RISING STARS PIANO SOLO

Repertoire: 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.

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

Time Limits: Levels 1–2: 7 minutes; Levels 3–4: 10 minutes. Time limits include both performances and transitions. Cuts to choice pieces are permitted if clearly marked in the adjudicators' scores.

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, 2027.

LEVEL	AGE RANGE	REQUIRED PIECE	CHOICE PIECE
1	7-10	Lord, I Need You (arr. Whitehouse)	Any music from Salvation Army, Sacred or Classical Literature – Suggestions found on our website.
2	11-14	Count Your Blessings (arr. Whitehouse)	
3	15-18	Amazing Grace (My Chains Are Gone) (arr. Larsson)	
4	19-25	Someone Cares (arr. Bosanko)	

RISING STARS 2027 PIANO SOLO

Name: _____ Level: _____

Test Piece: _____ Choice Piece: _____

Evaluate according to the expectations of the participant's assigned level.

Criterion	Rating III Developing	Rating II Proficient	Rating I Excellent	TEST	CHOICE
ACCURACY/TECHNIQUE - 40 points per piece					
Notes	**1-9 points** Frequent note errors; flow is significantly disrupted.	**10-12 points** Inconsistent note accuracy; interrupted musical flow.	**13-15 points** Mostly accurate notes; natural, fluent flow.	____/15	____/15
Rhythm	**1-9 points** Frequent rhythm errors and/or very unsteady tempo.	**10-12 points** Inconsistent rhythm errors and/or tempo unsteadiness.	**13-15 points** Mostly accurate rhythms; generally steady tempo.	____/15	____/15
Technique*	**1-6 points** Little or no coordination or control of technical demands.	**7-8 points** Some technical demands handled with coordination and control.	**9-10 points** Most technical demands handled with coordination and control.	____/10	____/10
INTERPRETATION - 30 points per piece					
Dynamics	**1-6 points** Little or no dynamic contrast; markings rarely observed.	**7-8 points** Some dynamic markings observed; inconsistent contrast.	**9-10 points** Most dynamic markings observed; effective, appropriate contrast.	____/10	____/10
Musicality/Phrasin	**1-6 points** Little or no expression or phrase shaping.	**7-8 points** Some expressive playing and phrase shaping.	**9-10 points** Mostly expressive playing with well-shaped phrases.	____/10	____/10
Articulation/Style	**1-6 points** Articulation rarely reflects the markings or musical style.	**7-8 points** Some articulation reflects the markings and musical style.	**9-10 points** Articulation mostly reflects the markings and musical style.	____/10	____/10
TONE - 20 points per piece					
Hand Position	**1-6 points** Hand, wrist, and arm position is rarely relaxed or appropriate.	**7-8 points** Appropriate position demonstrated but inconsistently maintained.	**9-10 points** Hand, wrist, and arm position is mostly relaxed and appropriate.	____/10	____/10
Balance and Pedal	**1-6 points** Melody is rarely clear; little or no appropriate pedal control.	**7-8 points** Melody is sometimes clear; pedal control is inconsistent.	**9-10 points** Melody is mostly clear; pedal use supports the sound.	____/10	____/10
PERFORMANCE - 10 points per piece					
Stage Presence**	**1-6 points** Presentation and/or posture need improvement.	**7-8 points** Somewhat appropriate presentation/posture.	**9-10 points** Generally appropriate presentation and good posture.	____/10	N/A
Selection**	**1-6 points** Challenge noticeably too low or too high.	**7-8 points** Challenge slightly low or high.	**9-10 points** Appropriate challenge; showcases abilities.	N/A	____/10
			TOTAL:	____/100	____/100

*Technique: Coordination, control, evenness, and effective fingering in the execution of technical passages.

**Stage Presence is evaluated across the full performance and recorded with the test piece. Selection applies only to the choice piece, and the scoring should reflect the appropriateness of the selection for the participant's level and playing ability.

COMMENTS

Adjudicator Signature: _____ Date: _____