

ACEL Performing Art Contests

- A. Ensembles/solos
 - 1. Groups of 15 or more will be considered a Large Ensemble.
 - 2. Groups of fewer than 15 will be considered a Small Ensemble.
- B. These ensembles may perform from a variety of repertoire.
- C. Vocal Ensembles may use live music or pre-recorded music without background vocals. A piano and a Bluetooth speaker will be available.
 - 1. Large Ensembles must perform at least two pieces from memory.
 - 2. Small Ensembles may perform only one piece, and that piece must be from memory.
- D. Warm up and performance
 - 1. For Large Ensembles, maximum time allowed will be 15 minutes for warm-up and 20 minutes for set up and performance.
 - 2. For Small Ensembles, maximum time allowed will be 10 minutes for warm-up and 8 minutes for set up and performance.
- E. Two original conductor scores for each performance piece must be provided for judges with measures numbered.
- F. No Large Ensemble may perform the same selections as another Large Ensemble from the same school.
- G. Schools may enter one or more Large Ensembles, but no student may be in more than one Large Ensemble of the same type or performing the same genre of music. For example, a student may not be in two Large Ensembles or two Small Ensembles performing the same genre of music. A student may not perform two vocal solos. BUT a student may be in one large vocal ensemble, one small vocal ensemble, sing a solo, perform in instrumental ensembles, and perform one instrumental solo. Note that each event constitutes its own entry and therefore requires its own entry fee.

ACEL Divisions, Ratings, and Awards

A. Divisions for Performing Art

1. All performing art groups will enter either the Gold Division or the Emerald Division. These divisions are separate from the ratings divisions.
 - *The Gold Division is reserved for entrants coming from an organization with a full-time music faculty and well-developed program. The highest level of excellence is expected from this division.*
 - *The Emerald Division is reserved for entrants coming from an organization whose music program is led by part-time faculty. While excellence is still expected, this division will be judged with the understanding that the group likely has very little weekly time to prepare. If an organization places within this division two years in a row, the organization will be asked to move up to the Gold Division the following year.*
2. The Commissioner reserves the right to adjust divisions between the entry deadline and the event to best serve the integrity of the contests.

B. Ratings for Performing Art.

1. Superior -Rating I (Division 1). This rating reflects an outstanding performance. While the judge might have one minor point to criticize and make a helpful suggestion for further improvement, his comment sheet would have A's for all or all but one of the categories. His remarks would generally be complimentary for outstanding work.
2. Excellent - Rating II (Division 2). This rating reflects an outstanding performance in many respects, but not one worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects. It is a performance of distinctive quality. The player or group in this division usually shows the results of sound, fundamental training, but the performance lacks the polish and finesse necessary to qualify for Division 1. The comment sheet would contain mostly As, but there would also be a few Bs. The judge would be able to offer a few critiques, albeit on minor details.

3. Good - Rating III (Division 3). This rating is awarded for a good performance, but one that is not outstanding. The performance shows accomplishment and a marked promise, but it is lacking in one or more essential qualities. This division indicates obvious room for improvement in any of the fundamental items listed on the adjudicator's comment sheet. It is relatively easy for a judge to comment on such a performance because the weaknesses stand out clearly against a generally first-rate background, and suggestions can usually be focused on something specific and helpful. Such a comment sheet might show a few A's and B's, but would reflect a few C's. There would probably not be time or space to record each separate error as it occurred, but the group would have some basically fine qualities, and there should be ample opportunities for the judge to make suggestions for general improvement in those fundamental factors in which the performance revealed weaknesses.
4. Fair - Rating IV (Division 4). This rating describes a performance that shows some quite a few weaknesses. This classification represents a performance which is generally weak and uncertain. There are numerous errors and the performance reveals basic weaknesses in most of the fundamental factors listed on the score sheet. The judge's comment sheet will show a great many D's. He will probably not devote much space to pointing out specific errors in the works performed. His comments, however, will likely be encouraging and contain helpful suggestions for improvement, such as individual studies and exercises which would contribute to the development of a player or the group.
5. Poor - Rating V (Division 5). This rating indicates a performance which reveals a great lack of preparation, understanding, or skills. This division is rarely used even by the most critical of judges. In some cases, this may be due to immature students attempting music which is far too advanced for them. In others, it may be due to an accumulation of careless and bad playing habits, which only tend to become accentuated and more noticeable as the player becomes older. The judge's comment sheet will, of course, be filled with D's and E's. He must use a great deal of tact in his comments to soloists or groups in these lower divisions. If there are any commendable features in the performance, they may be singled out. They should make suggestions for improvement.

C. Awards

1. All performing and visual arts entrants will receive a rating, but only the top entries will receive a contest award or be eligible for a "best in show" award.
 - *If more than 6 entrants compete within a category and division, 1st and 2nd place awards will be presented. If 10 or more entrants compete within a category and division, 1st-3rd place awards will be presented.*
 - *If fewer than 6 entrants compete within a category and division, no place awards will be presented, but the entrants will still be eligible to compete for the best in show awards.*
 - *At the judges' discretion, at least one performance from each category and division will be given the opportunity to compete for "best in show" at the showcase. At the end of each category and division, the performers will be awarded their rankings, place awards, and the performance chosen for the showcase opportunity will be notified. Groups are asked to remain on campus near the event until all performances within their category have performed. All groups are encouraged, but not required, to stay on campus for the showcase.*
2. Large Ensemble/Small Ensemble
 - *Rating Award:*
 - (1) Superior plaque
 - (2) Excellent ribbon
 - (3) Good, Fair, Poor Certificates
 - *Contest Award (per category and division)*
 - (1) 1st place trophy
 - (2) 2nd place small trophy
 - (3) 3rd place plaque
 - *Showcase Award*
 - (1) Best in show trophy
 - (2) 2nd place in show medium trophy
 - (3) 3rd place in show small trophy
3. Solo Rating/Contest Awards:
 - *First, Second Place Medals*
 - *Third Place Ribbon*
 - *Superior or Excellent Ribbon*
 - *Good Certificate*
 - *Fair and Poor participation certificates*

- D. THE COMMISSIONER RESERVES THE RIGHT TO ADJUST AWARDS AND AWARD TYPES DEPENDING ON ENTRIES.

ACEL Festival 2023-24

A. Entry

1. Festival Entry Fees (per event)
 - *Single entry* \$15
 - *Small ensemble* \$75
 - *Large ensemble* \$100
2. Late fee: if post marked after deadline, a late fee of \$50.00 will be charged
3. If an entrant cancels his entry, the fee will be forfeited. It will not be refunded.
4. Forms and fees must be submitted and postmarked by Tues, Feb. 27th
 - *Electronic forms will be posted on the Arts/Academics Page of the ACEL website.*
 - *Payment can be made in the ACEL website shopping cart, OR checks may be mailed to the director.*
 - ACEL
C/O: Sandra Merrow
11067 Providence Rd.
Shreveport, LA 71129

B. Time

1. Tentative date: March 16th
2. Tentative time:
 - *Arts: 9am-12:30pm (times will be assigned after receiving all entry forms and fees)*
 - *Academics: 2pm-4:30pm*
3. Location:
 - *Louisiana College arts building*
 - *Presser Recital Hall, Band Room, and gallery area*