

SOUTHEAST REGIONAL
FINE ARTS
Festival
NORTH RALEIGH CHRISTIAN ACADEMY



CHORAL FESTIVAL
DIRECTOR'S HANDBOOK



Table of Contents

Important Information – 3

General Information and Guidelines – 4, 5

Director's Checklist – 6

Choir Adjudication Form – 7

Vocal Solo & Ensemble Adjudication Form – 8

Important Information

Thank you for preparing your students and being a part of the Southeast Regional Choral Festival! Your labor of love in Christ's name is truly appreciated. Please feel free to ask questions along the way.

This festival is sponsored and hosted by North Raleigh Christian Academy. Through participation, students discover their talents, reinforce their biblical worldview and increase their cultural influence for Jesus Christ.

Submission of Fees

Attendee fees are paid at the time of registration. All forms, group submissions and sign-ups are due 60 days before the event or by the Festival Chair's deadline. To avoid a Cancellation/No-Show Fee of \$200, which covers your school's share of various event expenses, notify the Festival Chair at least 60 days before the event if you are unable to attend. Withdrawing within 60 days of the event takes away the opportunity for schools on the waitlist to participate and makes it increasingly difficult for the Festival Chair to plan for the event.

Fee Structure:

- Student Attendees: \$15 per student for **largest** group (register this group first)
- Choirs (13+ students) and Large Ensembles (5-12 students): \$45 per group, **after** the 1st/largest group is paid for above
- Small Ensembles (2-4 students): \$35 per group, **after** the 1st/largest group is paid for above
- Soloists: \$15 per student

Volunteers

Each school should provide one adult chaperone per 10 students. Failure to meet this volunteer requirement will result in removal from the event. School registration and participation fees will still be assessed in such a case. To protect students participating in this event, the school administration must affirm that ***"all staff and volunteers the school provides meet its internal policies and standards and state requirements for working with children in a K-12 private school setting."***

Insurance

All schools participating in the Southeast Regional Festival event must have adequate insurance coverage for students and sponsors/teachers. North Raleigh Christian Academy does not assume responsibility for these coverages. The school's student accident insurance should cover the most reasonable and customary medical expenses. Workers' compensation should cover sponsors/teachers. Events include but are not limited to art, math, music, speech, and spelling events.

General Information and Guidelines

Description

The Southeast Regional Choral Festival is not a competition. Each group is evaluated against a standard of excellence and not in comparison to other groups. Each choir (13+ students) must perform two (2) memorized pieces for adjudication. An optional warmup scale may be performed to acclimate to the performance space and will not be adjudicated. There will be a 10-15 minute Clinic/Workshop afterwards with one of the adjudicators to give immediate feedback.

Each Large Ensemble (5-12 students) must perform one (1) memorized piece for adjudication. An optional brief warmup scale may be performed to acclimate to the performance space and will not be adjudicated. There will be a brief Clinic/Workshop afterwards with the adjudicator to give immediate feedback.

Solo and Small Ensemble (duet, trio, quartet) adjudications may be included in the Choral Festival if there are enough registrations to warrant hiring a separate adjudicator. Each Solo or Small Ensemble will perform one (1) memorized piece for adjudication, with the adjudicator giving immediate one-on-one feedback afterwards.

Eligibility

Participants must be part of functioning groups within a member school or homeschool, comprised of students in grades 6-8 (Middle School) or grades 9-12 (High School). The exception to this is soloists.

Performance Guidelines

Pieces found on an approved state festival list are acceptable for all grade levels but must be suitable for a Christian school event. Pieces not on a state-approved list should still meet festival guidelines. The two (2) adjudicated pieces should be in contrasting styles (i.e. sacred/contemporary; accompanied/a cappella; lyrical/up-tempo; English/foreign language; etc.).

1. Pieces where the emphasis is placed on choreography, show appeal or dramatic interpretation are not acceptable. Choose pieces that present a positive testimony.
2. All aspects of selected music must be acceptable to Christian standards and educational values as they relate to lyric, rhythm, etc. Popular, rock, country, jazz and show tunes are not acceptable. While some of these categories may be acceptable for other performances, the purpose of this event is to encourage and promote quality academic music literature.
3. Copied music will not be accepted, unless accompanied by a letter of permission, on letterhead stationery, from the copyright holder. **Music purchased online should have a copy of the online receipt attached.**

Performance Guidelines

1. All groups/soloists should dress appropriately for a festival performance.
2. Performances must be with live accompaniment only. No pre-recorded or soundtrack accompaniment is permitted.
3. Choirs are responsible for providing their own accompanist. Accompanists are limited to no more than 4 groups/soloists due to scheduling difficulty. Please plan accordingly.
4. Students may perform in no more than 3 groups/solos due to scheduling difficulty.
5. It is recommended that the director or a student introduce each piece (title and composer/arranger) prior to their adjudication.
6. Please allow time between pieces for the adjudicators to finish writing or recording comments before moving on to the second piece.

Memorization Requirements

All choral/vocal music must be memorized. There will be a penalty of one (1) rating if the music is not memorized, if the required number of pieces is not performed, or if original scores are not provided.

Adjudication

Choirs (13+ students) will be evaluated by up to three (3) qualified adjudicators. Large Ensembles, Small Ensembles and Soloists will be evaluated by one (1) qualified adjudicator. Each adjudication will be followed by a brief Clinic/Workshop with an adjudicator to give students and director immediate feedback on their performance. Directors are to provide clean copies of their original scores with measures numbered and any alterations noted for the adjudicator(s) to review.

Recognition

As a result of the adjudication, each Choir/Large Ensemble/Small Ensemble/Soloist will receive a certificate and ribbon based on the following scale:

Superior = 7-10 points (receives a white ribbon for "platinum" level)

Excellent = 11-14 points (receives a gold ribbon for "gold" level)

Good = 15-20 points (receives a silver ribbon for "silver" level)

Fair = 21+ points (receives a bronze ribbon for "bronze" level)

Note: A penalty of one (1) overall rating will be levied against those who 1) have not memorized their performance pieces, 2) fail to provide original scores, or 3) fail to perform the required number of pieces.

Director's Checklist

- ☐ Carefully review the Director's Handbook.
- ☐ Select two (2) contrasting pieces for Choir adjudication with an optional warmup scale (not for adjudication). Select one (1) piece for Large Ensemble adjudication with an optional warmup scale (not for adjudication). Select one (1) piece for Small Ensemble/Soloist adjudication. The selections must be published, festival-quality works with lyrics appropriate for a Christian school event.
- ☐ Arrange for an accompanist, if needed. (Accompanists are limited to 4 groups/soloists due to scheduling difficulty. Please plan accordingly.)
- ☐ Attendee fees are paid at the time of registration. All fees are due at the time of registration, and forms, group submissions and signups are due 60 days before the event or by the Festival Chair's deadline.
- ☐ Complete the Group Submission Form (via link) 60 days before the event. This includes Choirs, Large Ensembles, Small Ensembles and Soloists.
- ☐ Prepare students for the Choral Festival. All music must be memorized.
- ☐ Collect a clean copy of original scores with measures numbered for the adjudicators to review. Three (3) original scores for Choirs and one (1) original score for Large Ensembles, Small Ensembles and Soloists. Be sure to note any alterations to the original score.
- ☐ Submit the Choral Adjudication Form (via link) for each Group or Solo online by the Festival Chair's deadline.
- ☐ Optional: Print three (3) copies of the Group Bio Form to include in the Adjudicator packets for each Choir (13+ students). Print one (1) copy of the Group Bio Form to include in the Adjudicator packet for each Solo/Ensemble.

CHOIR ADJUDICATION FORM

Name of Choir: _____ # in group: _____ Age of group: _____ MS _____ HS _____

School: _____ Director: _____

an optional warmup scale may be performed; not for adjudication

Selection #1 _____ Composer: _____

Selection #2 _____ Composer: _____

Deduction of one rating if: ☐ no original scores ☐ music not memorized ☐ failure to perform required # of pieces

ADJUDICATOR: WRITE COMMENTS AND DETERMINE A RATING OF SUPERIOR, EXCELLENT, GOOD, FAIR Superior = 1 pt, Excellent = 2 pts, Good = 3 pts, Fair = 4 pts Comments may be continued on reverse side	Selection #1				Selection #2			
	Superior 1	Excellent 2	Good 3	Fair 4	Superior 1	Excellent 2	Good 3	Fair 4
Tone Quality (Vowel purity, vocal placement, clarity)								
Technique (Articulation, diction, attacks, releases, vocal energy, breath support/management)								
Balance/Blend (Within sections, throughout choir, and with accompaniment)								
Accuracy of pitches/intonation (Part accuracy, tendency to be sharp or flat)								
Accuracy of rhythm								
Interpretation (Expression, tempo, phrasing, style, dynamics, etc.)								
Other (Discipline, posture, appearance, stage presentation, selection of music, selections acceptable to Christian standards)								
CALCULATED TOTALS FOR EACH SECTION								

RATING TOTALS:

Superior	7-10
Excellent	11-14
Good	15-20
Fair	21+

*Judges are to adjudicate each selection (#1 and #2) in the section provided for each. The calculated total for each section will be added together and then divided by 2 to figure the TOTAL POINTS and the OVERALL RATING. (see box with RATING TOTALS).

TOTAL POINTS: _____

OVERALL RATING: _____

ADJUDICATOR'S SIGNATURE _____

DATE _____

VOCAL SOLO & ENSEMBLE ADJUDICATION FORM

Ensemble/Solo Name: _____ # in group: _____ Age of Ensemble/Solo: _____ MS _____ HS

School: _____ Director: _____

an optional warmup scale may be performed by Large Ensembles only

Selection: _____ Composer: _____

 Deduction of one rating if: ☐ no original score ☐ music not memorized

ADJUDICATOR: WRITE COMMENTS AND DETERMINE A RATING OF SUPERIOR, EXCELLENT, GOOD, FAIR Superior = 1 pt, Excellent = 2 pts, Good = 3 pts, Fair = 4 pts Comments may be continued on reverse side					
		Superior 1	Excellent 2	Good 3	Fair 4
Tone Quality (Vowel purity, vocal placement, clarity)					
Technique (Articulation, diction, attacks, releases, vocal energy, breath support/management)					
Balance/Blend (Within sections, throughout choir, and with accompaniment)					
Accuracy of pitches/intonation (Part accuracy, tendency to be sharp or flat)					
Accuracy of rhythm					
Interpretation (Expression, tempo, phrasing, style, dynamics, etc.)					
Other (Discipline, posture, appearance, stage presentation, selection of music, selections acceptable to Christian standards)					
CALCULATED TOTALS FOR EACH SECTION					

RATING TOTALS:

Superior	7-10
Excellent	11-14
Good	15-20
Fair	21+

*Judges are to adjudicate based on the provided rubric above. The calculated total for each section will be added together to determine the TOTAL POINTS and OVERALL RATING (see box with RATING TOTALS).

TOTAL POINTS: _____ OVERALL RATING: _____

 ADJUDICATOR'S SIGNATURE

 DATE