

GROUP SINGING

PURPOSE: To present *a cappella* music in a choral setting in order to encourage believers, witness to unbelievers, and praise our God.

PROCESS:

Each participating group and/or church coordinator will:

- Select & prepare with appropriate *a cappella* music.
- Be certain that participants in the singing groups are registered for this event. (This also means “registered as teams”.) This must be completed by the registration deadline. (The local church coordinator can help with this.)
- Report to the Group Singing Registration table as soon as possible upon arrival at the convention to confirm team roster and performance time.
- Be certain that participants are performing in no more than two singing groups (See guidelines on eligibility.)
- Be certain that at least one adult volunteer evaluator is provided if the congregation has any students participating in this event. (The church coordinator is responsible for this.)

The Event Coordinator will:

- Assume responsibility for the Mid-West LTC Group Singing Event, and be certain that the performance area setup is adequate.
- Be present (or have a delegate present) at the team check-in table, Friday evening of convention. (See “Event Coordinator Guide” for details.)
- Be certain that a performance schedule has been created and posted.
- Conduct an evaluators meeting before the event. Please refer to "Event Coordinator Guide" for details.
- Provide adult volunteers to serve as “room emcee” for each event room. Please refer to "Event Coordinator Guide" for details.
- Report results and provide critique sheets to the Awards Committee.

GUIDELINES:

Participant and Team Eligibility

- There are two grade levels in this event: Grades 3-6 and Grades 7-12. A team’s grade level is determined by the grade level of the **oldest** team member.
- A congregation may have multiple singing groups participating.
- No student may participate in more than 2 groups. If a student participates in 2 groups, one must be “small” and one must be “large” (2-9 members and 10+ members, respectively).
- *Team Registration:* Registration is not complete until team rosters are created in the online registration system. Teams that are registered by the registration deadline will be guaranteed a time slot in the event schedule. Groups that have not registered their teams in the registration system will not be guaranteed a time slot in the schedule. (The event coordinator must have an accurate list of teams to create an accurate event schedule.)

Key Elements

- *Time:* Each singing group will have ten minutes to set up, sing, and clear the stage. The timekeeper will begin the clock when the first person steps on the stage or when the performance begins, whichever comes first. Similarly, the clock will stop when the last person steps off the stage or when the performance ends, whichever comes last. Applause between songs will be discouraged to help ensure groups perform within the time limit. Performances that exceed ten minutes will be penalized.
- *Appearance:* Each singing group will be rated on overall appearance. This is not to say that dress must be formal or uniform. Points will be deducted for group members who are inappropriately dressed.
- *Stage Presence:* Each singing group will be rated on stage presence. This area includes the use of appropriate facial expression and body movement, as well as the group’s visible ease at performing on stage, and/or in front of an audience.
- *Sound & Equipment:* The singing groups will also be rated on how well their voices blend, on diction so that words may be understood, and on the use of contrast to express mood and feeling. ****ALL** sound equipment will be provided by LTC. Individual congregations will not be allowed to provide their own sound equipment or soundboard operators. This rule is to assure that all groups are evaluated equally.

- *Message & Theme:* The singing groups shall also be rated on how effectively the overall spiritual message is delivered. While not strictly limited to it, the current year's LTC theme shall be the center of each group's presentation.

Conducting the Event

- Singing groups need to arrive to their assigned performance room at least 10 minutes before performance and need to stay until the end of the event.
- The event will not run ahead of schedule; each group will begin at their assigned time.

AWARDS:

Grade Level 3-6	Gold = 90 to 100	Silver = 80 to 89	Bronze = 70 to 79	Participant = 69 & less
Grade Level 7-12	Gold = 95 to 100	Silver = 85 to 94	Bronze = 75 to 84	Participant = 74 & less

EVALUATION CRITERIA:

See Group Singing Evaluation Form for criteria and weighting.

Special Note About Scheduling

MWLTC has grown to the point that we must have at least two simultaneous Group Singing sessions. Effort is made to schedule singing groups so that two groups from the same church are not performing at the same time. However, this may not always be possible – and we ask for your patience while we grow. Bear in mind that the schedule is “registration dependent”. Please note the following:

- The Group Singing schedule will be available on our web site (www.mwltc.org) two weeks prior to the convention. Every effort will be made to accommodate all groups before the schedule is posted.
- Once the schedule is posted, only under extreme circumstances (i.e. unexpected emergencies) will time slots be swapped.

Group Singing

Instructions for Evaluators:

1. Place bar code label or write student info.
2. Assign score for each criteria & calculate total.
3. Write additional comments.

↓ Place Label Here	Team Name:	↓ Place Label Here	EVENT COORD:
	Grade Level (circle one): 3-6 7-12		
	Cong:		FINAL AWARD

Transitions

Score: _____

- 5: Performance flowed smoothly from one song to another.
- 4: Transitions between songs were longer than necessary.
- 3-4: Transitions between songs were much longer than necessary.
- 0-3: Transitions between songs were not well executed • Group members did not seem familiar with program.

Appearance and Stage Presence

Score: _____

- 24-25: The entire group was dressed neatly and appropriately. • All seemed comfortable on stage. • All used appropriate facial expressions and body movement. Enjoyed performing.
- 21-24: The group was dressed neatly and appropriately. • Most seemed comfortable on stage. • Most used appropriate facial expressions and body movement. Enjoyed performing
- 19-21: The group was dressed appropriately. • Some seemed comfortable on stage. • Some used appropriate facial expressions and body movement.
- 0-19: One or more members were dressed inappropriately.. • Group seemed to lack energy and/or enthusiasm in their performance.

Blend of Voices

Score: _____

- 19-20: All voices blended well. No one voice overpowered another.
- 17-19: Most voices blended well. Occasionally one voice could be heard over the group.
- 15-17: Some voices blended well. One voice seemed to overpower the group.
- 0-15: One voice was prominent throughout the performance.

Diction

Score: _____

- 9-10: All words were sung crisply and were easily understood by the audience.
- 8-9: Most words were sung crisply and were easily understood by the audience.
- 7-8: Some words were sung crisply and were understood by most of the audience.
- 0-7: The audience had to struggle to understand the words being sung.

Dynamic Contrast

Score: _____

- 9-10: Dynamic contrast was used consistently throughout the performance to express mood and feeling.
- 8-9: Dynamic contrast was used frequently throughout the performance to express mood and feeling.
- 7-8: Dynamic contrast was used infrequently throughout the performance to express mood and feeling.
- 0-7: Little or no dynamic contrast was used during the performance to express mood and feeling.

Delivery of Overall Spiritual Message & Adherence to Theme

Score: _____

- 29-30: Songs selected were an excellent representation of the overall spiritual message and were directly related to this year's theme.
- 26-28: The songs selected were a good representation of the overall spiritual message and related to this year's theme.
- 23-25: The songs selected somewhat represented the overall spiritual message and related to this year's theme.
- 0-22: The songs selected neither represented the overall spiritual message nor related to this year's theme.

PENALTIES (check any that apply):

___ Deduct 5 points if the performance goes over the 10 minute maximum length.

Total Score: _____

3rd-6th grd: 0-69; 70-79; 80-89; 90-100

7th-12th grd: 0-74; 75-84; 85-94; 95-100

Evaluator's Comments: