

# OFFICIAL 2025 ASA JUDGING RUBRIC

| CATEGORY                          | POINTS | WEIGHTAGE |
|-----------------------------------|--------|-----------|
| <b>Musical Composition</b>        | 10     | 30%       |
| <b>Vocal Execution</b>            | 10     | 30%       |
| <b>Visual Execution</b>           | 10     | 25%       |
| <b>South Asian Representation</b> | 10     | 15%       |

## I-10 Scale Descriptions:

The numerical values for scoring on a 1-10 scale correspond to the following definitions:

|           |                                                                     |
|-----------|---------------------------------------------------------------------|
| <b>10</b> | <b>Exceptional</b> – professional level                             |
| <b>9</b>  | <b>Excellent</b> – very high quality; no distractions               |
| <b>8</b>  | <b>Very good</b> – strong; only a few minor issues                  |
| <b>7</b>  | <b>Good</b> – some minor or a few major issues                      |
| <b>6</b>  | <b>Satisfactory</b> – decent; noticeable issues but not distracting |
| <b>5</b>  | <b>Average</b>                                                      |
| <b>4</b>  | <b>Below average</b> – few significant issues                       |
| <b>3</b>  | <b>Inadequate</b> – many significant issues                         |
| <b>2</b>  | <b>Poor</b>                                                         |
| <b>1</b>  | <b>Very poor</b>                                                    |

**\*\*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?<br>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?<br>Are transitions well-constructed and meaningful? How does the piece develop?<br>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?<br>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?<br>How does creativity complement the meaning of the piece?                                                                                       |

### RHYTHM

|                                  |                                                                                                                                                                                           |
|----------------------------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Arrangement<br>Rhythm            | How is rhythm presented in the arrangement?<br>How do various rhythmic elements complement the meaning of the piece (e.g. meter/non-meter time, tempo changes, time signatures)?          |
| Vocal Percussion<br>(if present) | What is the relationship between the VP and the ensemble?<br>How does the vocal percussion contribute to the meaning of the piece? How does the VP showcase virtuosity and/or creativity? |

### SET COMPOSITION

|         |                                                                                                          |
|---------|----------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Set     | How is the overall competition set presented?<br>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.)?<br>Is there clear resonance, roundness, and clarity to the sound?                                                                          |
| Blend & Balance   | Do they sound like a unified ensemble? Are the voice parts balanced?<br>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?<br><b>If applicable</b> , 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?<br>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%

|                 |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
|-----------------|-------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Choreography    | <p>Is the choreography/planned movement effectively executed? Do they appear cohesive and organized as a group?</p> <p>Is the use of movement appropriate to the overall performance?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                   |
| Visuals         | <p>Do the visuals enhance the <i>music</i> or interfere with it?</p> <p>Do the visuals enhance the <i>performance</i> or interfere with it?</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                             |
| Stage Presence  | <p>Are they able to successfully captivate the audience?</p> <p>Is it evident that this performance was well-thought-out and rehearsed?</p> <p>Are the emotions appropriate to the overall perceived aim of the group and maintained effectively throughout the musical set?</p> <p>Is there interaction and engagement between members of the group on stage as well as between the group and audience</p> |
| Visual Cohesion | <p>Are there synchronized movements, unified expressions, and coordinated staging?</p> <p>Elements to look for: style, colors, formations</p>                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                               |

## SOUTH ASIAN REPRESENTATION - 15%

|                               |                                                                                                                                                                                                                                                            |
|-------------------------------|------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------------|
| Musical Representation        | <p>Does the set adequately highlight aspects of South Asian Music?</p> <p>Within medleys/mashups, do the arrangements creatively integrate the genres while maintaining the integrity of each?</p>                                                         |
| South Asian Musical Technique | <p>How are the different sections of the song pieced together?</p> <p>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?</p> |
| Visual Representation         | <p><b><i>If applicable</i></b> , do the visual elements highlight aspects of South Asian culture?</p> <p>Do these elements cohesively integrate with and improve the overall performance?</p>                                                              |