



VOCAL GROUP

NOTE - THIS IS A DRAFT EDITION OF THE RULES. PLEASE CHECK iarbc.org/equiprules AT A LATER DATE. We do not anticipate major changes, nevertheless, the final version will be the one used for the competition.

Selections

Groups will prepare two songs in English to perform for adjudication. Memorization is required. Selections may both be fine arts pieces (classical, baroque, etc.), sacred church pieces (suitable for special music in a local church) or one of each. For each song, take care to select songs that are theologically sound, are an appropriate level of difficulty (not too hard, not too easy), and would be edifying to the hearer. For groups competing in multiple years of Equip (or Iowa TFC), do not repeat songs you have already used.

Musical Scores

Musical Scores: You must supply one original score for each song with measures numbered to give the judges at the time of your performance. Any personal interpretations of the music that would alter rhythms or dynamics should be noted on the score. All scores used for the competition must be originals. The only exceptions are as follows:

- The score is no longer under copyright and is therefore considered public domain.
- The score is out of print, but still under copyright and you have written permission from the publisher to copy the music. (Note: It often takes a long time to obtain a letter of permission.)
- The score was purchased as a digital download as long as you follow the copy limits determined by the copyright holder.
- An accompanist who has an original on hand (in addition to the original judges' score) may use a photocopy at the piano.

Accompaniment

You will be limited to piano accompaniment only (either live or recorded). A piano or keyboard will be provided at the competition, but recording playback equipment will not. You will need to provide your own accompanist or suitable playback equipment. Your accompanist may assist in tuning your instrument to the piano.

Time

You will be allowed 10 minutes performance time total for both pieces, divided between the two pieces however you choose. At the end of ten minutes, a timekeeper will indicate that your time is done. You will not have any points deducted if you simply stop at that point, and you will be adjudicated based on what was performed.

Scoring Criteria

- Musicality/Communication (10 points) - sincerity, eye contact, countenance, confidence
- Interpretation (10 points) - artistry, dynamic contrast, phrasing, style, tempo
- Breath Support (10 points)
- Posture (10 points)
- Rhythm (10 points) - accuracy, flow
- Tone/Intonation (10 points) - control, pitch, diction, attack, release, resonance, maturity, quality
- Blending (10 points)
- Memorization (10 points)
- Selection Suitability (10 points) - appropriate level of difficulty, fine arts song has high artistic merit, sacred song has biblical message
- General Requirements (10 points) - Appropriate Attire (3 points), stayed within time constraints (3 points), all materials present (4 points for all, 2 points for partial)

Church Ministry Statement

EQUIP exists to assist churches in their effort to '...equip the saints for the work of the ministry, for building up the body of Christ...' (Ephesians 4:12), therefore we require that participants sing one of their competition songs at church or some other pastor-approved ministry. Fill out the Church Ministry Statement (found at iarbc.org/equipsubmissions) including the date and location of your ministry presentation.

Doctrinal Agreement

EQUIP is for 7th - 12th grade students who are members in good standing of a IARBC church. Students in 7th - 12th grade who are members in good standing of a non-IARBC church may participate if their pastor (or other church officer in the absence of a pastor) certifies that their church is in agreement with the doctrinal statement of the Iowa Association of Regular Baptist Churches. Certification of membership and doctrinal agreement is made on the Church Ministry Statement.

Submissions

At the time of competition, you will need to hand the judges your completed Church Ministry Statement, your numbered scores, and any publisher permission letter(s) for photocopies of copyrighted scores.

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Competition Attire

Attire guidelines for EQUIP will be considered "business casual." You may dress up more than the following guidelines, just do so in a manner that is sharp and modest. (For example, a young man wearing an oversized sport coat from his dad may technically be "dressier," but the same young man wearing an ironed button-down shirt that fits properly will look sharper.) Ladies: Select a modest outfit consisting of a shirt (not a t-shirt) with a skirt or dress pants. Gentlemen: Wear a collared shirt paired with dress pants or khakis with a belt. All clothing should be loose-fitting, though not necessarily baggy. Our desire at EQUIP is that our attire would be modest and undistracting.

Division Differences

Division 3 groups (grade 7-8) will sing one sacred song (5 minutes performance time). To qualify as a Division 3 group, all singers must be in grade 7-8.

More Information

Additional important competition information regarding registration, scholarships, division definitions, and more can be found at iarbc.org/equip