

## Solo and Ensemble Rules and Regulations

### **A. INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS**

1. Registration forms located on the Solo and Ensemble page of the SCMEA Choral Division website must be mailed by January 17, 2020.
2. The fees should be included with the registration forms. Late registration or registrations without fees will not be accepted.
3. Teachers must be members of SCMEA and NAFME. A copy of your current membership card **must accompany** the registration.
4. Only students that are enrolled in your choral program or private instruction should be brought to the festival.
5. Ratings for each performance are as follows: I-Superior, II-Excellent, III-Good, IV-Below Average, V-Poor. Plus or minus may be added to the score.
6. Standard vocal literature is required. It is suggested that teachers choose good repertoire and avoid pop songs, show tunes, hymns, or contemporary Christian selections.
7. A Certificate of Achievement will be emailed to the directors to use at their discretion. Pins are available for purchase for \$4.00 for those performers scoring a Superior Rating.
8. If you register 15 or more solos and/or ensembles, you will be required to bring an additional accompanist.

### **B. INFORMATION FOR ALL CATEGORIES**

1. Solo and Ensemble events are available for students in the age range of the sixth grade through the twelfth grade.
2. All singers must perform memorized music.
3. All soloists and ensembles must furnish an original copy of the music for the adjudicator and accompanist. PHOTOCOPIES ARE ILLEGAL AND MAY NOT BE USED. Schools attempting to use photocopied music will be disqualified.
4. If performing literature that is out of print, the director must provide a letter from the publisher stating the music is out of print and they are given permission to copy and perform the music. If you print music from the Choral Public Domain Library, also print the cover page provided by CPDL.
5. All music presented to the adjudicator must have numbered measures.
6. Singers must have their own accompanist – accompaniment tracks are not acceptable.
7. Schools should arrive 45 minutes prior to their judging time. A 15-minute warm-up will be given for each school.
8. Festival performances with the exception of the scholarship division are closed performances.

### **C. ENSEMBLES**

1. Small ensembles (2-6 performers) must prepare one memorized piece of standard choral literature performed without the director. Large ensembles (7-17 performers) must prepare two memorized octavos of music in contrasting styles, and a director may be present.
2. Ensemble performances may be a cappella or accompanied. Each performing group will furnish an original copy of the music for the adjudicator *and* accompanist.

### **D. SOLOISTS**

1. Students are encouraged to sing age-appropriate literature. (No pop songs, show tunes, hymns, or contemporary Christian selections.)
2. All students will sing one piece, by memory, for the judge. The judge and the accompanist must have original copies of the music.
3. Students are eligible to compete in the Advanced Division in their JUNIOR or SENIOR year after receiving a Superior rating in the High School Division in a previous year. Singing in the Advanced Division means the student will perform 2 pieces.

### **E. SCHOLARSHIPS**

1. Soloists must have received a I (Superior) in the Advanced Division to qualify for the vocal scholarship.
2. Seniors who have received a Superior performing in the Advanced Division in their Junior year will not need to sing in the Advanced Division their Senior year. This student should sign up for the Scholarship Division only their senior year.
3. Seniors who have not previously received a superior rating in the Advanced Division should register as an advanced division soloist and mark that they are intending to compete for the scholarship (provisional scholarship). The scholarship fee will be paid on site if the student receives a Superior in their Advanced Division solo.
4. Each student entering the scholarship division should submit a Scholarship Division Resume Form. This resume should be mailed along with the school's registration form and meet the postmark deadline.
5. All soloists will prepare two memorized pieces in varying styles. One of the selections should be in a foreign language.
6. Scholarship auditions will begin following the adjudication of the other divisions. Students and parents are invited to listen to the auditions. Each student will sing one song of their choosing. After all singers have sung one piece, the judges have the opportunity to ask the singers to sing their other selection. The number of students asked to sing a second piece is at the discretion of the judges. A second runner up, first runner up, and scholarship winner may be recognized.
7. The soloist receiving the scholarship must be planning to be a music major or minor at an institution of higher education in the State of South Carolina. Should the student change their major, or move out of state, the scholarship will be given to the first runner up.
8. The scholarship will be distributed in the following manner:
  - a. The sum of \$400 will be paid to the student after he/she submits transcripts of a

successful completion of the first year of a music degree. Subsequently, another \$400 will be sent after the second and third years. The official school transcripts should be sent to the SCMEA Choral Division Treasurer. Contact information is located on the SCMEA Choral Division website.

- b. One scholarship will be awarded at each festival site at the discretion of the judges.

### **Still not sure how the Scholarship system works?**

**Step One:** Achieve a Superior in the High School Division. This can happen in 9th-11th grade.

**Step Two:** Achieve a Superior in the Advanced Division. (NOTE: You MUST achieve a superior in the regular division BEFORE you can compete in the advanced division.) This can happen in 11th-12th grade.

**NOTE:** A Senior cannot compete in high school, advanced, and scholarship in the same year. They must have achieved a superior in the high school division in a previous year.

If a student transfers from out of state during the second semester of their junior year or during their senior year, special accommodations will be made. Those students that transferred will be allowed to compete in high school, then advanced, and then scholarship within the same year.

If you still aren't sure, email questions to Erin Phillips at [ephillips@g.oconeek12.sc.us](mailto:ephillips@g.oconeek12.sc.us) BEFORE sending in your registration! Thanks!