

# **JUDGING CRITERIA ALL CATEGORIES**

## **AND PERFORMANCE TIPS 2024**

### **JAZZ VOCALIST**

- 1) MUSICIANSHIP (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Singing on pitch is paramount. Nerves will play a part in some notes being missed but the contestant should overcome this and remain on pitch for every note. Dynamics, tempo, rhythm, correct use of “In and Out” of the pocket if employed. Overall timing, Range.
- 2) QUALITY OF VOICE (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
The Voice may be loud, robust, or delicate and refined, or multi-disciplined combining athleticism with a silky, lush delivery. No matter what style, they will stand out as a noteworthy Jazz Singer. They should be able to deliver both up-tempo pieces and ballads. Versatility. Look for a voice that “Turns Heads”
- 3) ORIGINALITY OF SONG DELIVERY (1-10 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
The contestant should demonstrate a fresh approach to the song presentation. Improvisation, Phrasing.
- 4) SONG CHOICE - APPROPRIATE FOR THAT PERSON'S VOICE (1-5 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Song should “fit” the contestant’s voice. If it sounds inappropriate, deduct accordingly.
- 5) EXPRESSION OF FEELING (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Contestant’s delivery should “move” you, draw you into their performance. Convey emotion.
- 6) CONNECTIVITY TO THE SONG (1-15 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Does it sound like they really “know” the song ?, not just the words but what the song is trying to convey and express that feeling. They Should “OWN” the Song! Clarity of words, pronunciation and phrasing. Memorization. (Reading Scored Music is Not Acceptable.)
- 7) APPEARANCE & STAGE PRESENCE (1-10 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Attire should be appropriate to the overall performance. Posture and confidence. Eye Contact and Gestures.

## **BRASS, REEDS & OTHER WOODWINDS**

- 1) MUSICIANSHIP (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Dynamics, Tempo, Style Phrasing, Precision, Balance with the piece of music or accompanist.
- 2) TONE QUALITY (1-10 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Resonance, Control, Focus, Warmth.
- 3) TECHNIQUE (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Artistry, Intonation, Rhythmic Accuracy, Articulation, Embouchure, Chops.
- 4) SONG CHOICE (1-5 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Selection of a song that is Too Big for their talent level. Mastery of Technical Difficulty.
- 5) EXPRESSION OF FEELING (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Improvisation, Contestant's delivery should "move" you, draw you into their performance.
- 6) CONNECTIVITY TO THE SONG (1-15 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Memorization. (Reading Scored Music is Not Acceptable.) Improvisation. Capture what the song is trying to convey.
- 7) APPEARANCE & STAGE PRESENCE (1-10 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Appropriate Attire. Posture, Playing Position, Confidence.

## **KEYBOARDS, PIANO, STRINGS & ALL GUITARS**

- 1) MUSICIANSHIP (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Dynamics, Tempo, Style Phrasing, Precision, Balance with the piece of music or accompanist.
- 2) TONE QUALITY (1-10 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Control, Focus, Warmth, Proper Patch or Guitar Tone Selection
- 3) TECHNIQUE (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Artistry, Intonation, Rhythmic Accuracy, Fluency, Chops.
- 4) SONG CHOICE (1-5 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Selection of a song that is Too Big for their talent level. Mastery of Technical Difficulty.
- 5) EXPRESSION OF FEELING (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Improvisation, Contestant's delivery should "move" you, draw you into their performance.
- 6) CONNECTIVITY TO THE SONG (1-15 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Memorization. (Reading Scored Music is Not Acceptable.) Improvisation. Capture what the song is trying to convey.
- 7) APPEARANCE & STAGE PRESENCE (1-10 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Appropriate Attire. Posture, Playing Position, Confidence.

# DRUMS / PERCUSSION

- 1) **MUSICIANSHIP (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Dynamics, Tempo, Attacks & Releases, Precision, Balance with the piece of music or accompanist.
- 2) **KIT ADAPTATION (1-10 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Control, Focus, Use of Drums & Cymbals, Proper Setup of Own or Provided Kit.
- 3) **TECHNIQUE (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Artistry, Intonation, Rhythmic Accuracy, Fluency, Solo Dynamics, Chops
- 4) **SONG CHOICE (1-5 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Selection of a song that is Too Big for their talent level. Mastery of Technical Difficulty.
- 5) **EXPRESSION OF FEELING (1-20 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Improvisation, Contestant's delivery should "move" you, draw you into their performance.
- 6) **CONNECTIVITY TO THE SONG (1-15 RECOMMENDED POINT WT. ASSIGNMENT)**  
Memorization. (Reading Scored Music is Not Acceptable.) Improvisation. Capture what the song is trying to convey.
- 7) **APPEARANCE & STAGE PRESENCE (1-10 RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT ASSIGNMENT)**  
Appropriate Attire. Posture, Playing Position, Confidence, Stick Twirling.

## WAYNE "ZIM" ZIMMERMANN SHOWMANSHIP AWARD

### 1) SHOWMANSHIP (1-100)

ALL of the criteria from the individual Instrument/Vocalist Specific Judging Categories should be used in determining this score with the Emphasis On SHOWMANSHIP.

THEY MUST DEMONSTRATE CONNECTIVITY WITH THE AUDIENCE. IT IS PARAMOUNT HERE !! Did they make EYE CONTACT? Did they SMILE?

**This point Total will be recorded separately on the RESULTS Compilation Sheet for ease in determining the \$1500 Wayne "Zim" Zimmermann Showmanship Award winner.**

NOTE: Each of the Instruments/Vocalists have specific judging criteria. This specific criteria was created for this award.

SHOWMANSHIP - The skill or ability of a showman. Hence....

A person who presents or produces a show, especially of a theatrical nature. A person who is gifted in doing or presenting things theatrically or dramatically: *"He didn't have much of a voice but was a great showman."*

The ability to do things in a lively and enthusiastic way that attracts attention.

Skill in making people feel entertained. The ability to entertain people.

**DUE TO THE NATURE OF THESE AWARDS, CONTESTANTS MAY PICK ANY SONG(S) THEY LIKE PROVIDED IT IS ALONG THE "JAZZ GENRE". THEY MAY USE THEIR OWN ACCOMPANIST(S), JU ACCOMPANIST(S), or ACAPELLA IN THE PERFORMED KEY(S) INDICATED ON THE APPLICATION.**

**JUDGES WILL USE THE ABOVE GUIDELINES & THEIR RECOMMENDED POINT WEIGHT TO AWARD AN OVERALL PERFORMANCE SCORE: 1 – 100**

**JUDGES WILL ALSO AWARD A SINGLE SHOWMANSHIP SCORE: 1 – 100**

**HIGHEST POINT TOTAL IN A SPECIFIC CATEGORY, (IE. BEST REED PLAYER, VOCALIST), SHOULD BE USED TO DETERMINE THE WINNER. IN THE EVENT OF A TIE, A CONSENSUS OF THE JUDGES WILL DETERMINE THE WINNER. IF A CONSENSUS CANNOT BE REACHED, THE ALTERNATE JUDGE (IF Used), or SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR, (Or His/Her Designee), DEPENDING ON THE JUDGE CONFIGURATION THAT YEAR, WILL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE WINNER.**

**WHERE AWARDS ARE MIXED, (IE. BEST INSTRUMENTALIST, SHOWMANSHIP, Etc.), POINTS WILL BE CONSIDERED BUT A CONSENSUS OF THE JUDGES WILL DETERMINE THE WINNER. IN ORDER FOR AN APPLICANT TO WIN IN MORE THAN ONE CATEGORY, THEY SHOULD CLEARLY “DOMINATE” IN ALL CATEGORIES WON. IF THE JUDGES CANNOT COME TO A CONSENSUS, THE ALTERNATE JUDGE or SCHOLARSHIP CHAIR, (Or His/Her Designee), DEPENDING ON THE JUDGE CONFIGURATION THAT YEAR, WILL MAKE THE FINAL DETERMINATION OF THE WINNER.**

**Judge the Competitor in each of the Categories. 100 – Highest, 1 – Lowest.**

**1 - 100 Category**

**91-100: Competitor has mastery of technique and shows a unique artistic expression**

**75-90: Competitor is stronger in either mastery of technique or unique artistic expression**

**40-74: Competitor is inconsistent in mastery of technique and understanding of artistic expression**

**1-39: Competitor needs improvement in both mastery of technique and understanding of artistic expression**

## **PERFORMANCE TIPS TO COMPETITORS:**

- 1) BRING YOUR “A” GAME – USE YOUR TALENTS TO THE MAXIMUM
- 2) BE WELL RESTED – A TIRED MUSICIAN WILL NOT PERFORM WELL
- 3) KNOW YOUR MATERIAL THOROUGHLY – SONGS ARE PERFORMED FROM MEMORY
- 4) SONG SELECTION – PICK SONGS THAT FIT YOUR PERFORMING STYLE OR VOICE
- 5) DIFFICULTY – DO NOT PICK A SONG THAT IS “TOO BIG” FOR YOUR TALENT LEVEL
- 6) WARM UP BEFORE COMING TO THE COMPETITION – “COLD” PERFORMANCES CAN BE TUFF. REVIEW YOUR MATERIAL ONE LAST TIME BEFORE COMPETING
- 7) PRACTICE LIKE YOU PLAY AND PLAY LIKE YOU PRACTICE. DON’T THINK THAT A POORLY PREPARED SONG WILL SUDDENLY GO WELL ON THE DAY OF THE COMPETITION
- 8) BE CONFIDENT. HAVE THE MINDSET THAT YOU ARE GOING TO KNOCK YOUR SONG(S) OUT OF THE PARK
- 9) DO NOT HESITATE TO CONSULT WITH YOUR MUSIC INSTRUCTORS AND FELLOW MUSICIANS TO HELP “TWEAK” YOUR PERFORMANCE
- 10) **WORK ON YOUR SHOWMANSHIP!** EACH INSTRUMENT HAS ITS OWN TYPE OF PERFORMANCE DEMONSTRATION TECHNIQUE. MAXIMIZE THIS FOR YOUR INSTRUMENT. OBVIOUSLY IF YOU ARE SITTING DOWN AT A KEYBOARD, IT IS TOUGHER THAN STANDING AND PLAYING A GUITAR. VOCALISTS HAVE IT THE EASIEST. **SMILE !! MAKE EYE CONTACT WITH THE AUDIENCE AND JUDGES**
- 11) REVIEW THE JAZZ UNLIMITED JUDGING GUIDELINES
- 12) **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE !**
- 13) OH, DID I MENTION... **PRACTICE, PRACTICE, PRACTICE !**