

MUSIC FOR THE HEART & SOUL

GOSPEL CHOIR REGISTRATION GUIDE

1. WHAT IS THE DATE FOR ENTRY?

- **DEADLINE FOR ENTRIES** – Sunday, February 25, 2024 (11:59 PM)
- **ANNOUNCEMENT OF SELECTED CHOIRS** - Friday, March 1, 2024

2. HOW CAN MY CHOIR QUALIFY?

Choirs can range from a minimum of 7 to a maximum of 50 voices. One person should be designated as the point of contact for each choir's entry and complete the registration section. Please upload a **2 to 3 minute maximum** video recording of your choir's selection on the registration website at msdh.ms.gov/music **Each video submission should state the name of the choir and/or church affiliation.** Recordings will be reviewed by a panel of judges for selection. The Top 6 Choirs with the highest scores will advance to compete for 1st, 2nd, and 3rd prizes.

1st Place - \$5,000, 2nd Place - \$3,000, 3rd Place - \$2,000

All festivities will be held at the Jackson Convention Complex.

3. HOW WILL CHOIRS BE SELECTED FOR THE COMPETITION?

Scorecards will be used to grade each choir's recorded entry, judge criteria, and scores.

4. HOW WILL CHOIRS BE JUDGED?

Appearance, *Originality*, *Performance*, and *Expressiveness* are the 4 categories on which each choir will be judged. **Each category is worth 25 points for a total of 100 possible points. To better assist you, each category has been defined below.**

*Note: A Post-Performance Health Screening category will offer up to 20 bonus points.

~Appearance:

The first impression is a lasting impression for our judges. Choirs who take the stage wearing the traditional robes always speak "unity" and "we are all in this together." However, a tasteful balance of trendy and fashionable wardrobe is just as attractive and creative.

~Originality/Creativity:

Judges will award 25 points when hearing and seeing groups perform in their own skin. For instance: (Not limited to the following examples)

A. MUSICALITY – 15 points

Arranging songs in a thematic format

Blending songs into a medley

Singing an original song

B. SHOWMANSHIP – 10 points

Director's Choice. (cues for choir/band for a music break/singing phrase over and over/movement while holding notes)

Utilizing doses of choreography. (elbow swings/back and forward bends while holding notes / the bounce)

Adding movement in unison. (swaying/clapping hands/stepping from side to side)

~Performance/Musicianship:

Judges will award up to 25 pts when captured by the "sound" which is brilliantly achieved using the basic music fundamentals.

Blend (same volume and vowels)

Intonation (maintaining pitch/staying in tune)

Harmony (two or more vocal parts in motion), Dynamics (soft/low and loud/high),

Accompanying (band support and compliments)

~Expressiveness/Energy:

Judges will award up to 25 pts when they have enjoyed a group who conveys a clear message that impacts their audience. The quote is often said "What comes from the heart, reaches the heart."

***~Post-Performance Health Screening:**

Participants are strongly encouraged to take advantage of the post-screenings available after their performance—blood pressure and pulse checks. Judges will honor up to 20 pts.

5. HOW CAN POST-PERFORMANCE HEALTH SCREENINGS BOOST OUR SCORES?

HEALTH SCREENING is an incentive category. It is deliberately included in the criteria to encourage participants to get post-screened. After exiting the stage, staff/Usher will lead all participants to the specialized medical teams for blood pressure and pulse check. The number of post-screened participants is recorded and reported to the judges' table.

CHOIRS	%	POINTS
ALL	100%	20 pts.
$\frac{3}{4}$	75%	15
$\frac{1}{2}$	50%	10
$\frac{1}{4}$	25%	5
NONE	0%	0