



# Vocal Music Criteria

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## **CATEGORIES: All vocal styles are accepted**

1. All criteria set forth in these pages apply to the Regional, Semi-Final and Final Competition unless otherwise noted.
2. Students should perform their best work. Do not choose works that are more difficult than your 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 primarily on, but not limited to, the following:
  - Quality of Tone
  - Technique – ease of production, breath support, intonation, flexibility, legato
  - Communication/Interpretation/Diction – the degree and clarity, i.e., effectiveness of communication the music's text and mood
  - Musicianship – dynamics, tempo, rhythm, phrasing, style
  - Stage Presence – appearance, posture, charisma, preparation, memorization
  - Expression – demonstrating an individual musical personality
6. Performances must run **no less than 1.5 minutes** but **no more than 5 minutes** total.
7. Competitors will not be stopped at 5 minutes but time is being kept and they may be penalized for performances that are excessive.
8. Competitors need not perform the same pieces they perform at Regional Competition if they advance to the Semi-Finals and Finals Competitions.
9. Each contestant must prepare two musical selections. It is strongly recommended that the selections be contrasting in mood, character, style and tempo. **THE MUSIC MUST BE MEMORIZED.**
10. Competitors must be accompanied by piano. 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 with your application.
11. In order to adhere to time limits, appropriate cuts in the song are acceptable.