

Song Competition Category Descriptions

- 1. Entrances and Exits**
Judges look for puppet(s) to enter and exit the stage using three or four bounce steps, using the “stairs.” Judges want to see performer(s) use the full depth of the stage. Special provision is given to unique entrances and exits that are effective and enhance the performance of the piece.
- 2. Height and Positioning**
Puppets should be at “belly-button” height. Sinking puppets and excessive height will affect the scoring. Judges also look for consistency among the puppet(s). Judges also look at the puppet(s) posture. Are they leaning to one side or the other? Does their posture look natural?
- 3. Lip Synchronization**
Lip synchronization should be smooth and accurate. The puppet’s bottom jaw should open one time per syllable.
- 4. Focus**
Puppets should maintain good eye contact with both the audience and other characters in the performance.
- 5. Rod Arm/Human Arm Technique**
Judges are looking for appropriate rod arm/human arm movement. Use of either one or two rod(s)/human arm(s) is acceptable.
- 6. Choreography**
Good choreography is smooth, crisp, and varied. For multiple puppets the choreography should be performed in a synchronized fashion.
- 7. Appropriate Costumes, Props, and Scenery**
This category is based on the effective use of costumes, props, and scenery. These items should aid in communicating the message of the performance.
- 8. Staging and Blocking**
This category refers to how well the performer(s) utilize all areas of the stage. It also refers to the positioning of puppets and props on the stage in order to facilitate the audience’s view of the performance.
- 9. Relevant Puppet Action and Reaction**
This category deals with appropriate puppet movement and mannerisms. Were they convincing and believable? Judges also look for how the puppet(s) respond to the environment around them. Do they interact with other characters, props, and their surroundings?
- 10. Content/Message**
Was the message of the piece clearly portrayed throughout the performance? Was the message clear and easy for the audience to follow?

Bonus Points may be awarded for originality of materials, special effects, audience appeal, or overall excellence of the presentation.

Penalty Points will be deducted for each thirty seconds of “overtime” beyond the time limit. The time limit is five minutes for the Song Competition. Three minutes are allowed for setup, and one penalty point will be assessed for each minute of delay.