

HOUSTONFEST

Contemporary Music Critique Sheet

School: _____

Number of musicians: _____ Beginning time: _____ Ending time: _____

Judge's initials: _____

INSTRUCTIONS TO JUDGES

Please read the "Instructions to Judges" sheet in your packet.

RULES

Entry Limit: 1 entry per school: 1-5 musicians (singers and/or instrumentalists; Advantaged Speakers allowed as instrumentalists only, not as singers)

Time Limits: 2-4 minutes, with a 30-second grace period (over or under); contestants must be able to set up and break down in a **total** of 5 minutes (in addition to the actual performance time).

One piece is to be sung from a contemporary (post-World War II) German-speaking musical artist or group, which may include rap (must be school appropriate). Lyrics must be predominantly sung in the German language and be memorized. Contestants may sing a *cappella*, with pre-recorded accompaniment, or with one or more group members playing instruments live (acoustic or electric). However, no playback devices, microphones, speakers, or instruments will be provided at the contest site; contestants are responsible for providing their own equipment and instruments. Two copies of the lyrics must be provided for the judges.

CRITERIA FOR JUDGING

1. **Selection, Preparation, and Memorization:** The selection is interesting and appropriate; the piece is well memorized; all the above-listed rules are followed. (0-20 points)
2. **Pronunciation and Tone:** The contestants' pronunciation of the German language is correct and understandable; the intonation is characteristically German. (0-20 points)
3. **Voice and Diction:** The contestants enunciate; their voices are clear and audible. The contestants maintain pitch and good balance of sound/vocal parts. (0-20 points)
4. **Interpretation:** The contestants observe dynamics and use changes in volume, rate, and inflection as appropriate. The contestants display feeling and musicianship. (0-20 points)
5. **Overall Effect:** The contestants create and maintain a mood and have spirit; they maintain character/poise and have showmanship; costumes and/or make-up (if any) enhance rather than distract; the performance leaves a lasting impression. (0-20 points)

TOTAL POINTS: (100 possible) _____

MORE COMMENTS TO HELP THE CONTESTANTS (Write on the back if necessary.)