contestants must provide 1 original copy of the piece and 1 photocopy.** Only the original will be returned.
6. All measures in a piece must be numbered or the contestant will be automatically disqualified.
7. In the interest of good taste, additions, cuts, or deviations in the music must be clearly marked on the judges’ copies, and is at the judges’ discretion. Judges may take off only 1 point.
8. If using digital music, include cover copy **or page** which indicates proof of purchase. **One** additional copy must be made, but will not be returned. Only the original single print will be returned.
9. A student or group may not perform the same selection in two consecutive years. A selected piece may not be performed by more than one group from the same school/group in the same year.
10. Each student or director is responsible for retrieving the original copies from the judges following the performance. All additional photocopies will be destroyed.

11. Grade Divisions are as follows:

Grades 3 – 5 will be considered Elementary.

(Students in grade 3 may participate in groups only.)

Grades 6 – 8 will be considered Middle School.

Grades 9 – 12 will be considered High School.

Students may compete in a next higher group category, but may not compete in a lower group category.

Accompanists:

1. Each individual or group must provide its own accompanist.
2. The accompanist does not count as part of the group number.
3. The accompanist may use a page turner.
4. If using the only original copy, the accompanist must show the original to the judge prior to performance. Copies will not be returned.

Time Limits:

1. Elementary school students will perform 1 piece within a 3 - minute time limit.
2. **Middle** school students will perform 1 piece within a 5 - minute time limit.
3. **High** school students will perform 1 piece within an 8 - minute time limit.

Individual:

1. Piano and vocal solos must be memorized.
2. Instrumental solos do **not** need to be memorized.
3. Instrumentalists may **not** use a page turner.
4. Instrumentalists do **not** have to have an accompanist; but are strongly urged to use one.
5. A student may enter more than one individual category (such as sacred piano and classical piano), but may not enter the same category more than once.

Groups:

Small and Large Vocal Ensembles:

1. Small and large ensembles (12 members or less) will perform 1 memorized piece within a 5-minute time limit.
2. Small ensembles may **not** be directed. Large ensembles may be directed.

Small and Large Instrumental Groups:

1. Small and large ensembles (12 members or less) will perform 1 piece (with music) within a 5-minute time limit.
2. Small and large ensembles may be directed.

Piano Duet:

1. Students will perform one piece within the time limit of their individual category.
2. Students must be in the same age category.
3. Piano duets do **not** need to be memorized.

Handbell/Handchime Ensemble/Choir:

1. A small ensemble will consist of 2 – 6 members and will perform 1 piece within a 5-minute time limit.
2. A large ensemble will consist of 7 – 12 members and will perform 1 piece within a 5-minute time limit.
3. A handbell/hand chime choir will consist of 13+ members and will perform 2 pieces within a 10-minute time limit. An elementary choir may perform 1 piece within a 5-minute time limit.
4. Both ensembles and choirs may be directed.

Performance Procedures:

1. Each **individual** contestant will introduce himself/herself, the school/group represented, and title of piece before performing.
2. For small and large ensembles, one member will introduce the school/group represented, and title of piece before performing.
3. For directed groups, the director will introduce the school/group represented, and title of piece(s) before performing.
4. Instrumentalists may tune their instruments with the piano prior to **introducing themselves and the piece.**

Choral:

1. The director will introduce the school/group represented, and titles of pieces before performing.
2. Elementary Choral Groups (13 – 24 members) and Youth Choirs (25+ members) will perform **1 selection within an 8-minute time limit.**
3. **Middle School** and **High School** Choral Groups (13 – 24 members) and Youth Choirs (25+ members) will perform **2 selections within a 10-minute time limit.**
4. Selections may be sacred anthems, classical, semi-classical, foreign language, cultural/folk, patriotic, spirituals, or traditional classic Broadway. (example: *Climb Ev'ry Mountain* from *The Sound of Music*)
5. **Students in 6th, 7th, and 8th grades may compete in High School Choral.**
6. **Students in 5th grade may compete in Middle School Choral and in Elementary School Choral.**
7. **Students in 3rd grade may compete in Elementary School Choral.**

Band/Orchestra:

1. A Band/Orchestra will be considered a group of 7 or more musicians.
2. The director will introduce the school/group represented, and titles of pieces before performing.
3. Elementary Band/Orchestra will perform **1 selection within a 10-minute time limit.**
4. Jr. High and Sr. High Band/Orchestra will perform **2 selections within a 15-minute time limit.**
5. Students in 6th – 8th grades may compete in either **Middle School** or **High School** Band/Orchestra.
6. Students in 5th and 6th grades may compete in either Middle School or Sr. High Band/Orchestra. Students may compete in a next higher group category, **as well as their own age group category.** They may not compete in a lower group category.