

NATIONAL MUSIC
MINISTRY TRAINING AREA (MTA)
Rules & Guidelines

➤ **PURPOSE**

To encourage and strengthen musical giftedness in the local church.

➤ **RULES**

1. All entries shall consist of only music that is identified by Scriptural lyrics or based on Christian principles.
2. The Junior High Division shall be limited to those who have completed grades 7-9, and the Senior High Division to those having completed grades 10-12. (An entry consisting of a duet or more is considered a Senior High entry when any member of the group has completed grades 10-12.)
3. All entrants must provide three (3) copies* of the music, along with three (3) copies of the Evaluation Forms for their category of Ministry Training at the MTA registration table on the first day of the convention. No exceptions. Please DO NOT SEND your music prior to convention.

Copies of the music must be submitted as follows:

- Music submitted should be transcribed following acceptable Standard Musical Notation.
- All measures of the music must be numbered.
- All music should be labeled with the contestant's name, grade, church, regional, and category.
- These copies must be clear of previous judges' markings (i.e., these should not be the same copies you used at the Regional level, if the judges made any markings on them).

**Photocopies of the music are permissible by copyright law (Public Law #94-553, Section 107).*

4. The Categories of Ministry Training are as follows:

Male Vocal Solo	Female Vocal Solo	Vocal Duet
Vocal Trio	Vocal Quartet	Vocal Ensemble (5-8 voices)
Vocal Choir (9+ voices)	Piano Solo	Piano Duet (1 or 2 pianos)
Arranging (new or existing song)	Music Composition	Songwriting (Pop/Folk)
Instrumental Solo – Brass		Instrumental Solo – String
Instrumental Solo – Woodwind		Instrumental Solo – Miscellaneous
Instrumental Ensemble (2-6 instr.)		Instrumental Group (7+ instr.)

5. Memorization is not required for participation. The Overall presentation category on the MTA evaluation form has "reliance on printed music" as an evaluation standard.

Special note: 11th and 12th grade students who present their music fully memorized will be eligible for scholarship consideration to participating schools.

6. Music must be performed exactly as it appears on the score. It is illegal to arrange copyrighted music without permission of the copyright owner, except to make minor simplifications. (If you are adding any dynamic expressions, please be sure they are clearly marked.) Three copies of written permission for any major arranging must accompany the music submitted for the judges.
7. Accompaniment for Music MTA entries may be either piano, acoustic guitar or CD. Music MTA entries using an accompaniment track must provide printed music that matches that accompaniment track. Music MTA entries using an accompaniment track will not be eligible for scholarship.
8. Contestants may select their own accompanist; or, if needed, an accompanist will be provided. If the Ministry Training Area Coordinator provides an accompanist, there is a \$10 administrative fee per entry. The entrant should notify the Ministry Training Area Coordinator by May 15. Please indicate the need on the competition registration form, and attach one copy of the music for the accompanist, along with the \$10 administrative fee. If, during the Convention, the entrant fails to meet with his or her accompanist at the scheduled time, the accompanist reserves the right to choose not to play for the entrant; the MTA Coordinator and/or the Youth Committee reserve the right to disqualify the entrant.
9. Performance of the Accompanist will not be considered in the evaluation of the entry.
10. The same musical selection and group members must be used throughout the Regional and National Ministry Training Area. In the event of an emergency, substitution of group members can be made in the entry, but only with the approval of the Youth Committee.
11. The song selection must be one that has not been previously evaluated by the entrant at the IFCA National Youth Convention.
12. Direction of delegates in any form (having a “conductor”) is not allowed, except for Vocal Choirs (9+ voices) and Instrumental Groups (7+ instruments). Those in violation will be disqualified (this includes conducting from the audience).

For Composition, Songwriting & Arranging entries:

In addition to any applicable rules above, the following rules should be considered.

1. Original songs/compositions shall consist of only music that is identified by Scriptural lyrics and/or based on Christian principles.
2. Each entry may only be done by one individual – not a team/collaboration of two or more people. (A music teacher may give assistance or advice, but the entrant must do the actual work.) A delegate may enter up to one original song and one music arrangement. Multiple delegates from the same church is allowed.
3. *Compositions and Songwriting entries* should have an original melody and original lyrics (if used). *Music arrangements* can be made for voices (solo, choir, etc.) or for an instrument.
4. Entries will be evaluated according to the generally accepted and traditional music principles, and should be submitted as a printed manuscript (either handwritten, or printed on a computer). Manuscripts should be transcribed following acceptable standard musical

notation. *Original songs* should contain at least the melody line and lyrics. (If possible, also include written chords or chord names.) *Music arrangements* should be transcribed as the full arrangement (any necessary part pertaining to the arrangement – such as, solo line, choir parts, piano accompaniment, etc.)

5. The song must also be submitted on CD. (The quality of the recording will not affect judging.) The song will not have to be performed live for competition. Failure to submit a recording will disqualify the entry.

Songwriting – The recording should contain the vocal performance of the melody line with a piano or guitar accompaniment. (Any vocalist can record it, not necessarily the entrant's voice.)

Composition – The recording should contain the performance of the score as submitted for evaluation. (Any musician can record it, not necessarily the entrant's.)

Musical arrangements – The recording should contain the performance of the arrangement, as it has been transcribed. (If it is a SATB choir arrangement with piano accompaniment, then 4 parts with piano should be heard; if it is an arrangement for trumpet with piano accompaniment, then that should be heard; and so forth.)

6. The entries submitted should not have been evaluated at any previous IFCA National Music Training Area, and the composition, song or arrangement must be the original work of the entrant.

Musical arrangements – The entrant must contact the song's copyright owner or publisher to receive permission to make an arrangement of the song. Three (3) copies of the permission letter must be attached to the music when submitted for judging. (If the song is in public domain, the appropriate research and/or information indicating such should be included in the entry.)

7. Any evidence of copyright infringement will automatically disqualify the entry.
8. The entrant must sign the registration form, indicating that the submitted song is his or her own original work.

SPECIAL NOTE: *Regarding this MTA. We reserve the right to use, publish and/or distribute the works presented as promotional, or inspirational material within the IFCA youth ministry. This exposure may include but is not limited to: The Voice Magazine, "Youthline" e-mail publication, or distribution on our youth website.*

➤ **EVALUATION**

1. A panel of 3 persons will evaluate each entry. There are 6 categories of evaluation on each Music Ministry Training Area Evaluation Form. Each evaluator will assign a division 1, division 2 or division 3 rating for each category. Overall score will be calculated by taking an average of the scores awarded from all 3 evaluators.

Final Division Rating	Average Score
Division 1	1.0 – 1.5
Division 2	1.6 – 2.4
Division 3	2.5 – 3.0

Note: The National Ministry Training Area evaluators are advised to consider the age and experience of the entrant in the evaluation process and score accordingly.

2. An introduction must be made by the delegate, which includes the contestant's name, church, regional, and the title & composer/arranger of the song.
3. All entries will be limited to a maximum of five minutes (no minimum). Time limits also apply to Songwriting and Arranging.
4. Dress Guidelines
Boys: Dress pants, dress shirt with collar, and dress shoes. No flip-flops.
Girls: Loose fitting dress or loose fitting dress shirt with skirt and dress shoes.

➤ **SCHOLARSHIPS**

Scholarships will be awarded to those in grades 11 or 12 who are awarded an overall division one rating.

Questions? Contact:

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