

Music

OFFICIAL STATEMENT OF ACCEPTABLE MUSIC FOR WCA STUDENT CONVENTION COMPETITION

The intent of music competition is to encourage students to develop their musical ability and apply their musical talents to Christian values. Competition arrangements are to be Christian, patriotic, or classical rather than secular. Music must be appropriate for a typical Pentecostal church service. WCA recognizes the wide spectrum of “acceptable” music among Pentecostals and strives to accommodate distinctive styles from different churches represented. WCA does not necessarily endorse music performed during competition. Judges will evaluate contestant compliance to criteria on the judge’s form without prejudice for or against any particular style of Christian music.

RULES

1. Sheet music must be submitted. If music is changed, printed score must be rewritten to reflect the changes. Music must be performed exactly as the score.
2. Vocal contestants will perform with a microphone. Contestants may sing a capella; be accompanied by an adult, sponsor, or student (of Convention age) playing a piano supplied by the convention; or use a sound track. Also some instrumentals are eligible for accompaniment (see instrumental guidelines). Soundtracks must be submitted with sheet music online.
3. Students appearing in music competition should observe the performance appearance guidelines found on pages 10-11, as they will affect judging. Carelessness on these points could detract from an otherwise excellent presentation:

Poise/Self-Confidence

- a. **Approach** - The approach is one of the most important elements in speaking, public reading, or singing. The contestant should walk confidently and briskly to the podium or front of the room and establish eye contact, pause for 5-10 seconds, and begin his presentation.
- b. **Eye Contact** - Unless following a musical score, he should avoid looking down, at the ceiling, or out of the window. Eyes should move back and forth over the entire audience, slowly and naturally.
- c. **Posture and Gestures** - The rule for posture is DO NOT SLOUCH! The contestant should stand straight, but not lock his/her knees. Gestures should be free and flow naturally from enthusiasm. Natural movements are more effective than forced gestures.
- d. **Delivery** – Vocalists should project the voice, using the diaphragm, and plan breathing.

Preparation - Preparation and practice are prerequisites for all musical performances.

Platform Presentation - Introduction of entry before the judges: Contestants in platform presentations are to give their first and last name and title of presentation distinctly (“My name is John Doe and I will be playing the Blue Danube Waltz”). For entries involving more than one person a spokesman should be selected.

NOTE TO JUDGES: This introduction is NOT to be counted as time against their presentation.

4. All music is to be memorized. (EXCEPTION: Instrumental ensembles.)
5. Personal amplification equipment for competition is not encouraged but may be allowed in some cases. Check with the Convention Coordinator at registration. ALSO, UPON ARRIVAL AT WCA CONVENTION, CONSULT SOUND TECHNICIAN WELL BEFORE YOUR SCHEDULED PERFORMANCE IF YOU NEED TO LINK YOUR EQUIPMENT WITH THE HOUSE SYSTEM FOR YOUR PERFORMANCE.

HINTS FROM THE MUSIC JUDGES

Most of the music judges' comments deal with intonation and rhythmic accuracy; that is, the ability to sing and play on pitch and to perform the music exactly as written, giving all value to each note and dynamic marking. While poise, polish, and appearance contribute to a good performance, nothing can compensate for failures in intonation or rhythm. These are the heart of musicianship. Vocalists can improve their ability to sing on pitch by practicing good support. Instrumentalists need to practice proper playing with deep breathing, good embouchure, correct fingering, etc. The accompaniment is a vitally important part to a musical entry, so be sure the ability of the accompanist or the quality of the recording is as high as possible. The accompanist may improvise to enhance the performance, if desired.

CAUTION: Choose music that is not overly difficult for the experience and capabilities of the singer or player. It is better to choose music that is simpler than to attempt to perform music that is beyond the reach of the student.