



2026

www.samusiccentral.org/rising-stars

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RISING STARS STATEMENT OF PURPOSE



The Rising Stars program is a solo and ensemble contest dedicated to fostering the continuous growth of musicians and artists. Rising Stars serves as a vital resource, equipping participants to grow and become confident in their abilities, with the ultimate aim of enhancing the worship experience through vibrant, creative expressions of faith.

Whether at a beginner or advanced level, as a Rising Star, you are on a journey to refine your skills and offer your best in worship.

Rising Stars features the following categories: brass solo, vocal solo, percussion solo, dance solo, drama monologue, piano solo, beginner band, youth band, dance ensemble, drama troupe, singing company, and youth choir. By participating, individuals and ensembles contribute to The Salvation Army USA Central Territory's goal of having live music and arts consistently integrated into worship at all worship centers.

Each division will host its own event, offering comprehensive adjudication across all categories. An outstanding soloist or ensemble will be awarded for each category and level. These outstanding performers receive an invitation to participate at the territorial round on Saturday, June 13, 2026.

All participants and information for the Territorial Round should be submitted by May 8, 2026, to usc.thq.music@usc.salvationarmy.org.

The USA Central Territory's **RISING STARS** purpose is to:

1. Develop and encourage musicians and creative artists.
2. Provide a goal to help motivate individuals and ensembles strive for excellence.
3. Encourage opportunities for participation at the local level on a regular basis.
4. Help soloists, ensembles, and leaders focus on doing their best to glorify God.



RISING STARS PARTICIPANT GUIDELINES

1. Participants must be active and regularly associated with a corps or involved in a corps-based community music and arts program.
2. Participants are encouraged to compete at the age-appropriate solo level but may move up to a higher level if desired.
3. Participants may **NOT** enter more than **ONE** level of the same solo category.
4. Participants may enter multiple solo and/or ensemble categories per year.
5. Each participant/ensemble will receive a rating (I, II, III, IV) with (I) being the highest and (IV) the lowest, based on a 100-point rubric system. Written comment sheets will be provided.
6. Choice pieces should be appropriate for use in a worship setting and demonstrate the abilities of the ensemble or soloist.
7. Choice pieces should fit within the total allotted time slot, while considering the duration of the set test piece and transition time.
8. Test pieces and guidelines for all categories will be listed on the Territorial Music & Creative Arts Ministries website. www.samusiccentral.org/rising-stars
9. Participants will be required to purchase required pieces through Salvation Army publishing. If materials for a particular category are not available from Trade Central, they will be downloadable on the Rising Stars website.
10. The uniform for soloists is Salvation Army summer uniform or black/blue dress bottoms and white dress shirt. Ensemble performances should be dressed as would be appropriate for a worship service.
11. The participant that places as Outstanding Soloist or Ensemble at the Territorial Round for two consecutive years must advance to the next level in the category. If participating in the highest level of the category, the individual or ensemble may participate but not win Outstanding Soloist or Ensemble.
12. No fee is necessary for participation in Rising Stars.
13. All solo and ensemble participants must provide two copies of the choice score with all measures numbered and any cuts clearly marked.
14. Brass and vocal solos must use live accompaniment at the Territorial Round and will be **required to bring** their own accompanist with them. For Divisional Rounds, live accompaniment is preferred but not required.
15. The percussion solo category requires the set piece to be played on snare drum. Choice pieces can be played on either snare drum or mallet percussion.
16. All Outstanding Soloists and Ensembles should be submitted for the Territorial Round by May 8, 2026, to usc.thq.music@usc.salvationarmy.org.



RISING STARS ADJUDICATOR GUIDELINES

Thank you for agreeing to serve as an adjudicator for Rising Stars. It is our hope that you will strive to make this a genuine and worthwhile experience for the Rising Stars!

Below you will find guidelines for adjudication and a few suggestions to aid you. Please read them carefully so that consistent standards are maintained across all divisions and categories:

1. Adjudicators shall rate all soloists primarily on the quality of performance.
2. Scores should be circled within each category and totaled for an overall score listed at the bottom of the page.
3. Two adjudicators will score each student, and the average will create the final score given. Scores totaling between 89-100 will earn a **I** rating (highest rating), 69-88 earn a **II** rating, 42-68 earn a **III** rating and 1-41 earn a **IV** rating (lowest rating).
4. **Written comments:** It is the obligation of each adjudicator to make written comments. This will prove helpful to students and their instructors. Be sure to be constructive and encouraging in your critique.
5. **Divisional Round:**
 - a. Rubrics should be scanned and saved, and then later sent out to participants.
 - b. One Outstanding Performer or Ensemble, and an alternate should be recognized for each category and level.
 - c. The top score (Outstanding Performer or Ensemble) in each category and level will move on to the Territorial Round to be held on Saturday, June 13, 2026. If they cannot attend, the alternate should be awarded the opportunity.
 - d. Submit names and information for your divisional Outstanding Soloists and Ensembles to usc.thq.music@usc.salvationarmy.org by May 8, 2026.
6. **Territorial Round:** An Outstanding Performer or Ensemble will be awarded for each category and level based on their score.



RISING STARS BRASS 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.

Accompaniment:

Divisional Round - Divisional Music Directors can use their own discretion for soloists 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 soloist 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.

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	Seek Ye First (arr. Dina), SS #5	Any music from Salvation Army, Sacred or Classical Literature - Suggestions found on website.
2	11-14	Crown Him Lord (Whitehouse), SS #9	
3	15-18	St. Margaret (Bowen), SS #13	
4	19-25	This Is My Father's World (Broughton), SS #20	

BRASS SOLO SCORING GUIDELINES

ACCURACY - 50 points

- Notes (20 points possible)
 - Are the notes performed as written?
 - Are the notes placed smoothly and accurately?
 - Is the soloist able to manage the range of the solo with ease?
- Rhythm (20 points possible)
 - Is the rhythm performed accurately?
 - Is the tempo steady?
- Articulation (10 points possible)
 - Are the notes accurately articulated as marked? (accents, staccatos, slurring, etc.)

TONE - 20 points

- Quality (10 points possible)
 - Does the sound represent the beauty and clarity of the instrument?
 - Is air used properly in sound production and breath support?
 - Is vibrato used in an appropriate manner?
- Intonation (10 points possible)
 - Is the soloist in tune with the accompaniment?
 - Is the soloist in tune with themselves?

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 exhibit correct playing posture and position?
 - 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?



RISING STARS DANCE SOLO

Theme: Creation

Soloists should convey the chosen theme, through the choice of music and physical movement.

Music: Music should be between 2 and 4 minutes long and share a positive, Christian message. Instrumental pieces may also be used. All music should be pre-approved by the Divisional Music Director.

All music tracks must be purchased before usage.

Uniform: Participants are expected to wear outfits or costumes that are appropriate for the chosen dance. Adjudicators will be looking for good judgement in this area.

If applicable, participants are expected to provide their own scene props.

Time Limits: All participants have a total of 7 minutes.

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	DANCE INFORMATION
1	7-14	Choose your own music and choreography between 2 and 4 minutes long, referencing the theme above.
2	15-25	Choose your own music and choreography between 2 and 4 minutes long, referencing the theme above.



DANCE SOLO SCORING GUIDELINES

PHYSICAL EXECUTION - 60 points

- Technique (20 points possible)
 - Does the dancer display proper technique and physical body alignment?
- Expression and Message (20 points possible)
 - Does the dancer's movement effectively match the style of the music and enhance the message or lyrics of the song?
- General Preparedness (20 points possible)
 - Is the choreography executed cleanly and confidently?

DESIGN - 40 points

- Choreography (10 points possible)
 - Is the choreography interesting and engaging to watch?
 - Does the choreography use multiple choreographic tools to create a diversity of movement?
- Appearance/Costume (10 points possible)
 - Does the dancer appear confident and composed as they come into position to perform?
 - If costume and make-up are utilized, does it enhance or detract from the performance?
- Music Choice (10 points possible)
 - Does the chosen music fit within the stated criteria?
 - Is the style of music well suited to the dancer's style and ability level?
- Suitability of Choreography (5 points possible)
 - Is the choreography well suited to the chosen music?
 - Is the choreography well suited to the dancer's style and ability level?
- Spacing (5 points possible)
 - Did the choreography utilize the entire stage in a way that served the dance and the dancer?



RISING STARS DRAMA MONOLOGUE

Each participant will perform the required monologue test piece. Repertoire may be downloaded from here: www.samusiccentral.org/rising-stars

Uniform: Participants are expected to wear outfits or costumes that are appropriate for the monologue. Adjudicators will be looking for good judgement in this area.

If applicable, participants are expected to provide their own scene props.

Time Limits: All participants have a total of 7 minutes.

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	MONOLOGUE TEST PIECE
1	7-14	Choose One: The Red Rope (Higgins) - English Spanish Called By Name (Higgins) - English Spanish
2	15-25	Choose One: The Invitation (Higgins) - English Spanish Coming Home (Higgins) - English Spanish



DRAMA MONOLOGUE SCORING GUIDELINES

VERBAL COMMUNICATION - 40 points

- Expression (20 points possible)
 - Does the actor have life in their voice?
 - Is emphasis given within each line to express the meaning of the text or the intention of the character?
- Diction (10 points possible)
 - Does the actor pronounce words clearly and correctly?
- Projection (10 points possible)
 - Can the actor be heard?
 - Does the actor speak dynamically, using the full range of loud and soft?

PHYSICAL COMMUNICATION - 20 points

- Stage Presence (10 points possible)
 - Is the actor communicating to the audience while staying in character?
 - Is the actor believable?
- Movement (5 points possible)
 - Are the actor's motions naturally motivated by the character or do they appear contrived or disconnected from the text?
 - Does the actor have an "entrance" and an "exit"?
- Appearance (5 points possible)
 - Does the actor appear confident and composed as they come into position to perform?
 - If costume and make-up is utilized, does it enhance or detract from the performance?
 - Are costume/make-up choices motivated by and founded in the provided text or actors chosen characterization?

CHARACTER - 20 points

- Credibility (20 points possible)
 - Is there a perceptible sense of honesty in the actor's performance?
 - Does the actor exhibit the character's intentions or range of emotions in a way that is authentic and believable?

PREPARATION - 20 points

- Accuracy (20 points possible)
 - Is the text memorized?
 - Does the actor accurately present the text as printed in the script?
 - Does the actor seem confident in the delivery of their lines?



RISING STARS PERCUSSION SOLO

Each participant will perform two pieces, the required test piece on snare drum and a choice piece to be played on either snare drum or mallet percussion. 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.

Accompaniment:

All soloists will use provided recorded accompaniment for the required test piece. This can be downloaded at www.samusiccentral.org/rising-stars

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	Our Song Shall Rise (Boynton)	Any music from Salvation Army, Sacred or Classical Literature - Suggestions found on our website.
2	11-14	Rejoice! (Boynton)	
3	15-18	Fill the World with Glory (Boynton)	
4	19-25	Heaven Came Down (Boynton)	



PERCUSSION SOLO SCORING GUIDELINES

ACCURACY - 50 points

- Notes (20 points possible)
 - Are the notes and rests performed as written?
 - Are the notes placed smoothly and accurately?
- Rhythm (20 points possible)
 - Is the rhythm performed accurately?
 - Is the tempo steady with a good pulse?
 - Did the performer have any stop-restarts?
- Dynamics/Accents (10 points possible)
 - Are all dynamics played accurately?
 - Does the soloist have a wide range of dynamic capability?
 - Are all accents played accurately?

tone - 20 points

- Quality (10 points possible)
 - Is the soloist sticking in the proper playing area?
 - Is the soloist using the correct choice of sticks or mallets?
 - Is the correct method being used for the instrument? (Snare: traditional vs. matched grip / Mallets: Stevens vs. Burton grip)
- Articulation (10 points possible)
 - Is there proper snare/head tension? (snare only)
 - Is the soloist striking bars properly? (mallets only)

INTERPRETATION - 20 points

- Technique (10 points possible)
 - Is the soloist using proper mechanics of hand/arm motion?
 - Is there good roll quality?
 - Are proper sticking patterns being used?
 - Is the soloist using proper hand control and lift?
- Musicality/Phrasing (10 points possible)
 - Is there a sense of musicality/phrasing?
 - Is the music correctly represented in tempo, style, and phrasing?

PERFORMANCE - 10 points

- Stage Presence (5 points possible)
 - Does the soloist exhibit correct playing posture and position?
 - 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?



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 our 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?



RISING STARS VOCAL 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

Note that there are high and low voice options for the required test piece. Be sure to pick the version that best suits your voice.

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.

Accompaniment:

Divisional Round - Divisional Music Directors can use their own discretion for soloists 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 soloist 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.

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	Do Lord (arr. Rollins), SS #3	Any music from Salvation Army, Sacred or Classical Literature - Suggestions found on website.
2	11-14	Poor, Wayfarin' Stranger (arr. Mack), SS #7	
3	15-18	The Maker of the Sun and Moon (Catherwood), SS #11	
4	19-25	I'd Rather Have Jesus (adapt. Holz), SS #15	

VOCAL SOLO SCORING GUIDELINES

ACCURACY - 50 points

- Notes (20 points possible)
 - Are the notes presented smoothly and accurately?
 - Are the notes sung in the appropriate style?
 - Do they flow naturally rather than forced?
 - Is the soloist able to manage the range of the solo with ease?
- Rhythm (20 points possible)
 - Is the rhythm performed accurately?
 - Is the tempo steady?
- Diction (10 points possible)
 - Are the words presented clearly and easily understood?

TONE - 20 points

- Quality (10 points possible)
 - Is the tone quality full, open, and stylistically appropriate?
 - Is air used properly in sound production and breath support?
 - Is vibrato used in an appropriate manner?
- Intonation (10 points possible)
 - Does the soloist maintain the correct pitch through volume changes and articulations?

INTERPRETATION - 20 points

- Dynamics (10 points possible)
 - Are all dynamic choices appropriate to the text?
 - Does the soloist have a wide range of dynamic capabilities?
- 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 exhibit correct singing posture and position?
 - Does the soloist look neat and sharp?
- Suitability (5 points possible)
 - Has the soloist chosen a piece that demonstrates their abilities?



RISING STARS BRASS BAND

Each band will perform two pieces, the required test piece and a choice piece. Participants may find links to purchase repertoire from the website: www.samusiccentral.org/rising-stars. All bands 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.

Beginning band is an ensemble that has novice players or hasn't been in existence long. Level 1 AIES music would be a good indicator of this level. Bands in this category should first have the approval of the Divisional Music Director and not be looking to play a level 4 piece as their own choice.

Youth band is an ensemble that has been established for a while and has players who are more advanced. Level 2 music in AIES should be the lowest level that a junior band would play. They should be building on the skills learned as a beginning band member and be able to play in keys other than C and F, as well as navigate more complicated rhythmic and harmonic styles.

Instrumentation:

Eb Soprano Cornet, Bb Cornet, Bb Flugel Horn, Eb Alto (Tenor Horn), Bb Baritone, Bb Tenor Trombone, Eb Bass Trombone, Bb Euphonium, Eb Bass Tuba, Bb Bass Tuba, Snare and Bass Drums, Timpani, complete battery or percussion as required. Bands may be smaller ensembles, only using the instruments above.

Ensemble Size: Bands need to have a minimum number of 5 members. This can include up to 2 helpers who can be over the age of 25, and a bandmaster.

Time Limits: All bands 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 8, 2026.

LEVEL	REQUIRED PIECE	CHOICE PIECE
Beginner Band	The Gospel Train (AIES2414)	Any music from Salvation Army Sacred or Classical Literature.
Youth Band	Come, Thou Almighty King (AIES2121)	



BAND SCORING GUIDELINES

ACCURACY - 50 points

- Notes (20 points possible)
 - Are the notes performed as written?
 - Are the notes placed smoothly and accurately?
- Rhythm (20 points possible)
 - Is the rhythm performed accurately?
 - Is the tempo steady?
- Articulation (10 points possible)
 - Are the notes accurately articulated as marked? (accents, staccatos, slurring, etc.)

TONE - 20 points

- Quality (10 points possible)
 - Does the sound represent beauty and clarity?
 - Is air used properly in sound production and breath support?
- Intonation (10 points possible)
 - Is the band in tune across the ensemble?

INTERPRETATION - 20 points

- Dynamics (10 points possible)
 - Are all dynamics played accurately?
 - Does the band have a wide range of dynamic capabilities?
 - Does the band play with good balance?
- 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 band members exhibit correct playing posture and position?
 - Do band members look neat and sharp?
- Suitability (5 points possible)
 - Is the repertoire suitable for the band? Is it too easy or too hard?



RISING STARS DANCE ENSEMBLE

Theme: Creation

Ensembles should convey the chosen theme, through the choice of music and physical movement.

Music: Music should be between 2 and 4 minutes long and share a positive, Christian message. Instrumental pieces may also be used. All music should be pre-approved by the Divisional Music Director.

All music tracks must be purchased before usage.

Uniform: Participants are expected to wear outfits or costumes that are appropriate for the chosen dance. Adjudicators will be looking for good judgement in this area.

If applicable, participants are expected to provide their own scene props.

Time Limits: All groups have a total of 10 minutes.

Ensemble Size: Ensembles need to have a minimum number of 2 members. Ensembles can opt to have up to 2 additional helpers who can be over the age limit of their group.

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	CHOICE PIECE
1	7-14	Choose your own music and choreography between 2 and 4 minutes long, referencing the theme above.
2	15-25	Choose your own music and choreography between 2 and 4 minutes long, referencing the theme above.



DANCE ENSEMBLE SCORING GUIDELINES

PHYSICAL EXECUTION - 60 points

- Technique (20 points possible)
 - Do dancers display proper technique and physical body alignment?
- Expression and Message (20 points possible)
 - Does the movement of the dancers effectively match the style of the music and does it enhance the message or lyrics of the song?
- General Preparedness (20 points possible)
 - Is the choreography executed cleanly and confidently?

DESIGN - 40 points

- Choreography (10 points possible)
 - Is the choreography interesting and engaging to watch?
 - Does the choreography use multiple choreographic tools to create a diversity of movement?
- Appearance/Costume (10 points possible)
 - Do dancers appear confident and composed as they come into position to perform?
 - If costume and make-up are utilized, does it enhance or detract from the performance?
- Music Choice (10 points possible)
 - Does the chosen music fit within the stated criteria?
 - Is the style of music well suited to the style and ability level of the dancers?
- Suitability of Choreography (5 points possible)
 - Is the choreography well suited to the chosen music?
 - Is the choreography well suited to the style and ability level of the dancers?
- Spacing (5 points possible)
 - Did the choreography utilize the entire stage in a way that served the dance and the dancers?



RISING STARS DRAMA TROUPE

Each drama troupe will perform one drama from the list of approved scripts. Repertoire may be downloaded here: www.samusiccentral.org/rising-stars

Uniform: Participants are expected to wear outfits or costumes that are appropriate for the scripted scene. Adjudicators will be looking for good judgement in this area.

If applicable, participants are expected to provide their own scene props.

Ensemble Size: Drama troupes need to have a minimum number of 2 members. Ensembles can opt to have up to 2 additional helpers who can be over the age limit of their group.

Time Limits: All participants have a total of 10 minutes.

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	GROUP SIZE
1	7-14	Minimum of 2 members in the age range, and up to 2 helpers 14 and above
2	15-25	Minimum of 2 members and up to 2 helpers

Approved Drama Scripts:

- All Wound Up - 2 Actors
- Bible Mart - 2 Actors
- Body Parts - Large Ensemble
- Church of Your Dreams - Large Ensemble
- Ephesians 4 - 2 Actors
- Nothing to Hide - 2 Actors
- Psalm 47 - Large Ensemble
- Reach Out and Touch - Large Ensemble
- The Beatitudes - Large Ensemble
- The Good Samaritan - Large Ensemble
- Treasures in Jars of Clay - 3 Actors
- Zacchaeus The Tax Collector - 3 Actors



DRAMA TROUPE SCORING GUIDELINES

VERBAL COMMUNICATION - 40 points

- Expression (20 points possible)
 - Do actors have life in their voice?
 - Is emphasis given within each line to express the meaning of the text or the intention of the character being portrayed?
- Diction (10 points possible)
 - Do actors pronounce words clearly and correctly?
- Projection (10 points possible)
 - Can the actors be heard?
 - Do the actors speak dynamically, using the full range of loud and soft?

PHYSICAL COMMUNICATION - 20 points

- Stage Presence (10 points possible)
 - Are actors communicating to each other with their posture facial expression in a manner consistent with their character?
 - Are actors believable?
- Movement (5 points possible)
 - Are the actors' motions naturally motivated by their character or do they appear contrived or disconnected from the text?
 - Do actors perform stage directions as indicated?
- Appearance (5 points possible)
 - Do actors appear confident and composed as they come into position to perform?
 - If costume and make-up is utilized, does it enhance or detract from the performance?
 - Are costume/make-up choices motivated by and founded in the provided text or actors' chosen characterization?

CHARACTER - 20 points

- Credibility (20 points possible)
 - Is there a perceptible sense of honesty in each actor's performance?
 - Do actors exhibit their character's intentions or range of emotions in a way that is authentic and believable?

PREPARATION - 20 points

- Accuracy (20 points possible)
 - Is the text memorized?
 - Do actors accurately present the text as printed in the script?
 - Do actors seem confident in the delivery and sequence of their lines?



RISING STARS SINGING COMPANY

Each Singing Company will perform two pieces, the required test piece and a choice piece. Participants may find links to purchase or download repertoire from the link below or from the website: www.samusiccentral.org/rising-stars.

All choirs 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.

Accompaniment:

Divisional Round - Divisional Music Directors can use their own discretion for Singing Company 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 Singing Companies 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.

Ensembles Size: Singing Companies need to have a minimum number of 5 members ages 7-18. This can include up to 2 helpers, who can be over the age limit, and a choir leader. It is preferable for Singing Company to all be treble voices.

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 8, 2026.

LEVEL	REQUIRED PIECE	CHOICE PIECE
Singing Company	Shout for Joy (Gavin Whitehouse)	Any music from Salvation Army, Sacred or Classical Literature



SINGING COMPANY 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?

tone - 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?



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 8, 2026.



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?

-tone - 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?

