

National A Cappella Championships 09

Organised by The A Cappella Society

Rules & Regulations

HOW TO USE THIS DOCUMENT

- Please read through the details carefully before applying.
- Please read it through with all team members, so that everyone understands the expectations and necessary actions to be taken and the consequences. This will provide a good starting base for preparations for the competition.

INTRODUCTION

- Organised by The A Cappella Society, the NACC is the highest accolade given out annually to a cappella groups in Singapore.
- The mission of the competition is to encourage positive and friendly competition amongst groups but also to allow the community to value the development of standards each year.
- TAS aims to provide an encouraging environment through positive reinforcement and non-political support for all singers and teams.

COMPETITION DATES

- 31st July - The Republic Cultural Centre Studio - Qualifying Round Choirs, College & Open Categories
- 31st July - The Republic Cultural Centre Studio - Finals High School Category
- 1st August - Esplanade Recital Studio - Finals Pop Choirs
- 2nd August - Esplanade Recital Studio - Finals College & Open Categories

COMPETITION CATEGORIES

A Cappella Ensembles

- High School Category : Ages 12 - 17, Group Size 4 to 10
- College Category : Ages 17 - 22, Group Size 4 to 8
- Open Category : No age limit, Group Size 4 to 8

Pop Choirs

- Children's Choir : Ages up to 13 years, Size 20 - 40
- Youth Mixed Voices : Ages 13 - 19 years, Size 20 - 40
- Youth Equal Voices : Ages 13 - 19 years, Size 20 - 40
- Open Mixed Voices : No age limit, Size 15 - 30
- Open Equal Voices : No age limit, Size 15 - 30
- Chamber Choir : No age limit, Size 8 to 20

MODUS OF COMPETITION

- The competition is judged on a points basis where the highest scorer is the champion of the category.
- The team with the highest points will be the champion of its individual category.
- The best 8 choirs will compete on the 1st of August and the best 8 a cappella teams will compete on the 2nd of August at the Esplanade Recital Studio for the placement of "Overall Champion".
- Points allocated will garner trophy awards for each team. 81 - 100 Points (Gold Award), 61 - 80 Points (Silver Award), 41 - 60 Points (Bronze Award)

ELIGIBILITY

- The NACC is open to all Singapore residents, permanent residents as well as non residents residing in Singapore.
- International groups are also welcome.

HIGH SCHOOL GROUPS

- 3 songs of varied styles, chosen wisely to create a balanced 15 min performance.
- A minimum of 1 song has to be accompanied by Vocal Percussion.
- You have a total of 12 mins to complete your set including suitable stage bantering.
- You should be aged between 12 & 17 based on the date of the finals. (31st July 2009)
- You should have between 4 to 10 members in your team.
- You may have members from different schools in your team.

COLLEGE GROUPS

- 3 songs of varied styles, chosen wisely to create a balanced 15 min performance.
- A minimum of 1 song has to be accompanied by Vocal Percussion.
- You have a total of 12 mins to complete your set including suitable stage bantering.
- You should be aged between 17 & 22 based on the date of the finals. (31st July 2009)
- You should have between 4 to 8 members in your team.
- You may have members from different schools in your team.

OPEN CATEGORY GROUPS

- 3 songs of varied styles, chosen wisely to create a balanced 15 min performance.
- A minimum of 1 song has to be accompanied by Vocal Percussion.
- You have a total of 12 mins to complete your set including suitable stage bantering.
- There is no age limit for this category.
- You should have between 4 to 8 members in your team.

INTERNATIONAL GROUPS

- Applications are due earlier. Deadline 30th March 2009.
- Assistance will be provided to search for sponsored accommodation.
- Air travel is group's own cost.
- Where requested and where possible, extra performances in local schools and venues will be organized.
- Same rules apply within each category as stated above.

POP CHOIRS

- Children's Choirs : Minimum 2 songs, total time awarded 8 mins, piano accompaniment allowed
- Youth, Open and Chamber groups : Minimum 3 songs, total time awarded 12 mins, all songs to be performed in a cappella
- All choirs may opt for repertoire in these genres: Folk, Pop, Jazz, Contemporary Music

APPLICATION PROCEDURE

- Download the Application Form from www.a-cappella.org.sg

- Prepare a demo song, a brief write-up of the group and a high res photo of the group.
- Please ensure that each member of your team is participating in no more than 2 teams within the entire competition.
- Attach your cheque of SGD\$80 per group with your application
- Send your application to : THE A CAPPELLA SOCIETY LTD, Marine Parade PO Box 587, Singapore 914403
- You may also send your applications via email to contact@a-cappella.org.sg (Registration fee to be made via mail)
- All applications have to be accompanied by the registration fee.
- No registration fees will be collected on competition days.
- APPLICATION DEADLINE : 15th June 2009

ASSISTANCE

- Mentors from established local teams are available for assisting local teams in their development and preparations towards the competition.
- Please write in to contact@a-cappella.org.sg with your request.

REGISTRATION FEE

- The Registration Fee is \$80 per group.
- Upon registration acceptance, no new members may be added to the teams.
- You may however, remove team members from the line up.
- The application is valid only upon payment of the registration fee.

YOUR COMMITMENT WHEN APPLYING

- By applying, you agree to compete gracefully and abide by all competition rules and regulations.

THE GROUP

- There is no segregation for ensemble groups: male, female and co-ed groups compete in the same show/s.

THE MUSIC

- Do practice discretion when selecting your repertoire. Any style is acceptable as long as one remembers that originality, innovation, versatility and good programme flow are points the judges will be looking out for.
- Also keep in mind that there will be families and children at the show.

YOUR SET

- Your set list is due on the 1st of July.
- Please send in details including : Song list, arranger, composer, original artiste, your lead singer and vocal percussionist.
- Please provide phonetic pronunciation for names that are potentially difficult to pronounce.
- No reminders will be sent for the set list submission.

SET LIST

- Time keeping is essential. Teams who exceed their 12mins will drop one placing at the final standings.
- Time keeping begins when a performance does. If a choreographed entry is part of the set, the timing begins the moment the first person enters. Otherwise,

groups have a brief grace period to arrange themselves and timing begins the moment the pitch is given.

- The time provided is yours to manage. Skits and interesting presentations are welcomed. Above all, the singing standard must be upheld as first priority.

INSTRUMENTS

- No instruments of any kind will be allowed in the competition.
- For the Children's Pop Choir category, a piano will be made available.

ORDER

- The order in which the groups appear will be determined before the show by means of drawing lots.
- The lineup may be modified in accordance to TAS' discretion to avoid putting groups with similar styles or repertoire back to back. This is done in the interests of both the participating groups as well as the audience.

JUDGES

- There will be a panel of between 3 to 5 judges, made up of professional a cappella singers, knowledgeable musicians, non-affiliated a cappella singers, media personalities or local celebrities who have more than a proficient a cappella background.
- As volunteers, these judges give off their free time to share their expertise and knowledge with all participants out of goodwill. They should be treated with due respect and ultimately all decisions made by these judges are final. No disputes shall be entertained.
- Judges will be available for constructive comments directly after the competition. No written comments will be handed out.

JUDGING CRITERIA

Musicality (60%)

- Arrangement
- Composition (Originality)
- Strength and Suitability of Soloist
- Blend and Pitch (Vocal Technique)
- Articulation
- Ensemble Work (Awareness in active listening, familiarity)
- Vocal Technique (Awareness of technique, delivery, use of vocal colours for texture)
- Vocal Percussion

Performance (40%)

- Performance Energy
- Ensemble Awareness
- Choreography
- Stage Presence
- Costumes
- Stage Banter (Audience Interaction, Reaction)

TECHNICAL MATTERS

- Up to 10 solo microphones will be made available to teams. You are not permitted to bring your own equipment.
- Soundchecks will be held on each competition day. These checks start as early as 2pm. Please make time to be punctual and to present for your soundcheck.

- Allotment of soundcheck times will be based on a backward row call pattern from the show line up. No time changes will be entertained.

PRIZES

- 1st Prize: \$500 Cash and Champion Trophy plus sponsored hamper
- 2nd Prize: \$200 Cash and Silver Trophy plus sponsored hamper
- All participating groups will receive either a Gold, Silver or Bronze trophy based on their awarded points.

MISCELLANEOUS

- Where dressing rooms are available, they are meant solely for your belongings. Groups will be sharing the rooms and these rooms are not meant for rehearsals by any one team. Please be mindful of each group's need for privacy and stay to one half of the room if you are in a shared space.
- No complaints will be entertained.
- **Each group is encouraged to bring along supporters to each round of competition. All supporters are encouraged to buy their tickets early due to the limited seating capacity.**

WITHDRAWING

- Groups dropping out for anything other than unforeseen circumstances will not receive a returned deposit and will not be permitted to apply for competition in the following year.

DISCLAIMER

- TAS reserves the right to amend the rules and regulations and or the details of the competition at anytime.

NOTES FOR AUDITION TAPES

- Please edit judiciously. Please remove in-between banter.
- Listen before you send out the recording. Please ensure all parts are audible and that the solo, bass and vocal percussion are not drowned out. Try different standing positions and distances from the mic for better balance. Do take note that certain voice parts record more easily.
- Songs must be recorded in the current year with the current members. It does not need to be the song/s that the group will be competing with.
- MP3s via email or burnt onto CD are acceptable. Please make sure to list your group name and song title/s on the CD / email.