

Pennsylvania Sinfonia Orchestra
A Clash of the Valley Choirs Competition
Saturday, January 31, 2009

Judges Evaluation Form

(Adapted from [www.ar2Statechoir](http://www.ar2Statechoir.com))

UNDER “TECHNIQUE OF THE CHOIR” JUDGES WILL BE JUDGING THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Harmony

- a. The study of the structure, progression and relation of chords.
- b. Simultaneous combination of notes in a chord.
- c. The structure of a work or passage as considered from the point of view of its choral characteristics and relationships.
- d. A combination of sounds considered pleasing to the ear. *American Heritage Dictionary*

Balance

A harmonious satisfying arrangement or proportion of vocals parts and/or instruments as in a composition. One voice section should not overpower another voice section unless the composition or arrangement dictates it. Further, instruments should not override or overpower vocals.

Blend

To combine or mix so as to render the constituent [vocal] parts indistinguishable from one another.

Tone Quality

Quality of sound, pitch and duration. The characteristics of timbre of the voice or instrument.

Intonation

The production of tone, either vocal or instrumental. The use of changing pitch.

Enunciation (Articulation) –

The act of pronouncing words with distinctive clarity so that the listener may clearly understand what is being sung.

Rhythmic Accuracy

The adherence to the time signature and meter of the song. Choirs should take extreme care in not “speeding up” the tempo of the song or “slowing down” the tempo (rhythm) of the song unless the actual composition or arrangement calls for it.

Stylistic Accuracy

Being true to the style, period, or era of the musical composition and/or arrangement (i.e., Negro Spiritual, “Golden „Classic” Era” of Traditional Gospel Music, Modern Traditional Gospel Music, Modern Contemporary Music, Urban Contemporary Gospel Music). Employing the characteristics and techniques that are unique to the style, period, and sound of a particular era of the music being performed.

Interpretation – A concept of music as expressed by the character and style of its representation or performance.

Difficulty of Music Selection (Self explanatory)

UNDER THE “*TECHNICAL MERIT OF DIRECTOR/DIRECTRESS*” JUDGES WILL EVALUATE THE FOLLOWING:

The control of the director/directress has over the choir and instrumentalists in all of the above mentioned categories. In addition, he/she will also be evaluated on how he/she conducts instrumental section of the choir (if instrumentalists accompany the vocal performance of the choir) and commands the control of the choreography of a choir (where it may exist, but is not requires in the performance presentation).

UNDER THE “*PRESENTATION OF PERFORMANCE*” SECTION JUDGES WILL BE JUDGING THE FOLLOWING CATEGORIES:

Originality

Describes the uniqueness of the choir’s musical selection and presentation.

- Questions to ask when evaluating: What is the level of originality of this choir? Have they tried to present a performance unique to them?

Appearance

Reflects the neatness and overall look of the choir. Judges will evaluate the choir based on their chosen attire. If the choir’s choice of attire is a choir robe, then only the robe will be judged. If the choice of attire is street attire, then the judge will evaluate only in one area were applicable. Those categories are as follows:

- Formal
- Standard (suit, tie, shirt, blouse, dress, etc.)
- Casual (i.e., contemporary, urban hip hop)
 - Questions to ask when evaluating: Have they chosen appropriate attire for their performance? Etc.

Creativity

describes the level of artistic creativity put into the presentation by the choir and the choir director.

- Questions to ask when evaluating: Have you heard a choir like this perform?

Stage Presence

Is the personality of the people on the stage. There are two contributing factors to the overall stage presence. Entering/Exiting and formation.

Judges will evaluate how the choir enters onto the stage and likewise, how the choir exits from the performance space. The formation of the choir appearing on stage is an essential part of stage presence. Towards that end, judges will examine whether the choir stands in a standard choral formation or in some contemporary configuration and how their choice of formation impacts their total performance.

- Questions to ask when evaluating: Does their formation affect the way in which they perform? Is it aesthetically pleasing to those persons in the audience? Does their formation enhance or distract from their overall performance and stage presence? Do the performers look excited and enthused about what they are singing?

Audience Appeal is the audience's reaction and approval of the choir.

- Questions to ask when evaluating: Does the choir command and maintain the command of the audience's attention? Is the audience displaying positive reactions or responses to this performance? Does the audience clearly approve or disapprove of the choir's performance?

THE "OVERALL IMPRESSION" RATING PROVIDES THE JUDGE AND OPPORTUNITY TO PROVIDE AN OVERALL NUMERICAL EVALUATION OF THE ENTIRE PERFORMANCE.

- Questions to ask when evaluating: How did you feel overall about this performance? What is your general impression of this performance?

Name of Group _____

Title of Musical Selection _____

Judges Initials _____

Please rate the following on a scale of ten points.

Harmony _____

Balance _____

Blend _____

Tone Quality _____

Intonation _____

Enunciation _____

Rhythmic Accuracy _____

Stylistic Accuracy _____

Interpretation _____

Originality _____

Difficulty of Music _____

Selection _____

Appearance _____

Creativity _____

Stage Presence _____

Audience Appeal _____

Overall Impression _____

Total Points _____

The group with the most points will be the winner followed by the second highest scorer and so forth.