



RISING STARS YOUTH CHOIR

Each Youth Choir will perform two pieces of their choice with contrasting styles.

All choirs must provide two copies of both scores, with all measures numbered and any cuts clearly marked.

Uniform: Salvation Army summer uniform or black/blue dress bottoms and white dress shirt.

Repertoire:

Select two contrasting songs of your choice. The contrast should include differences in mood and tempo. Do not choose two fast songs or two slow songs.

The following vocal publications are approved for use, other songs will have to be approved by the Divisional Music Director:

[Psalms, Hymns, & Spiritual Songs](#) (USA East) 4 part

[Sing Praise!](#) (USA South) 3 Part

[Sing to The Lord](#) (U.K.) Mostly 4 parts

Accompaniment:

Divisional Round – Divisional Music Directors can use their own discretion for Youth Choir at the Rising Stars Divisional Round. While live accompaniment is always preferred, an accompanist may not be available therefore using the accompaniment track at the corps or divisional level is encouraged. Participation at the corps level is the goal.

Territorial Round – All accompaniments for Youth Choirs must be live, no pre-recorded tracks. Each division should bring their own accompanist with them and have rehearsals completed prior to arrival at the Rising Stars Territorial Round. There will not be enough time to provide rehearsals on site. Some use may be on a first come first served basis.

Ensemble Size: Youth Choirs need to have a minimum number of 5 members. This can include up to 2 helpers, who can be over the age limit, and a choir leader.

Time Limits: All choirs have a total of 10 minutes. This time slot should include performance of both pieces, set-up and transition times. Choice pieces may have a cut if it is notated in the provided score to the judges.

Deadline for Territorial Round: All participants and information for the Territorial Round should be submitted via email to usc.thq.music@usc.salvationarmy.org by May 5, 2024.



YOUTH CHOIR SCORING GUIDELINES

ACCURACY - 30 points

- Notes (10 points possible)
 - Are the notes presented smoothly and accurately?
 - Are the notes sung in the appropriate style?
- Rhythm (10 points possible)
 - Is the rhythm performed accurately?
 - Is the tempo steady?
- Diction (10 points possible)
 - Are the words presented clearly and easily understood?
 - Are vowels and consonants clearly and accurately presented?

STONE - 40 points

- Quality (10 points possible)
 - Is the tone quality resonant, open and stylistically appropriate tone in all registers?
 - Are the vowels round and well-matched across the group?
- Technique (10 points possible)
 - Is air used properly in sound production and breath support?
 - Is the group displaying good posture?
- Intonation (10 points possible)
 - Do vocalists maintain correct pitch through all ranges and registers?
- Balance and Blend (10 points possible)
 - Is good blend achieved through the performance both within and between sections?

INTERPRETATION - 20 points

- Dynamics (10 points possible)
 - Are there contrasting dynamics?
 - Does the group have a wide range of dynamic capability?
- Musicality/Phrasing (10 points possible)
 - Is there a sense of musicality/phrasing?
 - Is the music correctly represented in terms of tempo, style and phrasing?

PERFORMANCE - 10 points

- Stage Presence (5 points possible)
 - Do vocalists exhibit good poise and engagement?
 - Does the choir look neat and sharp?
- Suitability (5 points possible)
 - Is this solo suitable for the choir? Is it too easy or too hard?