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# Music Division Rules

**Note:** The music division is divided into two sub-divisions: **Vocal and Instrumental.**



All **vocal** music entries and accompanying paperwork should be sent to **Suzanne Anderson, National Vocal Music Co-Chairperson from Des Moines, IA.** All **Special Recognition entries and Local Level Participation paperwork** should also be sent to Suzanne Anderson.

All **instrumental** music entries and accompanying paperwork should be sent to **Erin Todd, National Instrumental Music Co-Chairperson from Bay Pines, FL.**

1. **Music entries must be video recorded and last approximately three minutes or less in length.**
2. Eligible Veteran inpatients and outpatients **may submit up to three (3) solos in any one division.** (Example: three music solos, three dance solos or three drama solos, all in different categories.)
3. **Only one entry in any category may be submitted from each VA facility.** If more than one eligible Veteran enters a category at the VA facility, there must be a process for selecting the one entry to advance to national competition for that category from that facility.
4. **Once an entry has placed first in the music division** at the national level of competition, **it is not eligible to be entered again.** (Example: if a Veteran or group places first with a music selection in a category one year at the national level, the Veteran or group may not enter that specific music selection again in the competition but he may enter that category again with a different music selection.) **Music entries that have not placed first** at the national level of competition **should not be entered more than two consecutive years.**
5. No restrictions or qualifications shall be placed on accompanists for musicians. However, **accompanists may only accompany and not take instrumental leads or solos.** There is no limit in the number of accompanists that may be utilized in an entry, as long as they are only accompanying. A band of musicians may accompany a vocal solo, vocal group, instrumental solo or instrumental group. (Example: an instrumental group consisting of eligible Veteran inpatients or outpatients taking leads on saxophone, trumpet and guitar accompanied by non-lead staff or volunteers on piano, drums and bass.)
6. The **addition of staff, volunteer(s), and/or Veterans who are not current inpatients or outpatients to any entry other than as accompanists will result in disqualification.** It should be noted that although the National Veterans Creative Arts Program recognizes the therapeutic value of participation of staff, volunteers and ineligible Veterans in groups, it is essential in keeping with the fairness of the competition that **only eligible Veteran inpatients or outpatients** are competing against each other.

7. An original composition can be placed in categories other than original, but will be judged with criteria as stated on page 97 of the 2016 NVCA Competition handbook.
8. Only one voice may be present to be considered a solo. Once a second voice is added the **entry becomes a group entry and singers must meet eligibility requirements**. If back-up voices are present, they must be eligible Veteran inpatients or outpatients and their inclusion would make the entry a **Vocal Group**. Back-up singing by staff, volunteers, ineligible Veterans or karaoke will result in disqualification. Karaoke tapes must not include back-up singing but must be instrumental accompaniment only (this includes back-up tracks that may have the Veteran's voice dubbed in). **The presence of any vocalizations in an instrumental entry will eliminate that entry from competing in the instrumental category with the exception of Category 36: Instrumental Solo or Group Drums/Percussion and Category 43: Vocal AND Instrumental Band.**
9. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
10. Each video recorded entry must contain a title slide/page that includes the category number, category name, title of piece and name of Veteran(s) in the entry. The time it takes for the title page to be viewed does not count against the 3 minute entry.

*Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail with the 2016 competition results.*

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# Submitting Digital Media Files

For the 2016 competition year, performing arts division entries will be accepted in the following formats. Our preference is listed in the following order for receiving entries:



**Note: Entries submitted on VHS videotapes will no longer be accepted.**

## **OPTION 1: Upload to SharePoint**

Digital media files uploaded to the NVCA Competition SharePoint site:

<https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition>. The only file extensions that will be accepted are: .wmv and .mov files (the preferred format is .wmv). These extensions are the most standard digital formats and can be opened on most computers. We recommend video files uploaded to the SharePoint site be **50 MB or less**. If entries are not submitted in the formats indicated above they risk not being playable and therefore not able to be judged at the national level of competition. Entries submitted via the SharePoint site **MUST** also contain title slides prior to each solo and group entry shown. Paperwork will still need to be submitted via regular mail (due to Veteran and staff signatures needed).

## **OPTION 2: Digital media files provided on individual CDs or DVDs**

A separate CD or DVD must be submitted for each entry in each category. More than one entry on a CD or DVD will not be accepted. For data CDs and DVDs, the only file extensions that will be accepted are: .wmv and .mov (the preferred format is .wmv). These extensions are the most standard digital formats which can be opened on most VA computers. If entries are not submitted in the formats indicated above they risk not being playable and therefore not able to be judged at the national level of competition. Entries submitted on CDs or DVDs **MUST** also contain title slides prior to each solo and group entry shown. Authored DVDs will also be accepted. **CDs and DVDs sent to the national level of competition cannot be returned. Please make duplicate copies of the media files and all paperwork for your records.**

## **Digital Media File Naming:**

Division abbreviations:      Dance = **DA**                      Vocal Music = **VM**  
   Drama = **DR**                      Instrumental Music = **IM**

Use CAPS for the title of the entries and use small letters for initials (first and last name initials of Veteran performer) Example: The music entry of a Vocal Solo Broadway entry titled "Impossible Dream" created by John Doe from St. Cloud VA Medical Center would be named:

***VM-05-IMPOS-jd-656.wmv***

Division Abbreviation-Category #-FIRST 5 LETTERS OF TITLE-Veteran initials-Station Number.wmv

\*Note: For group entries, omit the Veteran(s) initials. ***VM-17-IMPOS-656.wmv***

Division Abbreviation-Category #-FIRST 5 LETTERS OF TITLE-Station Number.wmv

**Do not use any spaces when naming the entries.**

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# Vocal Categories

Vocal Categories and Special Recognition (#1-25) Chairperson:

**Suzanne Anderson**



National Music Co-  
erson  
VA Medical Center  
3600 30<sup>th</sup> Street  
Des Moines, IA 50310

All vocal music entries (solo and group) and Special Recognition entries (solo and group) are to be submitted to Suzanne Anderson, National Music Co-Chairperson – Vocal Music from Des Moines, IA.

## Vocal Solo Categories

1. Vocal Solo Country/Folk/Bluegrass
2. Vocal Solo Pop
3. Vocal Solo Jazz/Rhythm & Blues - Include hip hop entries in this category.
4. Vocal Solo Classical - Vocal music of established value and fame, of extended duration and greater stability. This does not include popular music.
5. Vocal Solo Broadway - Show Tunes, **not movies**. (Example: “People” would be acceptable as it is **also** from a Broadway show, not because it is from a movie. “New York, New York” would not be acceptable as it is from a 1977 Liza Minnelli movie.) *Specify the Broadway show after the title.*
6. Vocal Solo Rock
7. Vocal Solo or Group Comedy - A vocal selection that is of light and humorous character.
8. Vocal World/Ethnic Music Solo or Group - A vocal selection that reflects the music characteristics of a specific ethnicity, culture, or country. The selection should be from a culture other than that of English-speaking North America. Use of ethnic instruments as accompaniment is encouraged. This category does NOT include classical or popular music.
9. Vocal Solo Patriotic
10. Vocal Solo Inspirational
11. Vocal Solo Song with Dance - Vocal solo with choreographed dance movements, not merely gestures.

12. **Original Vocal** - Vocal solo or group. Original vocal compositions composed by one or more eligible Veterans judged solely on the merits of the composition. Lyrics and music must be composed entirely by an eligible Veteran/s and that Veteran/s will be the one entered in this category. A performer or group other than the composer may perform the work, but the composer(s) should be shown on the video. **A copy of the typed lyrics must be attached to the entry form** to aid the judges in evaluating the lyrics. ***Original rap music entries (rhythmic talking) should be entered into this category.***

## **Vocal Group Categories**

To meet the intent of the categories for **Vocal Group**, the group must have **more than one eligible Veteran inpatient or outpatient singing**. (Example: One eligible Veteran being accompanied on instruments by other eligible Veterans does not meet the definition of a vocal group. Instead, that would be a vocal solo with accompanists.)

13. **Vocal Group Country/Folk/Bluegrass**
14. **Vocal Group Pop**
15. **Vocal Group Jazz/Rhythm & Blues** - Include hip hop entries in this category.
16. **Vocal Group Classical**
17. **Vocal Group Broadway**
18. **Vocal Group Rock**
19. **Vocal Group Patriotic**
20. **Vocal Group Inspirational**
21. **Vocal Group Song with Dance** - Vocal group with choreographed dance movements, not merely gestures. **All group members must sing and dance.**

## **Senior Vocal Categories – Solo and Group**

The purpose of the senior categories is to allow Veterans who may have experienced diminished physical functioning an opportunity to compete in a category with persons who are at a similar level and age. **Categories 22-23 are special categories for our senior eligible Veterans age 65 and older.** Entries may be any type music. Group members must all be eligible Veteran inpatients and outpatients 65 years of age or older. As with all other group categories, groups may not be expanded with staff, volunteers or ineligible Veterans. There are not restrictions on accompanists. Seniors are not limited to these categories but may also enter any of the other categories.

22. **Senior Vocal Solo**

23. **Senior Vocal Group**

**Special Recognition – Solo and Group Categories**

These categories are for music entries that recognize individuals who exhibit creative expression through the use of music while possessing significant physical or psychological limitations. The intent of this category is to reinforce the concept of the arts as therapy, where an individual uses artistic expression to facilitate successful treatment outcomes. Entries and their accompanying written statements from the Veteran's VA staff contact person should focus on how the arts are used by the individual(s) to rise above severe limitations.

24. **Special Recognition Solo**

25. **Special Recognition Group**

Entries in this category **MUST** include:

- Solo or Group Entry form
- a written statement/narrative (25 to 225 words) by a VA staff person or the Veteran of why the Veteran is deserving of special recognition
- Form 10-3203 – 2 pages (Consent for Production and Use of Verbal or Written Statements, Photographs, Digital Images, and/or Video or Audio Recordings by VA) signed by the Veteran and VA staff contact person.
- Form 10-5345 – 1 page (Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information) signed by the Veteran and VA staff contact person.

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# Instrumental Categories

## Instrumental Categories and Vocal & Instrumental Band (#26-45) Chairperson:

**Erin Todd**

National Music Co-Chairperson

VA Medical Center

10,000 Bay Pines Blvd

Bldg. 101 D14

Bay Pines, FL 33744

All **instrumental music entries (solo and group)** should be sent to Erin Todd, National Music Co-Chairperson – Instrumental Music from Bay Pines, FL.



**New!**

**Note:** The presence of any vocalizations in an instrumental entry will eliminate that entry from competing in the instrumental category with the exception of Category 36: Instrumental Solo or Group Drums/Percussion and Category 43: Vocal AND Instrumental Band.

## Instrumental Solo Categories

26. Instrumental Solo Country/Folk/Bluegrass

27. Instrumental Solo Pop

28. Instrumental Solo Jazz/Rhythm & Blues

29. **Instrumental Solo Classical** - Instrumental music of established value and fame, of extended duration and greater stability. This does not include popular music.

30. Instrumental Solo Broadway - See #5.

31. Instrumental Solo Rock

32. **Instrumental Solo or Group Comedy** - An instrumental selection of light and humorous character.

33. **Instrumental World/Ethnic Music Solo or Group** - An instrumental selection that reflects the music characteristics of a special ethnicity, culture, or country. The selection should be from a culture other than that of English-speaking North America. Use of ethnic instruments is encouraged. This category does NOT include classical or popular music.

34. Instrumental Solo Patriotic

35. Instrumental Solo Inspirational

36. **Instrumental Solo or Group Drums/Percussion** - It is the intent of this category to showcase non-melodic percussion instruments, i.e. trap set, congas, bongos, spoons, rhythm instruments, etc. This category would exclude percussion instruments that can produce an obvious melody line, i.e. xylophone, vibraphone, marimba, etc. Instrumental accompaniment may be present as desired and may include melody line, but **ONLY** the percussionist will be judged. **Vocal percussion beat boxing should be entered into this category.**
37. **Original Instrumental** - Instrumental solo or group. Original compositions will be judged solely on the merit of the composition. A performer or group other than the composer may perform the work, but the composer should be shown on the video.

### **Instrumental Group Categories**

To meet the intent of the categories for **Instrumental Group**, the group must have **more than one eligible Veteran inpatient or outpatient performing instrumental solos/leads or make other essential contributions musically to the entry other than just accompanying.** There are no limits to the number of accompanists in the group but care should be taken that non-eligible Veteran inpatients or outpatients (i.e., staff, volunteers, Veterans who are not current inpatients or outpatients) are not performing solos/leads. **The presence of any vocal in a musical number will eliminate it from competing in an instrumental category.**

38. **Instrumental Group Country/Folk/Bluegrass**
39. **Instrumental Group Jazz/Rhythm & Blues/Rock**
40. **Instrumental Group Pop/Classical/Broadway**
41. **Instrumental Group Patriotic/Inspirational**
42. **Instrumental Group Handbells/Handchimes**

### **Vocal AND Instrumental Band Category**

43. **Vocal AND Instrumental Band** - A group consisting entirely of eligible Veterans that includes **at least one singer and at least three instrumentalists.** **If all group members sing, the song must be entered into a Vocal Group category.** Each group member must offer a significant musical contribution to the group. Entries into this category will be judged by the overall performance of the entire group (vocalists and instrumentalists). All group members must be shown on the video and each group member must sign a Consent Form or the entry will be disqualified. **Note: This category differs from the vocal group and instrumental group categories. Please reference pages 92 and 95 in the 2016 National Veterans Creative Arts Competition handbook for complete explanations of the vocal group and instrumental group definitions. Also, be advised that a single entry may not be submitted into two or more categories within the same division (as stated in the National Rules section on page 6, rule 7).**

## **Senior Instrumental Categories – Solo and Group**

The purpose of the senior categories is to allow Veterans who may have experienced diminished physical or cognitive functioning an opportunity to compete in a category with persons who are at a similar level and age. **Categories 44-45 are special categories for our senior eligible Veterans age 65 and older.** Entries may be ANY type music. Group members must all be eligible Veteran inpatients and outpatients 65 years of age or older. As with all other group categories, groups may not be expanded with staff, volunteers or ineligible Veterans. Seniors are not limited to these categories but may also enter any of the other categories.

### **44. Senior Instrumental Solo**

### **45. Senior Instrumental Group**