

Texas Charter School Academic & Athletic League (TCSAAL)

2023-2024 Music Competitions

Music Competition Categories

- Solo Vocal
- Duet Vocal
- Small Ensemble Choir
- Large Ensemble Choir
- Solo Guitar
- Solo Piano
- Small Ensemble Instrumental Group

General Outline

All entries will compete in one (1) state level competition. For the TCSAAL Music Competition, there will only be one competition round performed in order to determine placing. Students will be grouped into two age groupings based on grade: 6th through 8th grades and 9th through 12th grades. Participants will be allowed to move up in competition level (i.e. K-5th grade participants can compete in 6th-8th grades, and 6th-8th grades can participate in 9th-12th grades) for instrumental events only – vocal performers cannot participate up in grade level.

Entry Fees

Solo Entries (Solo Guitar, Solo Vocal, Solo Piano): \$25 per entry

Duet Entries: \$50 per entry

Small Instrumental Ensemble Entries: \$75 per entry

Small Ensemble Choir Entries: \$50 per entry

Large Ensemble Choir Entries: \$100 per entry

General Rules

1. Vocal performances for solo and duet categories are to be a cappella – use of music or accompaniment is strictly forbidden. Use of a pitch pipe is allowed to check the starting pitch.
 - a. Accompaniment is permitted for appropriate selections for small and large group choir (see rules below) but is not provided. Entrants will have access to a traditional piano with standard tuning to use during their performance (accompaniment will not be permitted any practice time). Recorded music for the purposes of accompaniment only is permitted however TCSAAL will only provide a 3.5mm auxiliary input and will not have cassette or compact disc players.
2. Use of bodily sounds, including but not limited to: stomping, clapping, snapping, patting, and whistling, are permitted, but are not specified as judging criteria on the scoring rubric.
3. Movement will be allowed in all events, but choreography will not be specified as judging criteria on the scoring rubric.
4. Performance order will be determined by TCSAAL and released prior to competition date.
5. Guitar competitors and small ensemble must provide their own instruments.
6. Only a piano will be provided for public use for piano and ensemble competitions only.
7. **No electronically amplified** musical instruments will be allowed.
8. All works (except Small Ensemble instrumental group) must be performed entirely from memorization and sheet music will not be allowed.
9. All piece information and sheet music must be submitted to TCSAAL no later than 1 month before the competition date.
10. No accompanist will be allowed for the solo or duet competitions.
11. An individual can only be in one performance per music competition. For example, a performer can only participate in one choir duet.
12. An individual can participate once in every music category.

Music Competition Categories

Vocal Solo

1. *Individual* entries consist of one (1) vocalist.
2. Entire performance is limited to exactly seven (7) minutes. At the end of the maximum allotted time, entries will be muted and escorted off stage. Scores will not be penalized from going over time, but the complete performance will be addressed on the competition's score sheet. Entries will be signaled when their performance time starts, and are expected to enter, place themselves, and leave the stage during the allotted maximum time.
3. Soloist will perform 1 memorized selection within the allotted time.
4. Soloist shall perform their selection a capella.
5. Soloist should prepare the memorized piece from the IMSLP Music Library, <https://imslp.org>.
6. Performance composition(s) and composer(s) must be submitted in writing to TCSAAL 1 month prior to the tournament date to be eligible for proper ranking and scoring.
7. Performance selection sheet music should be submitted to TCSAAL, via email at academics@texascharter.org, 1 month prior to the tournament date.

Vocal Duet

1. *Duet* entries are entries that consist of exactly two (2) participants.
2. Entire performance is limited to exactly seven (7) minutes. At the end of the maximum allotted time, entries will be muted. Scores will not be penalized from going over time, but the complete performance will be addressed on the competition's score sheet. Teams will be signaled when their performance time starts, and are expected to enter, place themselves, and leave the stage during the allotted maximum time.
3. Performers will perform 1 memorized selection within the allotted time.
4. Performers shall perform their selection a capella.
5. Performers should prepare the memorized piece from the IMSLP Music Library, <https://imslp.org>.
6. Performance composition(s) and composer(s) must be submitted in writing to TCSAAL 1 month prior to the tournament date to be eligible for proper ranking and scoring.
7. Performance selection sheet music should be submitted to TCSAAL, via email at academics@texascharter.org, 1 month prior to the tournament date.

Small Group Choir

1. *Individual* entries consist of two (2) to ten (10) participants.
2. Entire performance is limited to exactly fifteen (15) minutes. At the end of the maximum allotted time, entries will be muted and escorted off stage. Scores will not be penalized from going over time, but the complete performance will be addressed on the competition's score sheet. Entries will be signaled when their performance time starts, and are expected to enter, place themselves, and leave the stage during the allotted maximum time.
3. The group must perform one acapella and one selection of their choice.
4. Performers will perform the memorized selection during the allotted time.
5. Performers will perform the memorized selection from the IMSLP Music Library, <https://imslp.org>.
6. Performance composition(s) and composer(s) must be submitted in writing to TCSAAL 1 month prior to the tournament date to be eligible for proper ranking and scoring.
7. Performance selection sheet music should be submitted to TCSAAL, via email at academics@texascharter.org, 1 month prior to the tournament date.
8. Performance may be directed.

Large Choir

1. *Individual* entries consist of ten (10) to thirty (30) participants.
2. Entire performance is limited to exactly fifteen (15) minutes. At the end of the maximum allotted time, entries will be muted and escorted off stage. Scores will not be penalized from going over time, but the complete performance will be addressed on the competition's score sheet. Entries will be signaled when their performance time starts, and are expected to enter, place themselves, and leave the stage during the allotted maximum time.
3. The group must perform one acapella and one selection of their choice.
4. Performers will perform the memorized selection during the allotted time.
5. Performers will perform the memorized selection from the IMSLP Music Library, <https://imslp.org>.
6. Performance composition(s) and composer(s) must be submitted in writing to TCSAAL 1 month prior to the tournament date to be eligible for proper ranking and scoring.

7. Performance selection sheet music should be submitted to TCSAAL, via email at academics@texascharter.org, 1 month prior to the tournament date.
8. Performance may be directed.

Piano Solo

1. *Individual* entries consist of one (1) Pianist.
2. Soloist will perform 1 memorized selection within the allotted time.
3. No vocals will be allowed.
4. TCSAAL will provide Piano specifics as soon as the facility has been reserved.
5. TCSAAL **will NOT provide a Piano** for warm-up purposes. Bring synthesizers for warm-up.
6. Performers will perform 1 memorized selection from the IMSLP Music Library, <https://imslp.org>.
7. All 6th-8th Grade performances should fall within the RCM difficulty 3-5 level range. 9th-12th Grade performances should fall within the RCM difficulty 6-8 level range. Instrumental difficulty can be found on the IMSLP Music Library website, via <https://imslp.org/wiki/IMSLP:Difficulty>.
8. Performance composition(s) and composer(s) must be submitted in writing to TCSAAL 1 month prior to the tournament date to be eligible for proper ranking and scoring.
9. Performance selection sheet music should be submitted to TCSAAL, via email at academics@texascharter.org, 1 month prior to the tournament date.

Guitar Solo

1. *Individual* entries consist of one (1) Performer.
2. Soloist will perform 1 memorized selection within the allotted time.
3. Only a 6 string acoustic guitar will be allowed.
4. Performer must **bring their own acoustic or classical 6 string Guitar**. TCSAAL will not provide a guitar for the performance.
5. Performers will perform the memorized selection from the IMSLP Music Library, <https://imslp.org>.
6. All 6th-8th Grade performances should fall within the RCM difficulty 3-5 level range. 9th-12th Grade performances should fall within the RCM difficulty 6-8 level range. Instrumental difficulty can be found on the IMSLP Music Library website, via <https://imslp.org/wiki/IMSLP:Difficulty>.
7. Performance composition(s) and composer(s) must be submitted in writing to TCSAAL 1 month prior to the tournament date to be eligible for proper ranking and scoring.
8. Performance selection sheet music should be submitted to TCSAAL, via email at academics@texascharter.org, 1 month prior to the tournament date.
9. No vocals will be allowed.

Small Instrumental Group

1. *Individual* entries consist of two (2) – Six (6) instruments / Performers.
2. Entire performance is limited to exactly fifteen (15) minutes. At the end of the maximum allotted time, entries will be muted and escorted off stage. Scores will not be penalized from going over time, but the complete performance will be addressed on the competition's score sheet. Entries will be signaled when their performance time starts, and are expected to enter, place themselves, and leave the stage during the allotted maximum time.
3. Performers will perform the selection/selections from the IMSLP Music Library, <https://imslp.org>.
4. Performers must bring their own instruments (except for the piano).
5. Performance composition(s) and composer(s) must be submitted in writing to TCSAAL 1 month prior to the tournament date to be eligible for proper ranking and scoring.
6. Performance selection sheet music should be submitted to TCSAAL, via email at academics@texascharter.org, 1 month prior to the tournament date.
7. No vocals will be allowed.
8. The performers are allowed to use sheet music (performers must provide their own music stands).
9. Performances **can** alter instruments from the selected piece (i.e. if you had a piece for flute, percussion, sax, and clarinet you could substitute one instrument for another).
10. Performance may **not** be directed.

Scoring

For the TCSAAL Music Competition, scoring will be judged against rubrics, which differ for each event. Since preparation is a competitive aspect of music and there is no advancing or secondary round, ranking will be based entirely on one (1) performance for each event. In the event of a tie for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place rankings, for the TCSAAL Music Competitions, the judge will consider the difficulty of the composition and break the tie by personal preference.

Awards

Awards will be given to 1st, 2nd, and 3rd place entries in each competition and age grouping. Some of this content was altered from the FACCS music competitions.

Concluding Points

IMSLP was selected as our source for material because of it being widely adopted and accepted in the world of high education involving the arts and easy accessibility for everyone. The ultimate goal of the IMSLP is to gather all public domain music scores. However, another main goal of IMSLP is to facilitate the exchange of musical ideas outside of compositions: for example, the analysis of a particular piece of music. Please note that this is TCSAAL's first step into creating its own 'Prescribed Music List' and this is just a start. We would like your input on how TCSAAL selects source material and how we grade musical difficulty.