



Evaluating Your Contest Performance

If you have specific questions regarding scoresheet clarification, write to your panel judges within **30 days** after your contest date. (Judges are permitted to destroy their copies of scoresheets after that time.) The judge comments only on the scoresheet and your contest performance, this is not an opportunity for coaching or re-judging. It is suggested that contestants writing to music judges include a copy of the performance recording and a copy of the arrangement. Judges email addresses can be found on the Official Panel Directory, enclosed in your Competitor Packets. **Please send a copy of any correspondence to the [Competition Department](#) at International Headquarters.**

1. Read all judges' scoresheets.
2. Check your scores in each category.
3. What level are they? (A+, A, A-, B+, B, B-, C+, C, C-, etc.)
4. Check the official tabulations to locate your overall placement.
5. Analyze the placements of all contestants by each individual judge.
6. Play your contest recording while you read your scoresheet comments.
7. For comparison, play one of your last rehearsal recordings before competition.
8. Note the one-time errors – those due to unusual circumstances before or during the contest (those do to nerves, etc.)
9. List your strengths as indicated on the scoresheets, e.g. "good contest material chosen," "good overall accuracy," etc.
10. List areas needing improvement, e.g., "choppy phrasing," "need more breath support," "expand dynamic range," "develop stronger characterization," etc.
11. Note the areas in which there has been improvement since your last competition.
 - Give more consideration to your relative placement in the contest and to your scoring levels than to whether your numerical scores are higher or lower than last year.
 - Set some specific goals for the coming year. Some possible examples:
 - Identify related comments made on multiple scoresheets.
 - Choose two or three areas mentioned on the scoresheets upon which to focus during the year.
 - Continue to develop elements of your entertainment package.
 - Continue to reinforce the basics.
 - Consider getting outside coaching assistance.
 - Select contest music earlier.
 - Use a recorder regularly at rehearsal.
 - Accept more performances.
 - For choruses, hold regular section rehearsals.

Ask your education coordinator for specific classes for your choruses or quartet that will be held in your region.