

MUSIC COMBINED SECTION

The Music Combined Section is part of the Music Division.

Southern Cross Educational Enterprises (SCEE) desires to have the highest quality music competition possible. Competition in the Music Combined Section is intended to demonstrate a student's vocal and instrumental music skills while encouraging students to apply their musical talents to Christian values. **Competition selections are to convey a Christian message, inspire the listener to praise, worship, and commitment to faith and service or otherwise bring glory to God.**

SCEE recognizes that there is a wide spectrum of 'acceptable' music among Christians and seeks to accommodate distinctions between denominations. However, care needs to be exercised when selecting music for Convention. See **Selection of Music** on page MC.2. Competition will be judged by a panel of judges selected to evaluate contestants' compliance with the criteria on the Judges Form.

The purpose of the Combined Music Section is to help prepare young people to serve within their own church, therefore all songs performed must have a Christian message. Songs that prepare listeners for the presentation of God's Word are ideal. Please check that songs have theologically sound lyrics.

Remember, students must enter and participate in events in more than one division.

Students may enter up to five (5) events in the Music Combined Section, with a total of 10 events across the Music Division. The following is a list of events in the Music Combined Section:

1. Self Accompanied Solo*
2. Instrumental and Vocal Duet*
3. Instrumental and Vocal Trio*
4. Instrumental and Vocal Quartet*
5. Combined Ensemble*

* None of these events progress to ISC.

GENERAL GUIDELINES

Selection of Music

SCEE encourages all those involved in music ministry to consider the vast array of Christian music to assist with **selection of the right music or song** for every occasion of worship or ministry.

Students should select music that presents a Gospel message, reflects Christian values and leads to praise, joy, prayer, etc. (Col 3:16-17). Students are to ensure that their performances glorify God and not themselves. Give careful attention that the musical presentation does not reflect secular mannerisms. Students **should** consider it important to select items **that are least likely to cause offense to other Christians** remembering the principles of Romans 14:13-15:3 & 1 Cor. 8:9. Raucous music and shallow, repetitive lyrics should be avoided. On the other hand, Christians with extremely conservative tastes in music are asked to exercise some moderation in their judgement of other styles of music.

Students must not use the same music/song as they have used in Music Vocal or Instrumental.

Judges Forms and Copies of Arrangements

Judges Forms and music must be given to the judges before a performance. Each Judges Form **MUST** be correctly filled out with all details. The correct category of male/female/mixed and age category must be ticked (✓). Tick duet/trio/quartet/ensemble.

Judges will refer to all sections in these guidelines for interpretation of rules. The Music Coordinator at each Regional and South Pacific Student Convention will give rulings on questions and interpretation of these Guidelines. The Convention Director will have the final adjudication on any matters of dispute.

Items Performed at Previous Regional Student Conventions

At Regional Student Conventions, an item may not be used two years consecutively by a student or group **if any of those students earned a place (1st to 6th) at any Regional Student Convention in the previous year with that item.** If a student does **not** place at a Regional Student Convention they will not be prevented from trying again with the same song.

Qualification for the Music Combined Section Trophy

To qualify for the Music Combined Section trophy, a student must enter at least one individual performance item in the Music Combined Section and score at least 24 points.

Time Limits

The minimum time limit for all Music Combined entries is 1 minute. If a competition piece does not fit within the given time limit, the contestant will receive a 0.5 deduction for any portion of thirty (30) second increments outside the allotted time. (For example, in a time limit of 5 minutes maximum a piece timed at 5:25 would receive a half-point deduction while a piece timed at 5:45 would receive a deduction of a full point from the total score.) All Music Combined entries must meet a minimum time requirement of 1 minute to be awarded a place.

Introduction

The contestant or a preselected spokesperson is to introduce the group, the school represented and the title of the song to be performed. This does not count against the **TIME** of the performance but does count as part of the **PRESENTATION**. The introduction should not be rushed or mumbled. Speak with control and authority. A Scripture reference or some other brief comment may be appropriate to prepare the audience for your presentation.



Range

If a chosen piece is not in the student(s) range, it may be rewritten in a more appropriate key. For best judging results, the item should demonstrate the student(s) full note-range.

Division Between Male and Female Contestants

In the Combined Music Section, **all** categories are non-gender specific. Male and female contestants may compete together in Music Combined events involving two (2) or more contestants.

APPROPRIATENESS OF SELECTION

An **appropriate piece** will yield a “YES” response to **all** of the following questions:

1. Does the music glorify God, not the performer or composer?
2. Does the music reflect Godly living and are the lyrics Biblically accurate?
3. Is the rhythm a subservient feature that does not dominate the music?
4. Does the accompaniment play a subservient role to the lyrics so as to not distract the listener from the message?
5. Does the performance focus on vocal technique that employs proper breathing (not focusing on breathy tones, sliding pitches or choreographed movement)?

Message and Ministry

Good lyrics say something of value. Not every song needs to be as profound as our richest hymns, but good lyrics never include trite phrases just for the sake of rhyme. Good lyrics fulfill a definite purpose. If the text is sung as a hymn, it should express some Godly attribute that helps us worship the Lord. If the text is sung as a gospel song, it should be a message that encourages us. The message should also be simple enough that almost anyone can easily understand it, relate to it and apply it.

Degree of Difficulty

An important factor in the selection of a piece of music is the degree of difficulty in relation to achieve a minimum standard in areas of musicianship and interpretation.

Correct Music & Paperwork Supplied

Students who do not have three (3) copies of the Judges Form and three (3) copies of the correct musical score for the item they are presenting will receive a reduction in points.

A reduction of points will also be received in this section of the Judges Form for **ANY score presented to judges that is partial or incomplete**—for example, only a melody showing for a four part harmony; or a piano score rather than the actual parts being performed.



Performance as Arranged:

The performer/s will automatically receive full marks for this criterion if the performance follows the arrangement. The arrangement is the overall structure of the piece - not the interpretation or accuracy within the structure. For example, if the piece is 'arranged' with two verses and two refrains with the last refrain repeated in a higher key, this is the way the piece **MUST** be performed. If it is not performed exactly this way, the performer/s will automatically receive zero for this criterion (see Judges Form).

Because of a performer's interpretation, some variations to tempo, dynamics, expression, phrasing, etc., may be made as a piece is performed. This will be judged under the various criteria on the Judges Form. However, if any changes are made to the arrangement of a piece (such as repeated sections, harmonies and key changes), the copies to be given to the judges must be rewritten to reflect these changes.

IMPORTANT

Be sure to complete the '**CONTEXT**' section of the Judges Forms. This is a statement of the intended audience/purpose/place in worship service/Gospel outreach, etc. It is intended to provide the judges with a 'context' by which to assess the suitability of the selection.

Examples of **CONTEXT** which may be specified. (Your own specifications are not limited to these, however, do ensure that your statements are not ambiguous.)

Church service....	Morning/Evening - opening praise; call to worship Morning/Evening - pre-communion Morning/Evening - mid-service item (challenge, praise) Morning/Evening - pre-pastor's message (subject) Morning/Evening - closing item
Midweek service...	Mid-service item (challenge, praise) Pre-pastor's message (subject) Closing item
Gospel Outreach...	Open Air, Indoor Rally, Audience, Christmas, Easter, Opening items, Pre-message, appeal to decision
Radio/TV program...	Intended audience, theme of program, position in program



SECTIONAL DETAILS

Self Accompanied Solo (1 contestant)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

The student presents a vocal item whilst accompanying themselves on an instrument able to play chords. Drums and amplified instruments may not be used for solo events (with the exception of acoustic-electric guitars, i.e. can use pick-up with amp - no foot/effect pedals). Amps will not be supplied by SCEE. No other accompaniment is allowed.

Combined Duet (2 contestants)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

A duet is two people singing and playing two parts in harmony. **Both contestants must sing, and at least one of the contestants must play an accompanying instrument. No third member or recording may accompany.** Any combination of instruments is allowable. No other accompaniment is allowed.

Combined Trio (3 contestants)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

A trio is three people singing and playing parts in harmony. **Each contestant must sing, and at least two of the contestants must play an accompanying instrument. No fourth member or recording may accompany.** Any combination of instruments is allowable.

Combined Quartet (4 contestants)

Time limit: Maximum five (5) minutes.

A quartet is four people singing and playing parts in harmony. **Each contestant must sing, and at least two of the contestants must play an accompanying instrument. No fifth member or recording may accompany.** Any combination of instruments is allowable.

Combined Ensemble (5 minimum - 15 maximum)

Time limit: Maximum ten (10) minutes.

1. The Ensemble must present a combination of two or three songs. The way you flow from one song to another is important and must be written for the judges - see Point 9
2. There must be a leader.
3. You must provide a sound technician (this can be one of the performers, or an additional student). The Sound technician is included as part of the Ensemble and must be clearly identified on the Group List which is sent in with Registration. The sound technician must report to the nominated SCEE representative for instruction in use of the sound equipment at a specified time and place.
4. Any instruments may be used.
5. **There must be at least 3 vocalists, and at least 3 instrumentalists. Singers may play instruments. No external recording may be used.**
6. SCEE will supply the following:
 - one piano
 - Five hand held microphones
7. You will be awarded marks for intelligent arranging e.g. if your guitars are playing cross rhythms, let your keyboard/piano play more sparsely. Remember, less is more!



8. Vocalists:

- you will always receive marks for effective harmonies
- diction is important.
- sing confidently

9. Music:

- Please submit music containing the key, and vocal melody and harmony lines with chords above.
- You are permitted to write in where each instrument enters. You do not need to write in the full instrumental score.
- Where there is no singing, only music (i.e. between songs), please write the chords in bar form.
E.g. |C\\| D\\| G\Em| Asus\A| Next song

10. Set Up and Pack Down:

- you will have 5 minutes set up and pack down time
- Drum kits should be set up prior to performance and moved to the stage quickly.
- Be punctual! Time is limited. Have an intelligent setup and pack down plan and work to it.

CHECKLIST FOR MUSIC COMBINED EVENTS:

- Three (3) copies of the appropriate JUDGES FORMS are required. Judges Forms must be correctly completed for the judges before arriving at your performance.
- Three (3) copies of the arrangement as it is to be performed. Each copy should have the words “**FOR ADJUDICATION PURPOSES ONLY**” stamped or clearly written on the back of each copy.
- The copies of the score and Judges Forms should be placed in **one** clear plastic folder and brought to Convention.



JUDGES FORM - SELF ACCOMPANIED SOLO

 OPEN U/14

(Please ✓ the appropriate box)

Name:		D.O.B.	
School:		Cust Code:	
Title:			
Context:			

(JUDGES! Please remember that entries MUST be consistent with a Biblical Worldview)

AREAS OF EVALUATION		POINTS	
		POSSIBLE	AWARDED
I. Presentation			
A.	Appearance & Deportment	5	
II. Musicianship			
A.	Accuracy and Memory	5	
B.	Overall sound	10	
C.	Proper Diction & Word Emphasis	10	
D.	Tone Quality & Intonation	10	
E.	Balance and Integration	10	
F.	Fluency (Includes Phrasing & Tempo)	10	
III. Communication & Interpretation			
A.	Mood & Style	5	
B.	Intensity/Climax	5	
C.	Dynamics	5	
D.	Performance and Ministry	10	
IV. Appropriateness of Selection			
A.	Degree of Difficulty	10	
B.	Correct Music & Paperwork supplied	5	
TOTAL POINTS		100	
Time Limit: 1-5 min Actual Time: _____		Deduct 0.5 for every 30 sec over	
		FINAL SCORE	
COMMENT:			
Judge's Name:		Judge's Signature:	



JUDGES FORM - COMBINED DUET/TRIO/QUARTET

(Please ✓ the appropriate boxes) DUET OPEN U/14
 TRIO QUARTET

Name:	D.O.B.	Name:	D.O.B.
School:			Cust Code:
Title:			
Context:			

(JUDGES! Please remember that entries MUST be consistent with a Biblical Worldview)

AREAS OF EVALUATION		POINTS	
		POSSIBLE	AWARDED
I. Presentation			
A.	Appearance & Deportment	5	
II. Musicianship			
A.	Accuracy and Memory	5	
B.	Overall sound	10	
C.	Proper Diction & Word Emphasis	10	
D.	Tone Quality & Intonation	5	
E.	Balance and Integration	10	
F.	Fluency (Includes Phrasing & Tempo)	10	
III. Communication & Interpretation			
A.	Mood & Style	5	
B.	Intensity/Climax	5	
C.	Dynamics	5	
D.	Performance and Ministry	10	
IV. Appropriateness of Selection			
A.	Teamwork	5	
B.	Degree of Difficulty	10	
F.	Correct Music & Paperwork supplied	5	
TOTAL POINTS		100	
Time Limit: 1-5 min Actual Time: _____		Deduct 0.5 for every 30 sec over	
		FINAL SCORE	

COMMENT:

Judge's Name:	Judge's Signature:



JUDGES FORM - COMBINED ENSEMBLE

Return Forms to:			
School:		Cust. Code:	
Title:			
Context:			

Please attach a separate list of names for all students competing in this group.

(JUDGES! Please remember that entries MUST be consistent with a Biblical Worldview)

AREAS OF EVALUATION		POINTS	
		POSSIBLE	AWARDED
I. Presentation			
A.	Appearance & Deportment	5	
II. Musicianship			
A.	Accuracy and Memory	5	
B.	Overall sound	10	
C.	Proper Diction & Word Emphasis	10	
D.	Tone Quality & Intonation	5	
E.	Balance and Integration	10	
F.	Fluency (Includes Phrasing & Tempo)	10	
III. Communication & Interpretation			
A.	Mood & Style	5	
B.	Intensity/Climax	5	
C.	Dynamics - volumes changed correctly	5	
D.	Performance and Ministry	10	
IV. Appropriateness of Selection			
A.	Teamwork	5	
B.	Degree of Difficulty	10	
F.	Correct Music & Paperwork supplied	5	
TOTAL POINTS		100	
Time Limit: 10 min Actual Time: _____		Deduct 0.5 for every 30 sec over	
		FINAL SCORE	

COMMENT:

Judge's Name:

Judge's Signature:

