

MUSIC VOCAL SECTION

The Music Vocal Section is a part of the Music Division.

Southern Cross Educational Enterprises (SCEE) desires to have the highest quality music competition possible. Competition in the Music Vocal Section is intended to demonstrate a student's vocal music skills while encouraging students to apply their musical talents to Christian values. **Competition selections are to convey a Christian message, inspire the listener to praise, worship, and commitment to faith and service or otherwise bring glory to God.**

SCEE recognizes that there is a wide spectrum of 'acceptable' music among Christians and seeks to accommodate distinctions between denominations. However, care needs to be exercised when selecting music for Convention. See **Selection of Music** on page MV.2. Competition will be judged by a panel of judges selected to evaluate contestants' compliance with the criteria on the Judges Form.

Remember, students must enter and participate in events in more than one division.

Students may enter up to five (5) events in the Music Vocal Section, with a total of 10 events across the Music Division. The following is a list of events in the Music Vocal :

1. Male Solo
2. Female Solo
3. Male Duet
4. Female Duet
5. Mixed Duet
6. Male Trio
7. Female Trio
8. Mixed Trio
9. Male Quartet
10. Female Quartet
11. Mixed Quartet
12. Vocal Ensemble
13. Choir *
14. Music Vocal Composition *
15. Music Vocal Arranging *

* Please check the ISC Guidelines if preparing this event for International Student Convention as changes have occurred.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Selection of Music

SCEE encourages all those involved in music ministry to consider the vast array of Christian music to assist with **selection of the right music or song** for every occasion of worship or ministry.

Students should select music that presents a Gospel message, reflects Christian values and leads to praise, joy, prayer, etc. (Col 3:16-17). Students are to ensure that their performances glorify God and not themselves. Give careful attention that the musical presentation does not reflect secular mannerisms. Students **should** consider it important to select items **that are least likely to cause offense to other Christians** remembering the principles of Romans 14:13-15:3 & 1 Cor. 8:9. Raucous music and shallow, repetitive lyrics should be avoided. On the other hand, Christians with extremely conservative tastes in music are asked to exercise some moderation in their judgement of other styles of music.

Students must not use the same music/song as they have used in Music Vocal or Instrumental.

Judges Forms and Copies of Arrangements

Judges Forms and music must be given to the judges before a performance. Each Judges Form **MUST** be correctly filled out with all details. The correct category of male/female/mixed and age category must be ticked (✓). Tick duet/trio/quartet/ensemble.

Judges will refer to all sections in these guidelines for interpretation of rules. The Music Coordinator at each Regional and South Pacific Student Convention will give rulings on questions and interpretation of these Guidelines. The Convention Director will have the final adjudication on any matters of dispute.

Items Performed at Previous Regional Student Conventions

At Regional Student Conventions, an item may not be used two years consecutively by a student or group **if any of those students earned a place (1st to 6th) at any Regional Student Convention in the previous year with that item.** If a student does **not** place at a Regional Student Convention they will not be prevented from trying again with the same song.

Qualification for the Music Vocal Section Trophy

To qualify for the Music Vocal Section trophy, a student must enter at least one individual performance item in the Music Vocal Section and score at least 24 points.

Time Limits

The minimum time limit for all Music Vocal entries is 1 minute. If a competition piece does not fit within the given time limit, the contestant will receive a 0.5 deduction for any portion of thirty (30) second increments outside the allotted time. (For example, in a time limit of 5 minutes maximum a piece timed at 5:25 would receive a half-point deduction while a piece timed at 5:45 would receive a deduction of a full point from the total score.) All Music Vocal entries must meet a minimum time requirement of 1 minute to be awarded a place.

Introduction

The contestant or a preselected spokesperson is to introduce the group, the school represented and the title of the song to be performed. This does not count against the **TIME** of the performance but



does count as part of the PRESENTATION. A Scripture reference or some other brief comment may be appropriate to prepare the audience for your presentation.

Range

If a chosen piece is not in the student(s) range, it may be rewritten in a more appropriate key. For best judging results, the item should demonstrate the student(s) full note-range.

APPROPRIATENESS OF SELECTION

An **appropriate piece** will yield a “YES” response to **all** of the following questions:

1. Does the music glorify God, not the performer or composer?
2. Does the music reflect Godly living and are the lyrics Biblically accurate?
3. Is the rhythm a subservient feature that does not dominate the music?
4. Does the accompaniment play a subservient role to the lyrics so as to not distract the listener from the message?
5. Does the performance focus on vocal technique that employs proper breathing (not focusing on breathy tones, sliding pitches or choreographed movement)?

Message and Ministry: Good lyrics say something of value. Not every song needs to be as profound as our richest hymns, but good lyrics never include trite phrases just for the sake of rhyme. Good lyrics fulfill a definite purpose. If the text is sung as a hymn, it should express some Godly attribute that helps us worship the Lord. If the text is sung as a gospel song, it should be a message that encourages us. The message should also be simple enough that almost anyone can easily understand it, relate to it and apply it.

Degree of Difficulty

An important factor in the selection of a piece of music is the degree of difficulty in relation to the ability of the performer. It does not achieve anything to choose a difficult piece in the hope that a contestant will be awarded sympathy points. The student will still need to achieve a minimum standard in areas of musicianship and interpretation.

Appropriateness of Accompaniment: Although not part of the assessed performance itself, the accompaniment plays an important role in a performance. The accompaniment must complement a performance—that is, the accompaniment must direct the listener’s attention **to** the performance without dominating or distracting. The accompaniment must be balanced and integrated and if recorded, the recording must be of good quality.

Correct Music & Paperwork Supplied:

Students who do not have three (3) copies of the Judges Form and three (3) copies of the correct musical score for the item they are presenting will receive a reduction in points.

A reduction of points will also be received in this section of the Judges Form for **ANY score presented to judges that is partial or incomplete**—for example, only a melody showing for a four part harmony; or a piano score rather than the actual parts being performed.

Performance as Arranged:

The performer/s will automatically receive full marks for this criterion if the performance follows the arrangement. The arrangement is the overall structure of the piece - not the interpretation or accuracy within the structure. For example, if the piece is ‘arranged’ with two verses and two refrains with the last refrain repeated in a higher key, this is the way the piece **MUST** be performed. If it is not performed exactly this way, the performer/s will automatically receive zero for this criterion (see Judges Form).

Because of a performer’s interpretation, some variations to tempo, dynamics, expression, phrasing, etc., may be made as a piece is performed. This will be judged under the various



ACCOMPANIMENT

Contestants may use any of the following:

- ❖ Acapella (no musical accompaniment)
- ❖ **Any ONE musical instrument that is capable of playing chords e.g. piano, guitar, organ, etc.** (no orchestral or multiple sounds)
- ❖ A recording of any of the above accompaniment types may be used. Contestants should not rely on SCEE to provide any equipment to play recordings.
If recorded accompaniment is used:
 - ensure it is a good quality recording
 - bring a second copy of the CD in case of emergency
 - accompaniments for several items may be recorded on one CD
 - the track number for specific items must be given to the sound operator with the CD
 - clearly label your CD with your name and school

NO OTHER BACKING SOUND TRACKS ARE PERMITTED for competition. Contestants supplying any recording with instruments other than those specified above, multiple instruments or backing vocals, **WILL NOT BE AWARDED A PLACE.**

IMPORTANT

Be sure to complete the ‘**CONTEXT**’ section of the Judges Forms. This is a statement of the intended audience/purpose/place in worship service/Gospel outreach, etc and provides the judges with a ‘context’ by which to assess the suitability of the selection.

Examples of **CONTEXT** which may be specified: (You may choose a context not listed here, however, do ensure that your statements are not ambiguous.)

Church service....	Morning/Evening - opening praise; call to worship Morning/Evening - pre-communion Morning/Evening - mid-service item (challenge, praise) Morning/Evening - pre-pastor’s message (subject) Morning/Evening - closing item
Midweek service...	Mid-service item (challenge, praise) Pre-pastor’s message (subject) Closing item
Gospel Outreach...	Open Air, Indoor Rally, Audience, Christmas, Easter, Opening items, Pre-message, appeal to decision
Radio/TV program...	Intended audience, theme of program, position in program



SECTIONAL DETAILS

Solo (1 contestant)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

There are two different gender categories available in the solo event: male and female.

Duet (2 contestants)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

A duet is two people singing two parts in harmony. There are three different gender categories available in the duet event: male, female and mixed.

Trio (3 contestants)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

A trio is three singers performing together with each person singing separate parts in harmony. There are three different gender categories available in the trio event: male, female and mixed.

Quartet (4 contestants)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

A quartet is four singers performing together with each person singing separate parts in harmony. For example, a mixed quartet may sing: soprano, alto, tenor and bass. There are three different gender categories available in the quartet event: male, female and mixed.

Ensemble (5 minimum - 15 maximum)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

In an ensemble item, it would normally be expected to hear a slightly more involved arrangement of parts than a quartet. Nevertheless, it is wise to ensure the selection and arrangement are not beyond the ability of the performers. Ensembles are non-gender specific and each ensemble may comprise males, females or both males and females. An ensemble may have a conductor, either adult or student, directing the ensemble. The conductor and any accompanist are not counted as a performer. **No student may enter more than one Ensemble at Regional or South Pacific Student Conventions.**

Choir (16 minimum - 40 maximum)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes. (One piece only)

In a choir item, it would normally be expected to hear a slightly more involved arrangement of parts. Nevertheless, it is wise to ensure the selection and arrangement are not beyond the ability of the performers. All choirs are non-gender specific and may comprise males, females or both males and females. A choir may have a conductor, either adult or student, directing the choir. The conductor and any accompanist are not counted as a performer. Schools with large numbers may enter two choirs performing separate pieces. **No student may enter more than one choir at Regional or South Pacific Student Conventions.**

CHECKLIST FOR MUSIC VOCAL EVENTS:

- Three (3) copies of the appropriate JUDGES FORMS are required. Judges Forms must be correctly completed for the judges before arriving at your performance.
- Three (3) copies of the arrangement as it is to be performed. Each copy should have the words “**FOR ADJUDICATION PURPOSES ONLY**” stamped or clearly written on the back of each copy.
- The copies of the score and Judges Forms should be placed in **one** clear plastic folder and brought to Convention.



JUDGES FORM - VOCAL SOLO

OPEN U/14 MALE FEMALE

(Please ✓ the appropriate box)

Name:		D.O.B.	
School:		Cust Code:	
Title:			
Context:			

(JUDGES! Please remember that entries MUST be consistent with a Biblical Worldview)

AREAS OF EVALUATION		POINTS	
		POSSIBLE	AWARDED
I. Presentation			
A.	Appearance & Deportment	5	
II. Musicianship			
A.	Memory	5	
B.	Projection - each part of the music could be heard	5	
C.	Proper Diction & Word Emphasis	5	
D.	Tone Quality & Intonation	10	
E.	Proper Breathing - took breaths in the right places, the right way	5	
III. Communication & Interpretation			
A.	Mood & Style	5	
B.	Intensity & Climax	10	
C.	Fluency (Includes Phrasing & Tempo)	10	
D.	Dynamics - volumes changed correctly	5	
IV. Appropriateness of Selection			
A.	Message/Ministry - it ministers to the listener	5	
B.	Degree of Difficulty	10	
C.	Appropriate to Context	5	
D.	Appropriateness of Accompaniment - enhances, not overpowers	5	
E.	Performed as arranged	5	
F.	Correct Music & Paperwork supplied	5	
TOTAL POINTS		100	
Time Limit: 1-5 min Actual Time: _____		Deduct 0.5 for every 30 sec over	
		FINAL SCORE	
COMMENT:			
Judge's Name:		Judge's Signature:	



JUDGES FORM - VOCAL DUET/TRIO/QUARTET

(Please ✓ the appropriate boxes)

MALE

FEMALE

DUET

OPEN

U/14

MIXED

TRIO

QUARTET

Name:	D.O.B.	Name:	D.O.B.
School:		Cust Code:	
Title:			
Context:			

(JUDGES! Please remember that entries MUST be consistent with a Biblical Worldview)

AREAS OF EVALUATION		POINTS	
		POSSIBLE	AWARDED
I. Presentation			
A.	Appearance & Deportment	5	
II. Musicianship			
A.	Memory	5	
B.	Projection - each part of the music could be heard	5	
C.	Proper Diction & Word Emphasis	5	
D.	Tone Quality & Intonation	10	
E.	Proper Breathing - took breaths in the right places, the right way	5	
F.	Balance of Parts and Accompaniment - each could be completely heard with none overpowering the others	5	
III. Communication & Interpretation			
A.	Mood & Style	5	
B.	Intensity & Climax	10	
C.	Fluency (includes phrasing & tempo)	10	
D.	Dynamics	5	
IV. Appropriateness of Selection			
A.	Message/Ministry - it ministers to the listener	5	
B.	Degree of Difficulty	10	
C.	Appropriate to Context	5	
D.	Performed as Arranged	5	
F.	Correct Music & Paperwork supplied	5	
TOTAL POINTS		100	
Time Limit: 1-5 min		Actual Time: _____	Deduct 0.5 for every 30 sec over
			FINAL SCORE
COMMENT:			
Judge's Name:		Judge's Signature:	



JUDGES FORM - VOCAL ENSEMBLE/CHOIR

 ENSEMBLE CHOIR

(Please ✓ the appropriate box)

Return Forms to:			
School:		Cust. Code:	
Title:			
Context:			

Please attach a separate list of names for all students competing in this group.

(JUDGES! Please remember that entries **MUST** be consistent with a Biblical Worldview)

AREAS OF EVALUATION		POINTS	
		POSSIBLE	AWARDED
I. Presentation			
A.	Appearance & Deportment	5	
II. Musicianship			
A.	Memory	5	
B.	Projection - each part of the music could be heard	5	
C.	Proper Diction & Word Emphasis	5	
D.	Tone Quality & Intonation	10	
E.	Proper Breathing - took breaths in the right places, the right way	5	
F.	Balance of Parts and Accompaniment - each could be completely heard with none overpowering the others	5	
G.	Overall Sound - well blended, 'one sound'	5	
III. Communication & Interpretation			
A.	Mood & Style	5	
B.	Intensity & Climax	10	
C.	Fluency (includes phrasing & tempo)	10	
D.	Dynamics - volumes changed correctly	5	
IV. Appropriateness of Selection			
A.	Message/Ministry - it ministers to the listener	5	
B.	Degree of Difficulty	5	
C.	Appropriate to Context	5	
D.	Correct Music & Paperwork submitted	5	
E.	Performance as Arranged	5	
TOTAL POINTS		100	
Time Limit: 5 min		Actual Time: _____	Deduct 0.5 for every 30 sec over
		FINAL SCORE	
COMMENT:			
Judge's Name:		Judge's Signature:	



MUSIC VOCAL COMPOSITION

This event requires Early Entry Submission (see IN.20)

The contestant writes and submits an original music vocal composition. The composition must include an original melody line with original words and an accompaniment. It must be written solely by the student.

As a general guideline, the music must qualify under the Selection of Music (see page MV.2) for performance at Regional and South Pacific Student Conventions.

1. Supervisors should counsel students in the content, style and structure of the composition to avoid causing offense to other Christians. Judges are requested to exercise reasonable objectivity keeping in mind the CONTEXT of the composition and the styles of music acceptable to other Christians.
2. **IMPORTANT** - Be sure to complete the 'CONTEXT' section of the Judges Form. This is a statement of the intended audience/purpose/place in worship service/Gospel outreach, etc. It is intended to provide the judges with a 'context' by which to assess your composition.
3. The music, including the accompaniment, must be accurately written by the student as either a piano score or conductor's score. Guitar chords must be converted into standard notation and include strumming indications (the same as violin bowing marks) for the judges' reference.
4. A recorded performance of the Music Vocal Composition entry is required on CD. The actual performance will be a small component of the assessment criteria. (Although the quality of the recording will not influence the judge's evaluation of the composition, please make sure the recording is as high in quality as possible.) The recording may be performed by the composer or someone else. The accompaniment may be a piano/keyboard or small ensemble (acoustic or simulated) and the score submitted must be a piano score or a conductor's score (DO NOT submit a score for individual instruments of an ensemble).
5. The event WILL NOT be performed live by the contestant.
6. No more than two students may participate in the composition of the music.

CHECKLIST FOR MUSIC VOCAL COMPOSITION

- Three (3) copies of the written Music Vocal Composition and three (3) CD's of the recorded music composition.
- Three (3) copies of the Judges Form. Each copy should be in a clear plastic sleeve.
- All entries must be sent to **the nominated address for early entry submission indicated in the current Student Convention Kit by the Registration Closing Date for judging prior to Convention.**

DO NOT SUBMIT your original copy. COPIES WILL NOT BE RETURNED.



JUDGES FORM - MUSIC VOCAL COMPOSITION

OPEN U/14
 (Please ✓ the appropriate box)

Name:		D.O.B.	
Name:		D.O.B.	
School:		Cust Code:	
Title of Entry:			

(JUDGES! Please remember that entries MUST be consistent with a Biblical Worldview)

AREAS OF EVALUATION		POINTS	
		POSSIBLE	AWARDED
I. Music			
A.	Originality - a clear attempt at unique composition without borrowing from other works	8	
B.	Unity - continuous flow	8	
C.	Lyrics - meaningful, original and creative	8	
D.	Melody - original and creative	8	
E.	Harmony - variety, enhances melody	8	
F.	Rhythm - supportive of but not detracting from melody/harmony	8	
G.	Accompaniment/chord progressions - original, yet pleasing and melodic	5	
H.	Dissonance - use and resolution	5	
I.	Dynamics - effective use (variation in volume and pace)	5	
J.	Cleanliness of Sound - a polished composition	5	
II. Accuracy			
A.	Correct use of musical notation system	5	
B.	Readability	5	
III. Selection			
A.	Degree of difficulty	6	
B.	Ministry - ministers to the listener	5	
IV. Recorded Performance			
A.	Performance according to score	3	
B.	Standard of performance	3	
V. Music Supplied		5	
		TOTAL POINTS	100

COMMENT:	

Judge's Name:	Judge's Signature:
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MUSIC VOCAL ARRANGING

This event requires Early Entry Submission (see IN.20)

Music Vocal Arranging is an event designed for students to write a new and original arrangement for an existing song in a specific format (e.g., choir, vocal quartet or vocal ensemble).

As a general guideline, the arrangement must be one which would qualify under the Selection of Music (see page MV. 2) for performance at Regional and South Pacific Student Conventions.

1. The entire Arrangement, except for the actual melody, must be the original work of the student.
2. The music must be arranged by the student in acceptable standard music notation.
3. A recorded performance of the Music Vocal Arrangement entry is required on CD. The actual performance will be a small component of the assessment criteria. (Although the quality of the recording will not influence the judge's evaluation of the composition, please make sure the recording is of a high quality.) The recording may be performed by the composer, an ensemble, a band or another appropriate musical mode.
4. The score submitted must be a vocal score or a conductor's score (DO NOT submit a score for all the individual voices).
5. The event WILL NOT be performed live by the contestant.
6. No more than two students may participate in the arranging of the music.

CHECK LIST FOR MUSIC VOCAL ARRANGING

- Three (3) copies of the written Music Vocal Arrangement, three (3) copies of the original score from which you constructed your arrangement and three (3) CD copies of the recorded music arrangement.
- The copyright owner of the words and/or music should be contacted for permission to write an arrangement of his/her song. Documentation or evidence of these permissions should be included for judges.
- Three (3) copies of the Judges Form. Each copy is to be in a clear plastic folder .
- All entries must be sent to **the nominated address for early entry submission indicated in the current Student Convention Kit by the Registration Closing Date for judging prior to Convention.**

DO NOT SUBMIT your original copy. COPIES WILL NOT BE RETURNED.



JUDGES FORM - MUSIC VOCAL ARRANGING

 OPEN U/14

(Please ✓ the appropriate box)

Name:		D.O.B.	
Name:		D.O.B.	
School:		Cust Code:	
Title of Entry:			

(JUDGES! Please remember that entries MUST be consistent with a Biblical Worldview)

AREAS OF EVALUATION		POINTS	
		POSSIBLE	AWARDED
I. Music			
A.	Originality - completed work shows a clear attempt to "rearrange" an existing piece of music into a unique composition	5	
B.	Consistency of style; proper transitions between styles	8	
C.	Mood - emotional influence created	3	
D.	Melodic Treatment	8	
E.	Harmony - variety, enhances melody	8	
F.	Rhythm - supportive of but not detracting from melody/harmony	8	
G.	Accompaniment/chord progressions - original, yet pleasing and melodic	8	
H.	Dissonance - use and resolution	3	
I.	Dynamics - effective use (variation in volume and pace)	3	
J.	Structural foundation - sustained instrumentation	3	
K.	Counter-melody action - distinct individual parts	3	
L.	Focus - melody the point of attention, interludes or postludes, if any, serve as enhancement points for variation	3	
II. Accuracy			
A.	Correct use of musical notation system	5	
B.	Readability	5	
III. Selection			
A.	Degree of difficulty	6	
B.	Ministry - ministers to the listener	5	
IV. Recorded Performance			
A.	Performance according to score	3	
B.	Standard of performance	3	
V. Music and Original Piece Supplied		10	
		TOTAL POINTS	100

COMMENT:	
Judge's Name:	Judge's Signature:

