**Prescott Choral Festival Handbook**

(Modeled directly after the MTVA Festival Handbook)

**Choral Festival General Information:**

* Elementary School Level may include students in the 2nd through 4th grades.

\*\*\*Performing groups that include grade levels K and 1st grade will be accepted upon request but should be performing different repertoire than students in grade levels 2nd – 4th.

* Middle School Level includes 5th through 8th graders.
* Choral festival participants must have over 15 members in their ensemble
* Choral ensembles with less than 15 members must participate in the small ensemble festival.
* Small ensembles may include anywhere between 4-15 members.

\*\*\*All ensemble numbers are flexible give or take 3-4 students.

* Registration fee is $50. Please add $10 to your registration fee per extra small ensemble and soloist.

Repertoire:

* Directors are encouraged to choose music of the highest quality and appropriate for an adjudicated choral festival.
* Show choir is considered appropriate for ensembles labeled as such.
* All directors must conduct their ensemble (student teachers, guest conductors are prohibited).
* A live accompanist will not be provided.
* Performance tracks are accepted as accompaniment.
* Elementary schools must present 1-2 songs for judging. See the ‘repertoire guidelines’ for details (online).
* Middle Schools must present 2-3 songs for judging. See the ‘repertoire guidelines’ for details (online).
* Illegal photocopies of music will not be accepted. If a director fails to provide three legal copies of a piece, the choir will not be able to perform that piece, resulting in the lowering of one letter grade in the final tabulation. If a director wishes to perform a piece, which is out of print, he/she must notify the Choral Festival Chair at least one week prior to the beginning of the event.
* All music must be turned in upon arrival prior to the warm up time.
* All music for judges, 3 copies of each selection, must have the measures numbered. Failure to do so will result in the penalty of lowering the rating by one grade level.
* All music must be performed from memory (directors may use music).
* Repertoire Selections performed by a given group may not be repeated the following year.

Sight Reading:

* Sight-reading is optional.
* Schools who decide to participate in sight-reading will sight read both rhythms and music on the staff.
* A separate trophy will be awarded to schools that receive excellent or superior ratings in sight-reading.
* Elementary choirs will sight read in one part.
* Directors of Middle School choirs have the option of sight-reading in 1-3 parts based on the group.

\*\*\*Please keep in mind that sight-reading regulations may change in future years.

Adjudication, rating, and awards:

* There shall be no classifications according to graded difficulty of the music. Directors may choose to be adjudicated for comments only upon request
* 3 judges will be provided for feedback. Each judge will give feedback immediately following each school’s performance.
* Each judge must be given an original copy of the music.
* Final grade shall be the average of the three judges’ scores
* Rating System:

A+ = 12 B+ = 9 C+ = 6 D+ = 3 F = 0

A = 11 B = 8 C = 5 D = 2

A- = 10 B- = 7 C- = 4 D- = 1

* Ratings will be discussed amongst judges until a final score is accumulated. Awards will be given immediately following judges comments.
* A separate trophy will be awarded to schools that receive excellent or superior ratings in sight-reading.
* A rating rubric is available online.

Awards:

* Choirs receiving a Superior (A) or an Excellent (B) rating will be awarded with a corresponding trophy.

**Solo and Small Ensemble Festival:**

* The festival is open to all students in grades 4th through 8th grade.
* Students must be enrolled in their school’s music program.

Repertoire:

* Solos must be chosen from traditional and musical theater literature. No radio/ pop music is permitted.
* Ensembles may choose from traditional, show choir, barbershop, and musical theater literature.
* No illegal photocopies may be submitted to the registration desk or used by accompanists.
* Participants will provide the judge with a score of each selection with the measures numbered. Failure to do so will result in the penalty of lowering the rating by one grade level.
* Music must be turned in prior to the warm up time.
* All music will be performed from memory.
* Tracks and CD accompaniment is permitted.
* There will be a $10.00 registration fee per soloists or small ensemble. This fee must be submitted along with the general $50 registration fee.
* School fee must be paid before participation.

Soloists:

* Soloists will perform one selection from memory.
* The maximum performance time is five 5 minutes.
* A soloist will not repeat a selection that he or she has used at festival within a three-year period.
* There shall be three judges.
* Students will perform directly after their school’s performance and receive comments immediately following.

Awards: Official Certificates; Medals

* Soloists receiving a Superior (A) rating will receive a Superior Certificate along with a Medal.
* Soloists receiving an Excellent (B) rating will receive an Excellent Certificate.

Ensembles:

* Any combination of 4 through 9 students shall be classified as a small ensemble.
* Any combination of 10 through 15 students shall be classified as a large ensemble.
* A student may be entered in more than one ensemble.
* Ensembles larger than 15 should be participating in the Choral Festival.

Repertoire:

* Small ensembles will perform one selection from memory.
* Large ensembles may perform one to two selections from memory.
* The maximum performance time is 5 minutes per selection.
* An ensemble will not repeat a selection that it has used at any festival within a two-year period.
* A school will not perform music for ensemble, which is also being used by a large ensemble or choral group from the same school the same year.

Awards: Certificates; Trophies

* Small ensembles receiving a Superior (A) rating will receive a Superior Certificate for each participating student along with a trophy.
* Small ensembles receiving an Excellent (B) rating will receive an Excellent Certificate for each participating student.
* Large ensembles receiving a Superior (A) and Excellent (B) rating will receive a trophy.
* There shall be three judges for ensembles. Any school that has multiple groups such as a small ensemble, chorus, and/ or soloists but perform consecutively.