

## Area Two: Music

---

### Individual Events

- Category 1: Female Vocal Solo
- Category 2: Male Vocal Solo
- Category 3: Brass Solo
- Category 4: Woodwind Solo
- Category 5: String Solo
- Category 6: Percussion Solo
- Category 7: Sacred Piano Solo
- Category 8: Classical Piano Solo

### Group Events

- Category 9: Small Vocal Ensemble
- Category 10: Large Vocal Ensemble
- Category 11: Choral Group
- Category 12: Small Instrumental Ensemble
- Category 13: Large Instrumental Ensemble
- Category 14: Orchestra/Band
- Category 15: Handbell/Handchime Ensemble
- Category 16: Handbell/Handchime Choir
- Category 17: Sacred Piano Duet
- Category 18: Classical Piano Duet

## Music General Rules

---

1. Vocal and instrumental selections will be from the following types of music: sacred, spirituals, patriotic, folk, semi-classical, or classical.
  - a. The term *classical* will not be limited to denote music from that period of history, but will apply to selections of a classical nature as opposed to those of popular music.
  - b. Piano selections must be sacred or classical according to the rules of the category.
  - c. Folk music is the body of literature that identifies with a culture or a country in the form of ballads, religious songs, work songs, cowboy songs, patriotic and political songs, and love songs. Many such folk songs have been taught by one generation to another generation and may not bear any composer identification. However, no protest songs, songs of any subversive cultural movement, or modern pop-related folk songs of any type are permissible.
  - d. Semi-classical music is that which is like classical music in form, style, and quality, but is generally less complex in nature and has a more immediate appeal. Discretion should be used in selecting semi-classical music for competition. It must meet high standards of quality in both words and music.
2. Medleys will be acceptable.
3. No rock style, gospel country, jazz, or music in like vein will be permitted. A “night club” sound, or “contemporary” sound is not acceptable. Participants are to avoid contemporary movie themes, though the music itself may be acceptable, and are not to use songs produced and/or popularized by current pop or rock stars even though the song itself may be acceptable.
4. Competition officials shall have full authority for making any determination in this regard. Music determined to be inappropriate for this competition will be penalized or disqualified.
5. No student or group will perform the same selection in two consecutive years. In addition, the same selection is not to be used by multiple groups from the same school in the same year.
6. Refer to specific rules for each category for questions about entrants’ qualifications.
7. No choreography, planned or unnecessary bodily movement (including hand clapping, foot stomping, deaf signing, finger snapping, etc.) may be used even if scored by the composer or arranger. For soloists, gestures that are a natural expression of the piece will not be penalized.

## National Competition Manual – Area Two: Music

8. Memory is required of piano solos, vocal solos, and vocal groups. Memory is not required of instrumental solos (except piano) or instrumental groups. Failure to memorize when required will result in disqualification.
9. Only live piano accompaniment will be permitted for all music categories which need accompaniment.
10. Each student or group may provide an accompanist who will not be considered as part of the group in size determination or grade-level requirements.
11. No competitors are permitted to use page turners; accompanists may use a page turner.
12. No electronically amplified musical instruments will be permissible.
13. All sound equipment will be provided and supervised by the host school and its designated aides.
14. Refer to the AACS website for instruments provided by the host school for these categories: Percussion Solo, Large Instrumental Ensemble, and Orchestra/Band.
15. Contestants will need **originals** of each selection of music performed for judges to reference. If the contestant(s) or accompanist will be using music for any performance, those will also need to be **originals**. **Photocopies are not permitted.**

Category	Number of Originals for Judges to Reference
Individual Events (Categories 1–8)	one
Group Events (Categories 9–11, 14–16)	three
(Categories 12–13, Instrumental Ensembles)	one
(Categories 17–18, Piano Duets)	two

Photocopies are permitted only with the publisher’s permission. **Permission from the publisher must be attached to each copy that is supplied to the judges.** Use of photocopies without publisher permission will be penalized. Photocopies of music may be used only under the following circumstances.

- a. The music is in the public domain—either it is not copyrighted or the copyright date is 1922 or earlier.
- b. The copyrighted music has been ordered but not yet received, and the contestant presents a note from a music store stating that he has ordered and paid for the music.
- c. The contestant presents a letter from the publisher or the copyright holder giving permission to copy the music. **Permission from the publisher must be attached to each copy that is supplied to the judges.** Publishers often grant permission for adjudication. Band directors should note that most publishers sell an additional score for a significantly reduced price.
- d. The contestant or accompanist may reproduce single pages to facilitate page turns. The original published score must also be present on the music stand and/or music rack.
- e. An emergency copy may be made to replace previously purchased copies which for any reason are not available for an imminent performance. The purchased replacement copies must be substituted at the earliest opportunity.
- f. If the contestant is using digital sheet music or something similar printed from an online download, he/she will need to provide proof of purchase or a “permission to use letter” with the music. **Permission from the publisher must be attached to each copy that is supplied to the judges.**
- g. Please note further the following copyright considerations.
  - (1) Copyrighted music may be edited or simplified provided that the fundamental character—melodically and harmonically—of the work is not distorted. Minor deviations from the printed music must be clearly marked on the music given to judges.

## National Competition Manual – Area Two: Music

- (2) Copyrighted lyrics may not be changed without permission of the copyright holder.
- (3) Personal arrangements of a copyrighted work must have the written permission of the copyright holder.
16. The contestant must number at least every fifth (5th) measure on the music given to judges. Numbers must be very clear and legible. Numbers may be written in pencil. Failure to clearly number at least every 5th measure will result in an automatic penalty of 3 points per selection. Judges are instructed **not** to mark on music.
17. Personal arrangements and deviations from printed music should be clearly marked on the judges' music or disqualification will result after the performance is finished.
18. Warm-up rooms will be available throughout the day.
19. Instrumentalists may tune their instruments with the piano before performing.
20. Either the soloist, one member of a duet or small ensemble, or the director of a large ensemble or group shall announce the name of the participant/group, the school, the title, and composer/arranger of the selection. Timing will then begin.
21. Students will be penalized for going over time or under time in any category of competition where time limits are established. When a student violates his time limit by more than 1 minute, the student will be disqualified. However, if he is over time or under time, but not by 1 minute, points or a fraction of a point will be deducted which will prevent an otherwise first-place winner from placing first, a second-place winner from placing second, or a third-place winner from placing third.
22. The student or director will be responsible for securing furnished music from the judges following the performance.
23. **Recording is absolutely prohibited** except for the recording of a **single entry** by representatives of the participant's school for personal use. The recording of all or portions of the performance of more than one entry in an event is prohibited. In any case, the head judge in a competition may prohibit recording. No recording made by anyone other than competition officials may be considered for adjudication purposes.

### Rules by Category (Individual Competition)

---

**Category 1: Female Vocal Solo**

**Category 2: Male Vocal Solo**

**Category 3: Brass Solo**

**Category 4: Woodwind Solo**

**Category 5: String Solo**

**Category 6: Percussion Solo**

**Category 7: Sacred Piano Solo**

**Category 8: Classical Piano Solo**

#### Category 1, 2: Female Vocal Solo, Male Vocal Solo

---

1. All vocal solos will be memorized. Failure to memorize will result in disqualification.
2. Vocal soloists will perform two selections or medleys within a 10-minute time limit. At least one selection must be sacred. At least one selection must be in English. The intent is that the piece be 100% in English. Incidental use of a foreign word or phrase would be accepted. An entire verse in a foreign language would result in a penalty.

#### Category 3, 4: Brass Solo, Woodwind Solo

---

1. Memory is not required of instrumental solos (except piano).
2. Students will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.

## National Competition Manual – Area Two: Music

### Category 5: String Solo

---

1. This category is for bowed instruments. The only not-bowed instrument allowed is a harp. (Guitars, banjos, and other strummed or plucked instruments are not allowed.)
2. Memory is not required of instrumental solos (except piano).
3. Students will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.

### Category 6: Percussion Solo

---

1. A percussion solo must be a solo or concert etude. It must be from “standard concert literature” and must conform to the General Rules for music. Since much of this literature is unaccompanied, an accompanist is optional.
2. Memory is not required of instrumental solos (except piano).
3. The solo must fit one of the following categories:
  - a. Snare Drum Solo
  - b. Timpani Solo
  - c. Mallet Percussion: any instrument with notes arranged in piano keyboard fashion including, but not limited to orchestra bells (or glockenspiel), xylophone, marimba, or vibraphone.
  - d. Multiple Percussion: multiple percussion has no standard set of instruments, but often has a combination of snare drums, concert toms, and small instruments such as a triangle, wood blocks, or cymbals.
4. No electronic devices are permitted. No drum sets are permitted.
5. Handbells are not permitted in this category.
6. Students will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
7. Refer to the AACS website for instruments provided by the host school for these categories: Percussion Solo, Large Instrumental Ensemble, and Orchestra/Band.

### Category 7, 8: Sacred Piano Solo, Classical Piano Solo

---

1. All piano solos will be memorized. Failure to memorize will result in disqualification.
2. Students will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.

### Rules by Category (Group Competition)

---

**Category 9: Small Vocal Ensemble**

**Category 10: Large Vocal Ensemble**

**Category 11: Choral Group**

**Category 12: Small Instrumental Ensemble**

**Category 13: Large Instrumental Ensemble**

**Category 14: Orchestra/Band**

**Category 15: Handbell/Handchime Ensemble**

**Category 16: Handbell/Handchime Choir**

**Category 17: Sacred Piano Duet**

**Category 18: Classical Piano Duet**

### Category 9, 10: Small Vocal Ensemble, Large Vocal Ensemble

---

1. A small vocal ensemble consists of 2 to 6 voices (plus piano accompaniment if desired). It may **not** be directed.
2. A large vocal ensemble consists of 7 to 12 voices (plus piano accompaniment if desired). It may be directed.
3. Each ensemble will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
4. Memory is required of vocal groups. Failure to memorize when required will result in disqualification.

## National Competition Manual – Area Two: Music

### Category 11: Choral Group

---

1. A choral group consists of 13 to 24 members. It may be directed.
2. Each choral group will perform two numbers within 12 minutes. At least one selection must be sacred. At least one selection must be in English. The intent is that the piece be 100% in English. Incidental use of a foreign word or phrase would be accepted. An entire verse in a foreign language would result in penalty.
3. Memory is required of vocal groups. Failure to memorize when required will result in disqualification.

### Category 12, 13, 15: Small Instrumental Ensemble, Large Instrumental Ensemble, Handbell/Handchime Ensemble

---

1. A small instrumental ensemble consists of 2 to 6 instruments (plus piano accompaniment if desired). It may **not** be directed.
2. A large instrumental ensemble consists of 7 to 12 instruments (plus piano accompaniment if desired). It may be directed.
3. A handbell/handchime ensemble consists of 2 to 6 musicians (plus piano accompaniment if desired). It may **not** be directed.
4. Each ensemble will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
5. Memory is not required of instrumental groups.
6. Percussion ensembles are allowed in the large instrumental ensemble category (Category 13). No electronic devices are permitted. No drum sets are permitted. The following instruments are allowed:
  - a. Snare Drum
  - b. Timpani
  - c. Mallet Percussion: any instrument with notes arranged in piano keyboard fashion including, but not limited to orchestra bells (or glockenspiel), xylophone, marimba, or vibraphone.
  - d. Multiple Percussion: multiple percussion has no standard set of instruments, but often has a combination of snare drums, concert toms, and small instruments such as a triangle, wood blocks, or cymbals.
7. Percussion ensembles are excluded from the small instrumental ensemble category, and no percussion instruments will be permitted in small instrumental ensembles (Category 12).
8. For all handbell competition, schools will be required to provide all equipment (bells, pads, etc.) except tables.
9. Refer to the AACCS website for instruments provided by the host school for these categories: Percussion Solo, Large Instrumental Ensemble, and Orchestra/Band.

### Category 14: Orchestra/Band

---

1. An orchestra or band consists of 13 or more musicians. It may be directed.
2. An orchestra or band will perform two numbers within 15 minutes.
3. Seventh and eighth graders may compete.
4. Refer to the AACCS website for instruments provided by the host school for these categories: Percussion Solo, Large Instrumental Ensemble, and Orchestra/Band.
5. Memory is not required of instrumental groups.

## National Competition Manual – Area Two: Music

### Category 16: Handbell/Handchime Choir

---

1. A handbell/handchime choir consists of 7 or more musicians (plus piano accompaniment if desired).
2. A handbell/handchime choir will perform two numbers within 15 minutes. It may be directed.
3. Seventh and eighth graders may compete.
4. For all handbell competition, schools will be required to provide all equipment (bells, pads, etc.) except tables.
5. Memory is not required of instrumental groups.

### Category 17, 18: Sacred Piano Duet, Classical Piano Duet

---

1. Sacred piano duet consists of two students and one piano. Only sacred music is acceptable.
2. Classical piano duet consists of two students and one piano. Only classical music is acceptable.
3. Students will perform one selection or medley within 8 minutes.
4. Memory is not required of instrumental groups.