



The following information details the format and rules of the Show Choir National Championship Series. Additional information can be found in your Director's Manual.

SHOW CHOIR COMPETITION FORMAT

Fame's show choir competitions feature the top show choirs from around the country and throughout the world. As this is an open national competition, no divisions as to school size will be offered. However, there will be two competition divisions at all events – the **OPEN DIVISION** for those beginning to intermediate choirs who wish to compete and the **WORLD CLASS DIVISION** for advanced groups (the qualifying division for the SHOW CHOIR NATIONAL FINALS).

There will also be a **WOMEN'S DIVISION** at all competitions as long as three or more women's show choirs register. If there are less than three women's show choirs, they will compete with the mixed groups.

Show Choirs will only perform **ONCE** at all competitions (no finals). The top three mixed and top two women's groups will receive an automatic invitation to compete at the **FAME NATIONAL FINALS** in Chicago the last weekend in April.

COMPETITION INSTRUCTIONS

Show Choirs will need to load in equipment and props prior to the start of the competition. Detailed information regarding the time, process and other arrangements will be sent prior to the competition once the scheduling has been completed. Space is not available for a "homeroom" environment, but there will be an 8' X 8' space backstage for props, costumes, etc. Additionally, a "home-section" of theater seats will be assigned to your group.

Once you arrive at the theater, you will be met by a Fame Representative who will assist you in placing your props, costumes, etc. into a "home section". When your warm-up time has arrived, you will meet your Fame Escort at a pre-



determined location and then will be escorted to the warm-up room. For choirs, an electronic keyboard will be provided for vocal warm-up.

Your Fame Escort will return to the warm-up room five minutes prior to your performance time so you can prepare to enter the stage. Once you have lined up and the adjudicators are prepared, you will have 30 minutes to setup, perform and return the stage to its previous arrangement. You may move microphones, change risers, arrange your props, etc.

MUSIC & COPYRIGHT

Show choirs do not need to provide copies of sheet music for the judges. The school and ensemble understand and agree to be responsible for receiving any permissions or licenses required by copyright for the performance of their music selections. [FAME Events] and its partners, owner's officers and affiliates are neither liable nor responsible for any unlicensed music performance and shall be indemnified by the ensemble, and school for any action resulting in unauthorized use of music. *(Please see the Copyright Compliance form in the Director's Manual or website for additional information.)*

AWARDS PRESENTATIONS

The Awards Presentation will take place immediately following the competition. Every group who has performed will be presented with an award at the conclusion of the festival. Caption awards will be presented in various categories. Individual awards will also be presented for Outstanding Stage Presence and Outstanding Vocal Soloist. The top choirs will receive additional awards for their outstanding performance.

TWO representatives from each competing show choir will meet back stage 15-minutes prior to the awards presentation. The choice of students is left up to you. These representatives will need to be dressed in costume. Once the group, individual and caption awards have been presented, the awards for the top choirs will be presented. Once the World Class Grand Champion has been



announced, the entire winning show choir will be invited to come up on stage to receive their award and to have a group photo taken on stage. Composite scores will be made available to each director along with their score sheets and an MP3 player with each adjudicator's comments immediately following the Awards Presentation.

SHOW CHOIR SOLO COMPETITION

Within our mission of producing the Fame competitions, we've developed a solo competition for outstanding vocalists in the show choir division. The competition is held within the confines of the group set as they perform in the preliminary competition. The applicants will be judged on their ability to perform with musical and vocal accompaniment, vocal tone, quality, strength, intonation, difficulty of music, communication, and emotion – in other words, the total package.

One male and one female soloist will be selected (unisex and mixed performances combined). Each director may select three individuals from their group to compete. A **Solo Registration Form** will be included in the "Forms" section of the Director's Manual can be copied and completed for each applicant. Please return these no later than two weeks prior to the competition.

The requirements for solo entries include the following:

1. The soloist must be the feature of the number being performed with no less than 16 measures of the selection
2. Soloists may be accompanied by additional voices
3. Each choir may submit up to 4 applicants for competition



SHOW CHOIR AWARD DEFINITIONS

These definitions clarify the process of selecting caption award winners and will assist directors in their preparation. All caption awards are selected from the full day of competition regardless of which division groups compete in.

INDIVIDUAL AWARDS

BEST MALE SOLO – Outstanding achievement in vocal performance by a soloist within the competition set. Effectively and consistently achieves excellence in vocal quality, pitch, mic technique, communication with audience, and stage presence. Solo must meet eligibility requirements.

BEST FEMALE SOLO – Outstanding achievement in vocal performance by a soloist within the competition set. Effectively and consistently achieves excellence in vocal quality, pitch, mic technique, communication with audience, and stage presence. Solo must meet eligibility requirements.

BEST MALE STAGE PRESENCE – Outstanding achievement by a single performer in overall visual presentation. Effectively and consistently projects the appropriate facial expressions, demonstrates confidence and mastery of all choreography, demonstrates a strong sense of communication with the audience, and is able to show a wide range of performance skills within the competition set.

BEST FEMALE STAGE PRESENCE – Outstanding achievement by a single performer in overall visual presentation. Effectively and consistently projects the appropriate facial expressions, demonstrates confidence and mastery of all choreography, demonstrates a strong sense of communication with the audience, and is able to show a wide range of performance skills within the competition set.

GROUP CAPTION AWARDS

BEST VOCALS – Outstanding achievement in overall group vocals: tone, pitch, balance and blend, dynamics and difficulty of literature.

BEST CHOREOGRAPHY – Outstanding achievement in overall visual effect as it relates to choreography: execution, design, variety of styles and difficulty.



BEST SHOW DESIGN – Outstanding achievement in total effect. Demonstrates vocal and visual styles, effective pace of show, and attention to transitions, utilizes costumes and props effectively and showcases the group’s strengths.

BEST COMBO – Outstanding achievement in overall combo. Actively and consistently supports the choir. Includes tone, pitch, blend, balance to the choir, dynamics and difficulty of literature. Only student ensembles with no more than one adult can qualify for the award.

BEST CREW – Outstanding crew. Uniquely incorporated into the show, assists the choir with sets, props and visual transitions and is often unseen.

ADJUDICATORS AND CLINICIANS

Throughout the past 10 years, Fame Festivals has engaged the services of the nation’s top clinicians and adjudicators. This year will be no exception. Adjudicators are not selected until the competition has been closed to ensure against conflict of interest. The list of confirmed adjudicators will be sent to you prior to the competition.

ADJUDICATION

SHOW CHOIRS – The two sample adjudication sheets can be found in your Director’s Manual or on the website. One sheet is for the VOCAL adjudicators while the other is for the VISUAL adjudicators. The categories covered include Vocals, Choreography, Show and Instrumental Ensemble. Two adjudicators will be assigned to each sheet for a total of 4 adjudicators. A 5 adjudicator may be added to judge for the BEST COMBO AWARD at some competitions.

COSTUME CHANGES

Costume changes are allowed during your presentation. However, other than the wings there are no facilities on stage for changes. Most groups bring their own portable changing rooms as part of their props.

EQUIPMENT – SOUND – LIGHTS



In addition to the risers on stage, an acoustic piano, digital keyboard and amp, trap set and guitar and bass amps will be provided along with music stands and chairs. Please complete and return the **Festival Order Form** (found in your Director's Manual or on the website) by January 15th.

The state-of-the-art theater house sound system will be used with 3 choral and 8 cordless handheld solo mics. In addition, monitors will be placed at the front of the stage for the performers and behind the risers for the band. The sound technician for the theater will be handling the sound. **We strongly advise that your sound technician be present in the booth during the performance to assist in any special instructions.** Complete the sound schematic on the back of the **Festival Order Form** for the sound technician.

The theatre will provide a professional lighting technician to enhance your show with any lighting effects they have available. Please complete the Lighting Request Form for any special requests. Otherwise, the technician will use their best judgment in the production during your show.

MUSICAL ACCOMPANIMENT FOR SHOW CHOIRS

The majority of show choirs that compete use a live back-up band. The ensemble may include musicians of any age or ability. However, in order for the group to qualify for the "Best Combo" award, there can be no more than 1 adult or professional musician in the band (in addition to the combo director not playing an instrument). Tapes, CDs, and other recorded accompaniments are allowed. The scoring system has a category that includes a penalty for using recorded accompaniment in the WORLD CLASS and WOMEN'S DIVISIONS (no penalty in the OPEN DIVISION). The total penalty equals 10 points off of the Instrumental Ensemble section of the score sheets or about 5% off the total score.



TIME LIMIT

All show choirs are required to stick to a 30 minute time limit. A penalty of 10% off the overall score will be applied for any groups exceeding the time limit. The 30 minute time limit includes setup, performance and clean up. The stage manager will use a stop watch and will indicate when your time begins and ends.

PROPS

The use of props throughout your set is allowed and encouraged. There are three limitations to this rule. One - the use of props is confined to the 30-minute setup-performance-tear-down time limit (20-minutes for concert choirs), Two - the use of a fog machine must have a tarp placed underneath to protect the stage from water damage, and Three - the use of any type of "cannon" used to shoot confetti, streamers, must be aimed toward the audience, not up toward the lights, and any residue left onstage MUST be cleaned up within the 30 minute time limit by your students/stage crew.

SHOW CHOIR STAGING

The stage will be set with twelve 4' X 8' platform risers set in three rows of 8", 16" and 24". An additional row of 32" risers will be available and can be added by our stage crew. This setup and teardown will not be counted in the 30-minute time limit.

Once the time starts, the platforms can be moved to any position (including removal from stage). The only requirement is that the risers must be back in their original position before the stop watch stops. With the exception of the fourth row of risers' provision, all stage arrangements must be made within the 30 minute time allotted. Please note that all risers must be moved by the union stage crew which can take extra time. We encourage you to plan your show around the basic stage setup shown above (with three rows of risers) rather than changing riser size and configurations to stay within your 30 minute time limit.