

JUDGING CRITERIA

- Open Category
- Original Song*

Info submitted on time:

(minus 0.5 points for each item not submitted by deadline)

- Bio
- Headshot(s)
- Lyrics (original & English)
- Musical track (if required)
- Tech Needs (if required)

Bio/headshot/group shot **

(submitted & posted on contest website in advance of contest)

Points for thoughtful bio/headshot/group shot submission:	0	1	1½	2	2½	3
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Performance

Choice of Song: Song is a good fit for singers' abilities and vocal qualities.	0	1	2		
Artistry and musicianship: Performer(s) make the song their own and present a strong stylistic interpretation, incorporating dynamics & expressive musical feeling.	1	2	3	4	5
Dance and/or Choreography: Performer(s) integrate significant meaningful movement in performance	0	1	2	3	
Overall performance: Evaluate how you react to the work as a whole – the effect of the performance beyond technical proficiency; is it engaging & does it evoke a positive response?	1	2	3	4	5

Musical Criteria

Words: Performer(s) knows all the words. There are no noticeable lapses, blanks, or pauses.	1	2	3	4	5
Key: Singing in tune from beginning to end.	1	2	3	4	5
Voice: Good articulation, rhythm accuracy, audibility, and voice projection.	1	2	3	4	5
Instruments: Performer(s) play instruments. Scoring reflects the added challenge of playing an instrument(s) and the extent to which it enhances the performance.	0	1	2	3	

Language Criteria

Accent: Performer(s) emulate a native-like accent.	1 2 3 4 5
Correctness: Performer(s) sing the lyrics accurately.	1 2 3 4 5
Pronunciation: Performer(s) pronounce words with clarity.	1 2 3 4 5
Multilingual: student(s) sing in more than one language (that they are learning)	0 1

**** Complete the following section for original pieces ONLY:**

Creative originality: Piece is non-derivative (doesn't obviously sound exactly like an existing song)	1 2 3 4 5
Language choices: Lyrics are syntactically and grammatically correct, while allowing for colloquial expressions and artistic language use.	1 2 3 4 5

Entries in this category are only competing against other original songs

Song Length Penalty

A 3:00 minute limit is placed on each entry. Judges do not have to track this. Our timekeeping volunteer tracks duration and penalties apply once a performance reaches 3:30.

3:30 – 4:00 (minus 2 points)

longer than 4:00 (minus 4 points)

* for entries in this category, language judge must also complete the "Complete this Section For Original Pieces Only" subsection. Entries in this category are only competing against other original songs

** Judges will have access to these along with song lyrics in advance of the competition.

** completed only by the judge(s) judging specific target language