

MUSIC COMBINED SECTION

The Music Combined Section is part of the Music Division.

Southern Cross Educational Enterprises (SCEE) desires to have the highest quality music competition possible. Competition in the Music Combined Section is intended to demonstrate a student's vocal and instrumental 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 MC.2. Competition will be judged by a panel of judges selected to evaluate contestants' compliance with the criteria on the Judges Form.

The purpose of the Combined Music Section is to help prepare young people to serve within their own church, therefore all songs performed must have a Christian message. Songs that prepare listeners for the presentation of God's Word are ideal. Please check that songs have theologically sound lyrics.

Students may enter up to three (3) events in the Music Combined Section, with a total of 3 events across the Music Division. The following is a list of events in the Music Combined Section:

1. Self Accompanied Solo*
2. Self-Accompanied Duet*
3. Self-Accompanied Trio*
4. Self-Accompanied Quartet*
5. Combined Ensemble*

* None of these events progress to ISC.

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.

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

COPIES OF ARRANGEMENTS

Judges will refer to all sections in these guidelines for interpretation of rules. The Music Coordinator at each 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 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 or group does **not** place at a Regional Student Convention they will not be prevented from trying again with the same song.

TIME LIMITS

The minimum time limit for all Music entries is 1 minute. All Music entries must meet a minimum time requirement of 1 minute to be awarded a place.

If a competition piece exceeds the maximum 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).

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. The introduction should not be rushed or mumbled. Speak with control and authority. A Scripture reference or some other brief comment may be appropriate to prepare the audience for your presentation.

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 should be performed.

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 criteria on the Judges Form. However, if any changes are made to the arrangement of a piece (such as repeated sections, harmonies and key changes), the copies to be given to the judges must be rewritten to reflect these changes.

RANGE

If a chosen piece is not in the student(s) range, it may be rewritten in a more appropriate key.

DIVISION BETWEEN MALE AND FEMALE CONTESTANTS

In the Music Combined Section, **all** categories are non-gender specific. Male and female contestants may compete together in Music Combined events involving two (2) or more contestants.

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?

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 is better to play a simple piece well than a difficult piece poorly. The student will need to achieve a minimum standard in areas of musicianship and interpretation.

CORRECT MUSIC & PAPERWORK SUPPLIED

Students who supply a copy 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.

CONTEXT

Be sure to complete the ‘**CONTEXT**’ section of the Entry Submission. 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 the suitability of the selection. Please ensure that your statements are not ambiguous.

SECTIONAL DETAILS

Self-Accompanied Solo (1 contestant)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

The student presents a vocal item whilst accompanying themselves on an instrument able to play chords. Drums may not be used for **solo** events. **The student may not have anyone else or a backing track accompany them.**

Small Groups may include:

Self-Accompanied Duet (2 contestants)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

A duet is two people singing and playing two parts in harmony. Both contestants must sing, and at least one of the contestants must play an instrument. No third member or recording may accompany. Any combination of instruments is allowable

Self-Accompanied Trio (3 contestants)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

A trio is three people singing and playing three parts in harmony. Each contestant must sing, and at least two of the contestants must play an accompanying instrument. No fourth member or recording may accompany. Any combination of instruments is allowable.

Self-Accompanied Quartet (4 contestants)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

A quartet is four people singing and playing parts in harmony. Each contestant must sing, and at least two of the contestants must play an accompanying instrument. No fifth member or recording may accompany. Any combination of instruments is allowable.

Combined Ensemble (5 minimum - 15 maximum)

Time limit: Maximum ten (10) minutes.

1. The Ensemble must present a combination of two or three songs. The way you flow from one song to another is important and must be written for the judges - see Point 9
2. There must be a leader.
3. Any instruments may be used.
4. There must be at least 3 vocalists, and at least 3 instrumentalists. Singers may play instruments. No external recording may be used.
5. You will be awarded marks for intelligent arranging e.g. if your guitars are playing cross rhythms, let your keyboard/piano play more sparsely. Remember, less is more!
6. Vocalists:
 - you will always receive marks for effective harmonies
 - diction is important.
 - sing confidently

7. Music:

- Please submit music containing the key, and vocal melody and harmony lines with chords above.
- You are permitted to write in where each instrument enters. You do not need to write in the full instrumental score.
- Where there is no singing, only music (i.e. between songs), please write the chords in bar form. E.g. |C\\| D\\| G\Em\| Asus\A\| Next song

CHECKLIST FOR MUSIC COMBINED EVENTS:

- A copy 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.

JUDGES FORM - SELF ACCOMPANIED SOLO

OPEN U/16
 (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.	Accuracy and Memory	5	
B.	Overall sound	10	
C.	Proper Diction & Word Emphasis	10	
D.	Tone Quality & Intonation	10	
E.	Balance and Integration	10	
F.	Fluency (Includes Phrasing & Tempo)	10	
III. Communication & Interpretation			
A.	Mood & Style	5	
B.	Intensity/Climax	5	
C.	Dynamics	5	
D.	Performance and Ministry	10	
IV. Appropriateness of Selection			
A.	Degree of Difficulty	10	
B.	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:
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JUDGES FORM - SELF-ACCOMPANIED SMALL GRO

(Please ✓ the appropriate boxes)

OPEN
 U/16
 TRIO
 DUET
 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.	Accuracy and Memory	5	
B.	Overall sound	10	
C.	Proper Diction & Word Emphasis	10	
D.	Tone Quality & Intonation	5	
E.	Balance and Integration	10	
F.	Fluency (Includes Phrasing & Tempo)	10	
III. Communication & Interpretation			
A.	Mood & Style	5	
B.	Intensity/Climax	5	
C.	Dynamics	5	
D.	Performance and Ministry	10	
IV. Appropriateness of Selection			
A.	Teamwork	5	
B.	Degree of Difficulty	10	
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 - COMBINED ENSEMBLE

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.	Accuracy and Memory	5	
B.	Overall sound	10	
C.	Proper Diction & Word Emphasis	10	
D.	Tone Quality & Intonation	5	
E.	Balance and Integration	10	
F.	Fluency (Includes Phrasing & Tempo)	10	
III. Communication & Interpretation			
A.	Mood & Style	5	
B.	Intensity/Climax	5	
C.	Dynamics - volumes changed correctly	5	
D.	Performance and Ministry	10	
IV. Appropriateness of Selection			
A.	Teamwork	5	
B.	Degree of Difficulty	10	
F.	Correct Music & Paperwork supplied	5	
TOTAL POINTS		100	
Time Limit: 10 min Actual Time: _____		Deduct 0.5 for every 30 sec over	
		FINAL SCORE	
COMMENT:			
Judge's Name:		Judge's Signature:	

