



RISING STARS PIANO SOLO

Each participant will perform two pieces, the required test piece and a choice piece. Participants may find links to purchase or download repertoire from the website:

www.samusiccentral.org/rising-stars

All participants must provide two copies of the choice piece score with all measures numbered and any cuts clearly marked.

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

Time Limits: All participants have a total of 7 minutes. This time should include performance of both pieces and transition time. Choice pieces may have a cut if it is notated in the provided score to the judges.

Instrument:

A real piano or keyboard with weighted keys is preferred for the Divisional Round. A piano or keyboard with weighted keys will be provided at the Territorial Round.

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 8, 2026.

LEVEL	AGE RANGE	REQUIRED PIECE	CHOICE PIECE
1	7-10	All Your Anxiety (arr. Whitehouse)	Any music from Salvation Army, Sacred or Classical Literature - Suggestions found on website.
2	11-14	Thank You, Lord (arr. Whitehouse)	
3	15-18	Seek Ye First (arr. Himes)	
4	19-25	Little Children (arr. Post)	



PIANO SOLO SCORING GUIDELINES

ACCURACY - 40 points

- Notes (20 points possible)
 - Are the notes performed as written?
 - Are the notes placed evenly and accurately?
- Rhythm (20 points possible)
 - Is the rhythm performed accurately?
 - Is the tempo steady?

TONE - 30 points

- Hand Position (20 points possible)
 - Is the soloist using proper fingerings?
 - Are the wrists and arms in a proper relaxed position?
- Balance (10 points possible)
 - Do chords line up together and are balanced?
 - Is the sustain pedal used correctly?

INTERPRETATION - 20 points

- Dynamics (10 points possible)
 - Are all dynamics played accurately?
 - Does the soloist 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)
 - Does the soloist look neat and sharp?
 - Does the soloist introduce themselves well?
- Suitability (5 points possible)
 - Is this solo suitable for the soloist? Is it too easy or too hard?
 - Has the soloist chosen a piece that demonstrates their abilities?