

# OFFICIAL 2024 ASA JUDGING RUBRIC

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**Musical Composition (10 points), weighted to 30%**

**Vocal Execution (10 points), weighted to 30%**

**Visual Execution (10 points), weighted to 25%**

**South Asian Representation (10 points), weighted to 15%**

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\*\*Please note that there is a performance time range of 8-10 minutes for teams. There will be a 0.5-point penalty if you go 20 seconds over or under and 0.25-point penalty for every 10 seconds thereafter.

## Musical Composition - 30%

- Arrangement & Style
  - Range - Is the piece arranged appropriately for singers' ranges?
    - Does it avoid significant vocal strain (ie. muddiness in low voices, shrillness in high voices)?
  - Form - How are the different sections of the song pieced together? Are transitions well-constructed and meaningful? How does the piece develop?
    - In the case of a medley/mashup, how do the songs flow together? Do the songs complement each other?
  - Texture - How is the arrangement's use of textural elements (e.g. moving parts/polyphony, layering of voice parts, dynamics)?
  - Diction - Is the diction (e.g. vowels, syllables, lyrics) used in the ensemble appropriate for the style of the piece?
  - Harmony - How are harmonic progressions and/or reharmonizations used? Are they constructed with intention? How do they contribute to the meaning of the piece? What musical motifs are used?
  - Creativity - How does the arrangement subvert expectations and uniquely present musical ideas and techniques? How does creativity complement the meaning of the piece?
- Rhythm
  - Arrangement Rhythm - How is rhythm presented in the arrangement? How do various rhythmic elements complement the meaning of the piece (e.g. meter/non-meter time, tempo changes, time signatures)?
  - Vocal Percussion (if present) - What is the relationship between the VP and the ensemble? How does the vocal percussion contribute to the meaning of the piece? How does the VP showcase virtuosity and/or creativity?
- Set Composition
  - How is the overall competition set presented? Is the set composition cohesive and well-rounded?
  - Variety - How is variety incorporated into the set, including but not limited to language, genre, tempo, and mood?

## Vocal Execution - 30%

- Vocal Performance
  - Intonation - Are all the singers singing on pitch and in tune?
  - Tone Quality - Is the tone quality of voices appropriate to the music (e.g. smooth, breathy, nasally, coarse, etc.)?
    - Is there clear resonance, roundness, and clarity to the sound?
  - Blend & Balance - Do they sound like a unified ensemble? Are the voice parts balanced?
    - Do the ensemble and soloist(s) balance out each other's sound well?
  - Rhythmic accuracy – Are the singers staying on tempo? If applicable, is the use of non-metered time performed intentionally and cohesively?
    - If applicable, is the vocal percussionist performing at a consistent rhythm that is in sync with the singers?
  - Dynamics – How impactful are the variations in loudness in the performance? Are they overall well-executed?
  - Phrasing - Does the phrasing of musical elements (e.g. background chords, melodies, transitions, trios, etc.) demonstrate clear coherence and flow?
  - Diction – Is there clear enunciation of syllables, vowels, and consonants? Do these elements match the overall style of the piece?
    - Is there a distinct effort being made to pronounce phrases correctly?
- Solo Execution
  - Voice Quality - Does the soloist showcase rich vocal skill, power, range, and intonation?
  - Diction - Does the soloist clearly enunciate their phrases, and is there a distinct effort being made to pronounce phrases correctly?
  - Artistry - Does the soloist present the solo in a tasteful, captivating way? Do they add appropriate stylizations to the melody that enhance the musical expression and interpretation of the piece?

## Visual Execution - 25%

- Performance
  - Is the choreography/planned movement effectively executed? Do they appear cohesive and organized as a group?
    - Is the use of movement appropriate to the overall performance?
  - Do the visuals enhance the *music* or interfere with it?
  - Do the visuals enhance the *performance* or interfere with it?
  - Are they able to successfully captivate the audience?
  - Do the soloist and the group exude stage presence?
    - Is it evident that this performance was well thought out and rehearsed?
    - Are the emotions appropriate to the overall perceived aim of the group and maintained effectively throughout the musical set?
    - Is there interaction and engagement between members of the group on stage as well as between the group and audience?
- Visual Cohesion (synchronized movements, unified expressions, and coordinated staging)
  - Style, colors, formations

## South Asian Representation - 15%

- Musical Representation
  - Does the set adequately highlight aspects of South Asian Music?
  - Within medleys/mashups, do the arrangements creatively integrate the genres while maintaining the integrity of each?
- South Asian Musical Technique
  - When applicable, are technical stylizations used intentionally to enhance the performance?
  - Does the pronunciation make a genuine effort to reflect the language of the piece?
- Visual Representation
  - If applicable, do the visual elements highlight aspects of South Asian culture?
    - Do these elements cohesively integrate with and improve the overall performance?