

CONTEST GUIDELINES FOR 2024

ART & DESIGN

Participants may submit three works in the competition. Only one work may be submitted per category. Please note that participation in up to three categories — not including Extemporaneous Drawing — will count as only one festival contest entry. **All art entries should be submitted with an artist originality statement at check-in.**

Students may not submit entries using copyrighted material without the original artist's consent, including images used as reference photos.

Two-dimensional includes the categories of **Lettering** (pen and ink, brush and ink), **Drawing** (pencil, pen and ink, pastel), **Painting** (oil, acrylic), **Painting** (gouache, watercolor), **Printmaking** (linoleum, woodcut, collagraph, etching, dry point, serigraphy) and **Mixed Media** (combinations of media). All two-dimensional entries must be suitably matted and/or framed. Works on canvas must be framed, cradled or gallery-wrapped. All framed entries must have cable or wire with wire-style hanging hardware firmly attached to the back. Please do not use sawtooth picture hangers, easel-backs or keyhole hanging systems. All works not under glass must be completely dry. Pastel and charcoal drawings must be thoroughly fixed. Entries not meeting all of these criteria may not be displayed.

Three-dimensional includes the categories of **Ceramics** (fired pottery), **Crafts** (felted, book arts, macramé, weaving, appliqué, basketry, batik, etc.) and **Sculpture** (clay, wood, stone, etc.). All three-dimensional entries must stand on their own or arrive with suitable installation hardware (in the case of a wall hanging). The exhibition venue will not provide installation hardware for the display of the entry. Sculpture entries should have adequate bases if necessary. Entries not meeting all of these criteria may not be displayed.

The **Photography** entry must be a single, original, color or black-and-white photograph. A photo essay (a series of pictures to tell a story) is not allowed. Minimum size must be 8 × 10. If it is not immediately obvious, please indicate “top” and “bottom” on the back of the photo. The photo should be printed on photo-grade paper, not regular copy paper. The surface may be glossy, matte, satin or luster finish. No commercial clip art may be used in the photograph. The piece should be mounted and may be matted but should not be framed. Entries not meeting all of these criteria may not be displayed.

The **Extemporaneous Drawing Contest** will be held in the Sargent Art Building (Room 24) at the times listed in the festival schedule. Please sign up for a competition time when registering art entries. Participants will have 45 minutes to draw an arrangement of objects. Technique, personal interpretation and composition are more important than a complete drawing. Pencil, paper and other materials will be supplied. Please note that the Extemporaneous Drawing Contest may be entered in addition to a participant's maximum of three art entries.

COMMUNICATION

CATEGORY	PARTICIPANTS	TIME LIMIT	CRITERIA
24-hour Playwriting Contest	1	7–10 minutes ⁴	Playwrights will have 24 hours to write a short play based on specific prompts. The three best plays will be rehearsed on Wednesday and presented to an audience on Thursday. Participants who wish to write a play must arrive on Monday, November 4, by 1 p.m. to receive instructions and prompts. Actors who wish to participate in the event will audition on Monday, November 4, from 4:30–5:30 p.m. Awards are pre-sented for best plays as well as the best presentations by student actors.
Acting	2 or more	5–7 minutes ⁴	Scene excerpted and performed from a published play by a reputable author. A brief introduction is required for each scene. The quality of the literature will be part of the evaluation. No readers theatre, lighting, makeup or sound effects. A small table, two chairs and a stool are provided; costumes, props and other set pieces will be left to the discretion of the performers. Participants must be able to perform their scene in an acting space of approximately 20 feet x 12 feet.
Original Oratory	1	5–7 minutes ⁴	Original speech to stimulate, convince, inform or move to action. May not deal with doctrinal interpretation or religious controversy. Must be delivered without notes or presentation aids (including PowerPoint).
Solo Performance	1	4–6 minutes ⁴	Solo performers should deliver a memorized dramatic or humorous cutting from a published novel or short story. Include an introduction. Preference will be given to classic stories and authors. While no props or technical effects are allowed, movement appropriate to the story is encouraged.

⁴ Including introduction.

VIDEO

The project must have a running time of 3–7 minutes (including credits) and follow these submission guidelines:

- Your video submission should be uploaded to OneDrive, Google Drive, Dropbox, or another file sharing service and the link should be set to public sharing. Test your unlisted video link by logging out of the file sharing account and accessing the link. The video needs to be downloadable from the file sharing service for our judges - please test this as well.
- Submit the direct link to the video on your individual High School Festival registration form. The video should be labeled in this format: Director Name - Organization/School name - Video Title
- All elements contained in the video must be free of copyright issues. Please provide proof of ownership in the ending credits of your film, including but not limited to music, photographs and ideas.

The name of the student and their school, the name of the director, a list of crew members and their positions, and a list of the equipment that was used (cameras, editing software and any other software used in production) must be included in the credits. The director is the one eligible for an award. The film may focus on any subject as long as content is suitable for a general Christian venue. Final decisions about content will be made by the judges. We include narrative, animation and documentaries in the same competition. Tell your visual story with a good beginning, a middle that develops the ideas, and then a powerful ending.

MUSIC

Please direct questions about music choices and copyright to Daniel Leedy — dleedy@bju.edu or (864) 242-5100, ext. 2750. Please note the minimum and maximum time limits for all contests.

CATEGORY	PARTICIPANTS	TIME LIMIT	CRITERIA
Vocal Solo	1	5–10 minutes	Two memorized selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Literature from musical theatre and crossover/classical light music popularized by artists such as Josh Groban, Charlotte Church and Celtic Woman are not appropriate for this competition. Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. If a composition is written to include an accompaniment, it must be performed with one. The combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Small Vocal Ensemble ²	2–6 (4 entries max per school) ¹	4–8 minutes	Two selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Teacher may not cue or direct ensemble during the performance. Please avoid repertoire from musical theatre or that is based on pop tunes or styled like show choir repertoire. Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Memorization is NOT required. If a composition is written to include an accompaniment, it must be performed with one. The combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Large Vocal Ensemble ²	7–16 (2 entries max per school) ¹	4–8 minutes	Two selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Teacher may not cue or direct ensemble during the performance. Please avoid repertoire from musical theatre or that is based on pop tunes or styled like show choir repertoire. Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Memorization is NOT required. If a composition is written to include an accompaniment, it must be performed with one. The combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Choir ²	17 or more (1 entry per school) ¹	4–8 minutes	Two selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Performance may be conducted. Please avoid repertoire from musical theatre or that is based on pop tunes or styled like show choir repertoire. Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Memorization is NOT required. If a composition is written to include an accompaniment, it must be performed with one. The combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
String, Brass or Woodwind Solo	1	7–10 minutes	One long or two shorter selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Standard band and orchestral instruments only. Teacher may not help cue or direct the contestant during the performance. Memorization is NOT required. If a composition is written to include an accompaniment, it must be performed with one. With either one or two selections, the combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Brass Ensemble	3 or larger	6–8 minutes	One long or two shorter selections — secular only — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Brass trio or larger with any combination of trumpet, horn, trombone, euphonium or tuba. One player per part. Memorization is NOT required. Teacher may not help cue or direct ensemble during the performance. Unaccompanied. Literature suggestion lists available upon request. With either one or two selections, the combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
String Ensemble	2–9 ¹	6–8 minutes	One long or two shorter selections — secular only — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Standard orchestral instruments only. Memorization is NOT required. Teacher may not help cue or direct ensemble during the performance. Classical guitar may be included as part of a string ensemble. Keyboard accompaniment is optional; however, if a composition is written to include an accompaniment, it must be performed with one. With either one or two selections, the combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Woodwind Ensemble	2–9 ¹	5–8 minutes	One long or two shorter selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Standard band instruments only. Memorization is NOT required. Teacher may not help cue or direct ensemble during the performance. Keyboard accompaniment is optional; however, if a composition is written to include an accompaniment, it must be performed with one. With either one or two selections, the combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Handbell Ensemble	4 or more ¹	5–8 minutes	One long or two shorter selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Ensemble must provide their own handbells and equipment (including pads). Table will be provided for rehearsals and performance. Teacher may conduct performance. Memorization is NOT required. With either one or two selections, the combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Percussion Solo	1	5–8 minutes	One long or two shorter solos or concert etudes — secular or sacred — from standard concert literature from one of the following categories: snare drum, timpani, mallet, keyboard percussion (including but not limited to orchestra bells/glockenspiel, xylophone, marimba or vibraphone) or multiple percussion (multiple percussion has no standard set of instruments but may comprise a combination of snare drums, keyboard percussion, pedal bass drum, concert toms and/or small instruments such as triangle, wood blocks or cymbals). Drum sets will not be allowed. Electronic devices and handbells are not permitted. Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Memorization is NOT required. Keyboard accompaniment is optional; however, if a composition is written to include an accompaniment, it must be performed with one. With either one or two selections, the combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Percussion Ensemble	4–12 ¹	5–8 minutes	One long or two shorter selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods ³ and for any combination of percussion instruments. Nonpercussion instruments (piano, etc.) may supplement the percussion ensemble but must be fewer in number than the percussion instruments. Drum sets will not be allowed. Contestants must supply their own sticks and mallets; however, arrangements can be made to use the University's timpani, percussion keyboard (orchestra bells/glockenspiel, xylophone, marimba or chimes), bass drum or other instruments — including small instruments or concert toms. Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Teacher may conduct performance. Memorization is NOT required. With either one or two selections, the combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.

MUSIC	PARTICIPANTS	TIME LIMIT	CRITERIA
Classical Piano Solo	1	6–10 minutes	One long memorized selection representing one of the specified musical periods or two shorter memorized selections representing two of the specified musical periods. ³ Neither selection should be a concerto movement. The performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Sacred Piano Solo	1	5–10 minutes	Two memorized selections. May be original or published hymn arrangements. All selections should be in a traditional style. The combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Piano Ensemble	2 or 4	5–10 minutes	One long or two shorter selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ One piano with two performers, two pianos with two performers, or two pianos with four performers. No piano concertos or other works originally for piano and orchestra may be used. Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Performers must turn their own pages and may not switch parts within a selection. Memorization is NOT required. With either one or two selections, the combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Organ Solo	1	6–10 minutes	One long or two shorter selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Memorization is NOT required. With either one or two selections, the combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Harp or Classical Guitar Solo	1	6–10 minutes	One long or two shorter contrasting selections — secular or sacred — from any of the specified musical periods. ³ Sacred selections, if used, should be in a traditional style. Both selections must be performed on the same instrument. Original compositions, if used, must be typeset using regular staff notation. Classical guitar selections must be played on classical guitar (not acoustic or electric). Guitar strings may be steel or nylon. Teacher may not help cue or direct the contestant during the performance. Memorization is NOT required. If a composition is written to include an accompaniment, it must be performed with one. With either one or two selections, the combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.
Composition	1	15 minutes maximum; no minimum	One fully notated musical score (submitted in a printed hard copy to the Festival Music Office at check-in) — sacred or concert style — for acoustic instruments and/or voices. Judging preference will be shown to pieces that exhibit greater levels of creativity and originality. If pre-existing tunes are used in an arrangement, the composer of the tune should be properly cited. While not required, contestants are encouraged to submit a recording of reasonable quality along with the score. The contestant must be present to enter the composition competition.
Musical Theater Vocal Solo	1	5–10 minutes	Two memorized contrasting musical theater selections (at least one from pre-1960 musical theater repertoire) that are written or intended for a staged musical production, such as selections from musicals (including film musicals), revues, or song cycles in the musical theatre style. The selections should demonstrate the singer's full ability as a musical theatre performer, showing contrast and variety among selections. Selections that feature or celebrate objectionable content are not appropriate for this competition. We seek a healthy vocal sound appropriate for the repertoire. An overtly "pop" style of singing is not encouraged and may result in point reduction. Appropriate stage movement and dialogue or monologue, if an integral part of a selection, may be included. No costumes or props, please. Published transpositions of musical theatre songs are permitted, but singers are expected to retain the composer's intended style of music and to convey the essence of the character portrayed in the larger work. Singers may bring their own piano accompanist or hire a BJU accompanist. The combined performance time must be within the stated time range for this specific contest.

¹ For group music contests, the accompanist does not count in the size limit.

² Selections must be different from those used in other vocal ensemble categories.

³ Musical periods are Renaissance, Baroque, Classical (including Beethoven), Romantic, Impressionistic and music since 1900.

If you are using digital sheet music (or something similar printed from an online download), please provide proof of purchase indicating the number of allowable copies, the source of the download (e.g., IMSLP or a "permission-to-use" letter) with your music.

PLEASE NOTE: All performers and accompanists who use music for their performances must use an original copy of the music. In addition, one original copy of each selection of music performed must be supplied for use as a judge's copy, with the measures numbered beginning with the first full measure. A letter explaining possible exceptions to these policies is available on the music contests page. Recorded accompaniments will not be permitted. All selections should be either from the classical repertoire or in a traditional sacred style. Literature from musical theatre is not appropriate for contests apart from Musical Theatre Vocal Solo.