RISING STARS YOUTH VOCAL ENSEMBLE

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

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

Repertoire:
Select two contrasting songs of your choice. The contrast should include differences in mood and tempo. For example, 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) 2 part
Sing Praise! (USA South) 3 Part
Sing to The Lord (U.K.) Mostly 4 parts

Accompaniment:
Divisional Round – Divisional Music Directors may use their discretion. Live accompaniment is preferred, but pre-recorded tracks are permitted to encourage participation.

Territorial Round – Live accompaniment is strongly preferred. If unavailable, participants may use pre-recorded tracks but must provide their own tracks and speakers and ensure all equipment is ready to use. Equipment and tracks will not be provided. All rehearsals with live accompanists must be completed before arrival; on-site rehearsal time will not be available.

Ensemble Size: Youth Vocal Ensembles need to have a minimum number of 5 members ages 11-25. 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 adjudicators.

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.

RISING STARS 2027 YOUTH VOCAL ENSEMBLE

Name: _____ Level: _____

Piece One: _____ Piece Two: _____

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

Criterion	Rating III Developing	Rating II Proficient	Rating I Excellent	PIECE 1	PIECE 2
COMMUNICATION AND EXPRESSION - 50 points per piece					
Understanding/ Meaning	**1-12 points** Little or no connection to meaning; mechanical delivery.	**13-16 points** Some meaning conveyed; inconsistent emotional connection.	**17-20 points** Mostly clear meaning; convincing, age-appropriate emotion.	____/20	____/20
Expression/ Phrasing	**1-6 points** Little or no phrasing or dynamic contrast supporting the words.	**7-8 points** Inconsistent phrasing and dynamics supporting the words.	**9-10 points** Mostly expressive phrasing and dynamics bring the words to life.	____/10	____/10
Memorization*	**1-6 points** Frequent lapses, prompting, or reliance on lyrics/music.	**7-8 points** Some lapses; occasional reference to lyrics/music.	**9-10 points** Mostly secure recall without visible music/lyrics.	____/10	____/10
Body Language and Engagement	**1-3 points** Disengaged; body language distracts from the message.	**4 points** Some supportive expression; inconsistent engagement.	**5 points** Mostly engaged; expression and body language support the song.	____/5	____/5
Diction and Word Clarity	**1-3 points** Words are rarely clear; little or no unified diction.	**4 points** Inconsistent diction, word clarity, and vowel matching.	**5 points** Words are mostly clear; vowels and consonants are mostly unified.	____/5	____/5
VOCAL QUALITY - 30 points per piece					
Tone and Breath Support	**1-6 points** Little or no tone control or support; breath difficulties interrupt phrases.	**7-8 points** Some healthy tone; inconsistent support and breath control.	**9-10 points** Mostly healthy, supported tone with effective breath control.	____/10	____/10
Intonation	**1-6 points** Little or no accurate tuning within or across sections.	**7-8 points** Inconsistent pitch accuracy and tuning within or across sections.	**9-10 points** Pitch mostly centered and sustained within and across sections.	____/10	____/10
Balance and Blend	**1-6 points** Little or no blend or balance; lines or text are frequently obscured.	**7-8 points** Inconsistent blend and balance affect clarity of lines or text.	**9-10 points** Mostly blended, balanced voices; musical lines and text are clear.	____/10	____/10
ACCURACY - 20 points per piece					
Notes/Melodic Security**	**1-6 points** Frequent unintended note errors or melodic uncertainty.	**7-8 points** Inconsistent; unintended errors affect some passages.	**9-10 points** Mostly secure melody; stylistic variations preserve song identity.	____/10	____/10
Rhythm/Rhythmic Security**	**1-6 points** Frequent rhythmic or coordination issues disrupt flow.	**7-8 points** Inconsistent rhythm or coordination interrupts flow.	**9-10 points** Mostly secure rhythm/flow and coordinated expressive timing.	____/10	____/10
			TOTAL:	____/100	____/100

*No independent recall = 0

**For both songs, controlled, stylistically appropriate note or rhythm variations may earn full Accuracy marks when they support the text, preserve the song's identity, and fit the accompaniment.

COMMENTS

Adjudicator Signature: _____ Date: _____