

Contest Rules



February 22, 2020

Approved by the Leadership Team of A Cappella Del Sol

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A Cappella Del Sol

Contest Rules

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1. Eligibility

Competition Categories: Contestant Ensembles within the A Cappella Del Sol singing competition will compete in either the “Youth Category” or “Open Category”.

1.1.1. A Contestant Ensemble shall not compete within both competition categories and must declare to be competing in either the Youth Category or Open Category.

1.1.2. A Contestant Ensemble that meets the eligibility requirements of the Youth Category may choose to compete within the Open Category.

1.2. Age of Individual Singers

1.2.1. Youth Category: the individual singers within a Contestant Ensemble must be 18 years of age or younger as of the contest date, February 22, 2020.

1.2.2. Open Category: the individual singers within a Contestant Ensemble can be of any age.

1.3. Size of Contestant Ensemble: the number of individual singers within a Contestant Ensemble competing within the Youth Category or Open Category will be no less than three (3) persons and no more than twenty (20) persons.

1.4. Performance Time: Contestant Ensembles will have a maximum of ten (10) minutes to perform on stage during the competition. The ten (10) minute limit will apply only to actual time singing. The audience is encouraged to show their appreciation for outstanding performances through their applause before and after a performance, and the Contestant Ensemble should not be penalized for the time spent in applause.

1.5. Competing in Multiple Ensembles: Any individual singer may only compete as a member of one (1) Contestant Ensemble.



- 1.6. Music Festival Registration: Each and every individual singer within a Contestant Ensemble shall hold a registration for the A Cappella Del Sol music festival.
- 1.7. Ensembles wanting to participate in the competition shall complete and submit the Contest Entry Form found on the festival website (www.acappelladelisol.com)
- 1.8. Ensembles wanting to participate in the competition must submit the Contest Entry Form on or before November 30, 2019.
- 1.9. Members of A Cappella Syndicate are not eligible to compete in either the Youth Category or Open Category.

2. Competition Entry Procedures

- 2.1. Ensembles wanting to participate in the competition shall complete and submit the Contest Entry Form found on the festival website (www.acappelladelisol.com).
- 2.1.1. Video Audition: The Contest Entry Form includes providing a URL link to a recorded performance of the ensemble as a video audition. It is recommended that the uploaded video be marked as “unlisted” prior to providing the URL link in the Contest Entry Form.
 - 2.1.1.1. The video should be approximately 3 to 6 minutes in length and uploaded to YouTube
 - 2.1.1.2. The linked video should be titled “A Cappella Del Sol 2020 – [insert name of ensemble]”
- 2.1.2. Audition videos submitted for consideration will be reviewed by a Selection Committee
 - 2.1.2.1. The Selection Committee will be comprised of the A Cappella Del Sol leadership team, or their appointees, and will not include any Judges on the day of competition.



- 2.1.3. The announcement of ensembles chosen by the Selection Committee for the competition will be announced no later than December 31, 2019, and the Contestant Ensembles will be notified by email.
- 2.1.4. Registration fees for each and every individual singer within the Contestant Ensembles must be submitted no later than January 31, 2020.
- 2.1.5. Rosters of each Contestant Ensemble must be submitted no later than January 31, 2020.

3. Scoring Categories

- 3.1. In-Tune Singing: Judges will reward groups for the accuracy of their intonation.
- 3.2. Vocal Production: Judges will reward groups for quality vocal production.
- 3.3. Harmonic Variety and Complexity: Judges will reward groups for use of harmonic elements. In the complexity element, judges have leeway to reward for appropriate complexity. Very simple harmonies may be perfectly suited to a particular song. Similarly, judges may feel a song is over-arranged, i.e., too complex. Judges may use this as a “degree of difficulty” measure to reward for more challenging performances.
- 3.4. Rhythmic Elements: Judges will reward groups for mastery / control of rhythmic elements.
- 3.5. Stage Mastery: Judges will reward performers for their stage mastery, including but not limited to how the competitors take advantage of the stage, deal with difficulties, enjoy their time on the stage, handle the mics, talk with / to the audience and each other, and accept applause.
- 3.6. Entertainment: Judges will reward groups for their emotional impact and connection with the audience.



4. Competition Judges

- 4.1. Appointment: The music festival leadership will identify and appoint no less than three (3) judges and no more than five (5) judges.

5. Types of Contests

5.1. Youth Category

- 5.1.1. Adjudication: Ensembles are judged on as many songs as the Contestant Ensemble would like to perform within a ten (10) minute time restriction.

- 5.1.2. Ranking and Awards: Awards shall be presented to the first through third place Contestant Ensembles. Awards include cash prizes and an appearance on the Showcase Performance of the A Cappella Del Sol music festival.

5.2. Open Category

- 5.2.1. Adjudication: Ensembles are judged on as many songs as the Contestant Ensemble would like to perform within a ten (10) minute time restriction.

- 5.2.2. Ranking and Awards: Awards shall be presented to the first through third place Contestant Ensembles. Awards include cash prizes and an appearance on the Showcase Performance of the A Cappella Del Sol music festival.

6. Ranking of Contestants

- 6.1. Contestant Ensembles will be ranked in accordance with the cumulative total scores of points awarded by the panel of judges. The judges' decision will be final.

- 6.2. Scores: If an electronic scoring system is not used, the judges will report their scores to the Director of Operations immediately following each Contestant Ensemble's performance.

- 6.3. Ties Broken:



- 6.3.1. In the event of a tie for first place, the Contestant Ensembles with the tied scores will compete in a “sing off”, consisting of a maximum 10-minute performance for each Contestant Ensemble. The songs chosen by the Contestant Ensemble for the sing off may be the same songs or different songs than what they performed in the contest. The order of appearance will be determined by a coin toss with the winner of the coin toss choosing their order of appearance. Judges will rank the sing off performances to determine final placement. The judges’ decision will be final.
- 6.3.2. In the event of a tie for second or third place, judges will conference to discuss the performances of each Contestant Ensemble and rank the tied contestants to determine final placement. There will not be a sing off for a tie for second or third place. The judges’ decision will be final.
- 6.4. Reranking due to Ineligibility/Disqualification: In the event a Contestant Ensemble is declared ineligible or disqualified for any rule violation after the results are announced or published, their rank order shall be filled by the next ranked contestant and a revised official scoring summary will be published accordingly. All remaining lower-ranked Contestant Ensembles will have their rank order adjusted accordingly.

7. Prizes

- 7.1. Youth Category: Prize money will be awarded to the top three (3) scoring Contestant Ensembles in the Youth Category.
- 7.2. Open Category: Prize money will be award to the top three (3) scoring Contestant Ensembles in the Open Category.



- 7.3. The prize winners from the Youth Category and Open Category must also perform on the evening Showcase Performance of the A Cappella Del Sol music festival, to be held on the same day as the competition. Failure to perform on the evening Showcase Performance will result in the forfeiture of the prize money by a Contestant Ensemble.
- 7.4. Prize money will be issued in the form of a check and made payable to the Competing Ensemble. The prize money check can be made payable to a school, parent organization or an individual member of the Contestant Ensemble but must be identified at the time of registration.

8. Order of Appearance

8.1. Draw for Singing Order

- 8.1.1. The order of appearance will be assigned by random draw to be made prior to the festival day. Contestant Ensembles will sing in the order in which their names are drawn.
- 8.1.2. A goal of the A Cappella Del Sol music festival is for a cappella groups to share their talents with other a cappella groups. For this this reason, the order of appearance will be announced on a “rolling” basis on the festival day. The first two (2) contestants will be announced prior to the start of the contest. The remaining contestants will be announced during the contest, one each in succession after each Contestant Ensemble performance (i.e, the third contestant will be announced after the first Contestant Ensemble performance, the fourth contestant will be announced after the second Contestant Ensemble performance, and so on). Each Contestant Ensemble is encouraged to remain in the venue auditorium to receive the performances of other groups until their name is announced to prepare to perform, and return to the auditorium after their own performance.



9. Songs and Arrangements

- 9.1. Unaccompanied: Songs must be sung without any kind of musical accompaniment and without instrumental introduction, interlude, or conclusion. Vocal percussion is allowed.
- 9.2. Copyright Compliance: Contestants must comply with the copyright law in the acquisition, arranging, learning, and performance of songs for contest and will attest that they are in compliance at time of registration.

10. Sound Equipment and Stage Setting

10.1. Equipment

10.1.1. Provision and Operation: The best possible sound equipment will be provided by the hosts of A Cappella Del Sol. Sound and lighting will be operated by a qualified Sound/Lighting engineer(s) provided by the hosts of A Cappella Del Sol under the supervision of the Director of Operations.

10.1.1.1. Microphones: Up to eighteen (18) hand-held microphones OR up to three (3) stage microphones on stands will be provided for the use by each Contestant Ensemble. Contestant Ensemble will request type of microphones to be used at time of registration.

10.1.1.2. Monitor speakers will be provided.

10.1.2. Testing and Approval

10.1.2.1. The stage setting will be set up sufficiently in advance of the starting time of the contest so that the sound equipment and lighting may be tested under the supervision of the Director of Operations. The contest will not start until the Director of Operations has given indicated approval of the stage, lighting, and sound setup.



10.1.2.2. Tech Rehearsal: There will be an opportunity for a representative of each Contestant Ensemble to meet with the Sound Engineer(s) to discuss the use of the microphones. The hosts of A Cappella Del Sol will accommodate a Contestant Ensemble if they would like to walk on stage prior to the competition, but there will not be a formal tech rehearsal.

10.1.2.3. Stage lighting will not be scripted for changes in lighting during a performance by a Contestant Ensemble.

10.2. Restrictions

10.2.1. Offstage Use of House System: Contestant Ensembles may not make offstage use of the house sound system.

10.2.2. Recorded Music: The use of recorded music is not permitted.

10.2.3. Electronic Enhancement: Contestants may not use their own equipment to electronically amplify or alter their voices. The use of any other technology to enhance the singing voice is not permitted.

11. Staging

11.1. Use of Non-Members: Persons who are not members of the Contestant Ensemble may not appear on stage during the performance. Violation of this rule in competition will result in the performance being declared ineligible and disqualified.

11.2. Bad Taste: Performances should not contain vulgar, suggestive or otherwise distasteful actions or lyrics. In addition to adjudication by the judge(s), the performance may be stopped by the Director of Operations in consultation with the judges.

11.3. Contestant Ensemble Loading Time Expectation: Contestant Ensembles are expected to get on stage in a prompt manner as to ensure the competition flows smoothly.



- 11.4. Props: If props and/or stage enhancements are to be used, they must be simple enough that at most two people can carry and set them up, and they must be freestanding.
- 11.4.1. Any props and/or stage enhancements must not contravene local fire and safety codes (open flame, fireworks, open water other than in a glass or pitcher, for example).
- 11.5. Use of risers: If the Contestant Ensemble wishes to use risers in their performance, the hosts of A Cappella Del Sol will provide four (4) sets of risers. Contestant Ensembles will provide their intent to use risers at time of registration.
- 11.6. Financial Liability
- 11.6.1. Any use of props and/or stage enhancements that damages microphones and/or lights will result in the Contestant Ensemble being held financially responsible to A Cappella Syndicate for the replacement in kind of the damaged equipment.
- 11.6.2. Any use of props and/or stage enhancements that results in alteration to the condition of the stage and/or house and requires additional labor to rectify the stage and/or house to its pre-performance condition will result in the Contestant Ensemble being held financially responsible to A Cappella Syndicate for the total cost of the labor incurred.
- 11.7. Cleanup: Confetti and similar small material that requires extensive cleanup are banned from use in the competition. Other materials which are difficult to clean-up (requiring mops, brooms, vacuum cleaners, etc.) are strongly discouraged from the stage.



12. Non-Singing Comment/Dialogue

- 12.1. Spoken Comments: Non-singing dialogue is generally not a part of a contest performance. However, brief comments made with supporting visual communications may be permitted more clearly to establish mood/theme, to assist the transition of packaged songs, or to add to the effect of closure of mood/theme.

13. Penalties and Forfeitures

- 13.1. Performance Time Exceeds Time Limit: A 5-point deduction will be applied to the score of a Contestant Ensemble for each 10 seconds the performance exceeds the allotted 10-minute performance window, as described in Section 1.4.
- 13.2. Singer in Multiple Contestant Ensembles: If an individual singer performs in multiple Contestant Ensembles contrary to Section 1.5, the Contestant Ensemble in which the individual singer first performs will not be penalized. Any subsequent Contestant Ensembles in which that individual singer performs will be ineligible for any prizes offered and ranking.
- 13.3. Failure to Register: Each individual singer within a Contestant Ensemble must be a paid registrant in the A Cappella Del Sol music festival. A Contestant Ensemble will be considered ineligible for available prize money if any individual singer within the Contestant Ensemble is not registered with A Cappella Del Sol.
- 13.4. Youth Category Age Requirement: Individual contestants not meeting the age requirements for the Youth Category as stated in Section 1.2.1 will automatically be entered in the Open Category competition. No other penalty will apply.