

ACEL Vocal and Instrumental Performing Arts Event

updated 12/15/24

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1. Categories

- Soloists, Duets
 - Vocal
 - Instrumental
- Small ensemble: 3-14 students
 - Vocal
 - Instrumental
- Large ensemble: 15+ students
 - Vocal
- NOTE: Schools may enter one or more ensemble, but no student should be in more than one entry of the same category. For example, a student may perform a solo and perform in a small ensemble, but a student may not perform two solos or perform along with two small ensembles. BUT a student may perform in one large vocal ensemble, one small vocal ensemble, sing a solo, perform in an instrumental ensemble, and perform one instrumental solo. Note that each event constitutes its own entry and therefore requires its own entry fee.

2. Divisions

- Green: 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 earns an excellent rating within this division two years in a row, the organization will be asked to move up to the Gold Division the following year.
- Gold: 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.
- Awards and ratings will be granted and assigned within each division, but *the Commissioner reserves the right to adjust awards and ratings between the entry deadline and the event to best serve the integrity of the event.*
- At this time, ACEL makes no distinction between middle and high school performances. An ensemble may consist of students in 6th - 12th grade.

3. Entry

- 1-2 months before the event, an online registration form will be posted on the ACEL Arts and Academics page
- Soloists should enter as individuals, duets as two individual submissions, and ensembles should be entered by their director or school administrator as a group entry.
- An online payment system will be set up for fee payment, and mail-in instructions will be posted for an alternate method of payment.
- Any individual submissions covers 2 events.

4. Preliminary Schedule

- 8:30am-9am Check-in
- 9am-11am Vocal and Instrumental Soloists
- 11am-12pm Lunch
- 12pm-2pm Vocal and Instrumental Ensembles
- 2pm Awards ceremony

- A finalized schedule will be emailed to directors and parents after registration has closed.

5. Performance pieces

- Performance pieces *do not have to be sacred*.
- Performance pieces may be any genre or style of music *within reason* (this is a Christian organization).
- Soloists and small ensembles may only perform one piece; large ensembles may perform two. These two pieces may be of different styles but should not be vastly different from each other for adjudication purposes.
- All vocal performance pieces must be performed from memory. Instrumentalists may use sheet music, but it is *highly recommended* that their performances also be from memory.
- No ensemble or student may perform the same selection as another ensemble or student from the same school.

6. Accompaniment

- All vocal performances may use either live or pre-recorded accompaniment.
- A pre-recorded accompaniment track must have no background vocals.
- A piano will be available for use.
- A speaker with headphone jack, iPhone dongle, and Bluetooth connection will be available.
- Any other instrument to be used for accompaniment or performance must be brought with you to the performance area.

7. Warm up and performance

- It is highly recommended that ensemble members dress in a uniform manner to each other.
- Large Ensembles: 15 minutes for warm-up in the warmup room and 20 minutes for set up and performance
- Small Ensembles and Soloists: 10 minutes for warm-up and 8 minutes for set up and performance
- **Performances will be followed by live adjudicator comments. The event has a “master class” feel rather than a contest feel.**

8. Required paperwork

- Two original conductor scores for each performance piece must be provided for judges with measures numbered.
- Photo release form for each performer and accompanist

9. Adjudication

- Ratings
 - Superior - Rating I (Division 1) This rating reflects an outstanding performance.
 - Trophies and certificates will be awarded to ensembles.
 - Medals and certificates will be awarded to soloists.
 - 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
 - Plaques and certificates will be awarded to ensembles.
 - Ribbons and certificates will be awarded to soloists.
 - 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.
 - Certificates will be awarded to ensembles and soloists.
 - 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
 - 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.
- Contest Awards
 - All performing and visual arts entrants will receive a rating and be able to take home adjudicator sheets, but only the top entries will receive a contest award or be eligible for a “best in show” award.
 - 1st-3rd place contest awards will be presented ONLY IF a quality size group of performance entries have been submitted.
 - If there are too few entries within a category and division, no place awards will be presented, but the entrants will still be eligible to receive a best in show award and honorable mentions.