

Guadalupe Festival of Sacred Music

2016 Rules, Regulations and Information

1. Purpose: To promote the beauty of sacred choral music.
2. Definition: Sacred music is music that gives glory to God.
3. Competition Location: The Shrine of Our Lady of Guadalupe
5250 Justin Rd.
La Crosse, WI 54601
4. Participants: High School Mixed Voice Chamber Choirs (with a minimum of 16 voices and a maximum of 36 voices.)
5. Format:
 - a. Each choir will receive a half-hour competition period. Choirs will perform 3 pieces of sacred music. The selections must be of the Christian/Judeo tradition.
 - b. The performance will be rated by a three judge panel according to the performance standards outlined below.
 - c. At the completion of the Choir's performance, one judge will address the choir and provide performance feedback to the choir and director. This will take place after the choir has adjourned to the lower level of the church.
6. Order of Appearance:

Each choir's order of appearance will be determined by the Festival Coordinator after the entry submission period is closed. Every effort will be made to accommodate travel schedules. You will be notified of your assigned time.
7. Judging criteria:
 - a. Judging criteria includes –
 - i. Intonation, tone quality, balance and blend
 - ii. Rhythm and diction.
 - iii. Fidelity to style through technique and interpretation.
 - iv. Overall artistic impression.
 - v. Program choice through appropriateness of the music for the competition and the choir's talent.
 - b. All choirs will receive a rating from I – Superior to V – Poor. Written comments from each judge will be provided to each choir director.
 - c. At the end of the competition day, the rating of each choir will be utilized by the three judges to select the top three choirs.
 - d. The top three choirs will receive gold, silver and bronze awards in addition to their rating.
8. Performance rules:
 - a. Three copies of each musical selection must be submitted to the Festival Coordinator by February 20, 2016.

- b. Acapella performances by choirs are preferred but not required. A piano will be available for accompaniment.
 - c. The competition is acoustic. The Shrine church has wonderful acoustics for choral singing. There will be no microphone amplification.
 - d. It is preferred that the choir performs from memory. A performance with musical scores will be permitted, but photocopied scores are not allowed.
9. Dress Code:
- a. For the competition period, choir robes or concert attire are required.
 - b. For non-performance time, modesty in dress is expected due to the sacred nature of the Shrine church and grounds.
10. Other Performance Opportunities To Enhance your Choir's Experience :
- a. Additional opportunities to perform are available at other venues on the Shrine Grounds.
 - i. The Mother of Good Counsel Votive Candle Chapel
 - ii. Culina Mariana Café
 - b. Upon a request by a director, additional performance times will be assigned by the Festival Coordinator on a first come first served basis, based upon the competition performance time of the choir.