



# Instrumental Music Criteria

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**CATEGORIES: Any instrument is accepted. All instrumental styles are welcomed.**

1. All criteria set forth here apply to the Regional, Semi-Final and Final Competitions, unless otherwise noted.
2. Students should perform their best work and not choose pieces that are more difficult than their current level of proficiency to impress the judges.
3. No parents, teachers or coaches will be allowed in the competition area.
4. Open to SOLOISTS ONLY.
5. Performances will be judged on overall artistic excellence as demonstrated by:
  - Intonation
  - Tone quality
  - Technique: articulation, bowing, tonguing, fingering, fluency, embouchure, pedaling
  - Level of technical difficulty
  - Rhythmic accuracy
  - Interpretation and artistic expression
  - General musicianship – expression dynamics, tempo, phrasing
  - Improvisation if appropriate
  - Memorization
  - Stage presentation
6. Students may choose one or more pieces to perform within the time limit. MUSIC MUST BE MEMORIZED. If it is not, this will result in immediate disqualification.
7. Performances must be **no less than 1.5 minutes** and **no more than 5 minutes** total. In order to adhere to time limits, appropriate cuts in the music are acceptable.
8. Competitors will not be stopped at 5 minutes but time is being kept and they may be penalized for performances that are excessive.
9. Competitors need not perform the same piece(s) they performed in the Regional round if they advance to the Semi-Final and Final Competitions.
10. Competitors must be accompanied by piano unless music is written as unaccompanied. If you do not have an accompanist, the Overture Awards will supply one for you. You must indicate your need on your application and send to the Overture Awards a copy of your music clearly marked for the accompanist.
11. Competitors must supply their own instruments at the Competition (except piano).
12. Four copies of the music being performed with the measures clearly numbered and marked and the student's name on each copy must be furnished for the judges on the day of the competition. NO COPYING SERVICE IS AVAILABLE AT COMPETITION SITES. COMPETITORS MUST SUPPLY THEIR OWN COPIES.