
Music Division Rules

1. **First place ties in a category at the local competition MUST be re-judged at the local level as only one entry for each category will be accepted from each VA facility.** A formal competition is not required at the local level but is strongly encouraged. All eligible Veterans should be given the opportunity to participate regardless of degree of talent.
2. **All entries in the dance, drama and music divisions must be recorded after April 1, 2017.**
3. **Music entries must include a video recording of the Veteran(s) performing the entry and last approximately three minutes or less in length.**
4. **Music entries must be recorded live.** No voice-over dubbing will be allowed. No lip syncing to a pre-recorded track will be allowed.



5. A medley of songs in an entry must be continuous/overlapping. Editing videos or starting/stopping songs to combine multiple songs as one entry will not be allowed.
6. Judges reserve the right to move an entry to the appropriate category or disqualify the entry if rules are not followed.
7. 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.)
8. **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.
9. **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**
10. 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.)
11. An original composition can be placed in categories other than original, but will be judged with criteria as stated on page 95. **It is required that original vocal entries also submit the typed lyrics along with their entry paperwork.**

12. 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.
13. 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. **Back-up tracks that have the Veteran's voice dubbed in, vocalizers, and harmonizers are not allowed.**
14. **The presence of any vocalizations in an instrumental entry will eliminate that entry from competing in the instrumental category with the exception of Category 34: Instrumental Solo or Group Drums/Percussion and the Band Categories (43 and 44).**
15. **Title Slides for SharePoint entries, CDs, DVDs:** Each entry must have a title slide displayed prior to the entry being shown. This is crucial to the judging process. The title slide can be inserted during the editing process or it can be done manually prior to the taping of the Veteran. A handwritten sign can be held up that states the **category, title of piece and name of Veteran or Veterans in the entry.** *Please do not include elaborate menus or graphics.*
16. Following the national judging, all of the first place-winning entries from the national competition in the dance, drama and music divisions will advance for viewing and **possible** selection for inclusion in the 2018 Festival stage show performance. Please note: Not all first place winning entries in the dance, drama and music divisions are invited to attend the National Veterans Creative Arts Festival. Those invited to attend the Festival will be notified by mid-June, 2018 via their staff contact person.

Note: VA staff contact persons will be notified via E-mail with the 2018 competition results.

Tips for Taking Better Video Recordings

Please take a few extra minutes preparing a video correctly to give your Veteran the best chance possible during the judging process and to save hours of time with the judging process for our judges who donate their time.

- **Focus on the performer**, not the accompanists. Avoid taping from the back of the room. Stage presence cannot be judged if you cannot clearly see the performer.
- **Sound control** is important! Clear audio makes a performance much easier (and enjoyable) to judge. Make sure your sound is good and balanced.
- Consider holding your local competition and then video recording **ONLY** the first place acts that will be sent forward for national judging.
- **Dance, drama, and music entries** will be accepted digitally via the NVCA Competition SharePoint site or via CDs or DVDs for the 2018 competition. **If submitting entries on 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.**
- It is necessary to **label each entry with a title slide (for all SharePoint, CD and DVD entries)**. This can be done electronically when editing your entries or it can be done manually by holding up a handwritten sign that states the category, title of piece and name of the Veteran(s) being shown. This is crucial to the judging process.
- Check your CDs and DVDs before mailing them and **make sure every act you intend to be on there is in fact there.**
- **Label your CDs and DVDs according to the instructions given on Page 11, Rule 21 – The Competition Phase.**
- Be sure to make a copy of your final CDs and DVDs for your own file/library in the event of lost or damage. **CDs and DVDs will be shredded post-judging and will not be returned to the VA medical facility staff contact persons.**

Music Categories 1-24



Note: Music categories have been renumbered. Please look at the categories closely before submitting entries to the national level of competition.

New!

Send entries in Music Categories 1-24 to: **Jillian Thompson (117C)**
National Vocal Music Chairperson
VA Medical Center
508 Fulton Street
Durham, NC 27705

***Vocal Solo:** One Veteran singing.

***Vocal Group:** 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.)

Vocal Solo Categories



New!

1. Vocal Solo Country/Bluegrass

2. Vocal Solo Folk

3. Vocal Solo Pop



New!

4. Vocal Solo Jazz

5. Vocal Solo Rhythm & Blues

6. Vocal Solo Classical - Serious or conventional music following long-established principles rather than a folk, jazz, or popular tradition (mid 1400s – late 1800s). Examples include symphonies, concertos, oratorios, operas, sonatas, fugues or any combination of dance movements such as suites.

7. 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.*

8. Vocal Solo Rock

9. Vocal Solo Patriotic

10. Vocal Solo Inspirational

Vocal Solo or Group Categories

11. **Vocal Comedy** - Solo or Group. A vocal selection that is of light and humorous character.
12. **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.



13. **Vocal Rap/Hip Hop** - Solo or Group.

New!

14. **Original 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) may be entered into this category.***

Vocal Group Categories

15. **Vocal Group Country/Folk/Bluegrass**
16. **Vocal Group Pop**
17. **Vocal Group Jazz/Rhythm & Blues**
18. **Vocal Group Classical**
19. **Vocal Group Broadway**
20. **Vocal Group Rock**
21. **Vocal Group Patriotic**
22. **Vocal Group Inspirational**

Senior Vocal Categories

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 23-24 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.

23. **Senior Vocal Solo**
24. **Senior Vocal Group**

Categories 25-46

Send entries in Music Categories 25-46 to: **Erin Todd**

National Instrumental Music Chairperson
VA Medical Center
10,000 Bay Pines Blvd.
Bldg. 101 D14
Bay Pines, FL 33744

***Instrumental Solo:** One Veteran playing.

***Instrumental Group:** 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.

NOTE: The presence of any singing in an instrumental entry will eliminate that entry from competing in the instrumental category with the exception of Category 34: Instrumental Solo or Group Drums/Percussion and the Band Categories (43 and 44).

Instrumental Solo Categories

25. Instrumental Solo Country/Folk/Bluegrass

26. Instrumental Solo Pop

27. Instrumental Solo Jazz/Rhythm & Blues

28. Instrumental Solo Classical - Serious or conventional music following long-established principles rather than a folk, jazz, or popular tradition (mid 1400s – late 1800s). Examples include symphonies, concertos, oratorios, operas, sonatas, fugues or any combination of dance movements such as suites.

29. Instrumental 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.*

30. Instrumental Solo Rock

31. Instrumental Solo Patriotic

32. Instrumental Solo Inspirational

Instrumental Solo or Group Categories

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 Drums/Percussion** - Solo or Group. 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.**



New!

35. **Original Instrumental with Melody Line** - Solo or Group. Original instrumental compositions composed by one or more eligible Veterans judged solely on the merits of the composition. Music must contain a distinct melody line and 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.



New!

36. **Original Instrumental without Melody Line** - Solo or Group. Entries in this category would include instrument improvisations, soundscapes, etc.

Senior Instrumental Category

37. **Senior Instrumental** - Solo or Group. The purpose of the senior category 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. Entries may be ANY type music. Group members must all be eligible Veteran inpatients and outpatients 65 years of age or older. Seniors are not limited to these categories but may also enter any of the other categories.

Instrumental Group Categories

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**

Band Categories

To meet the criteria for the categories for Band, the group must consist entirely of eligible Veterans and must include **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. **Note:** This category differs from the vocal group and instrumental group categories. Please reference pages 90 and 92 for 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 9, rule 8).



43. **Band – Country/Folk/Bluegrass/Pop**

New!

44. **Band – Jazz/Rhythm & Blues/Rock**

Music Special Recognition Vocal or Instrumental Categories

All specific category rules still apply when entering the special recognition category. 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.

45. **Special Recognition Vocal or Instrumental Solo**

46. **Special Recognition Vocal or Instrumental Group**

Entries in this special recognition categories **MUST** also include:

- **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
- Consent form 10-3203 (page 102-103) and 10-5345 (page 22) must be signed and dated by the Veteran. The staff contact person submitting the entry for the Veteran should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.

Music Judges' Score Sheet

Judges at the 2018 National level of competition will be ranking each music entry based on the following criteria. Please consider using this score sheet for your local competitions.

Music Judging Score Sheet

Category Number:	Category Name:
Title of Entry:	

(All Categories EXCEPT Originals)

Intonation (unless piano)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rhythm	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Interpretation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Stage Presence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Blend & Cohesiveness (if group)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE _____

(Categories 12, 35, 36 - Originals)

Melody Line	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Rhythm	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Style	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10
Lyrics (if vocal)	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10

TOTAL SCORE _____

Submitting Digital Media Files

For the 2018 competition year, performing arts division entries will be accepted in the following formats. Our preference is listed in the following order for receiving entries:

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.

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

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

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

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

Do not use any spaces when naming the entries.

2018 Music Division Entry Submission Process



For the 2018 competition, **entry form information** may be submitted through the NVCA Competition SharePoint site.

National Veterans Creative Arts Competition SharePoint Site Link

<https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition>

The National Veterans Creative Arts Competition SharePoint site can only be accessed by VA employees using a networked VA computer. Non-VA employees cannot access the SharePoint site.

If entries are submitted via the link above it is not necessary to submit hard copies of the entry forms. All information on the following pages must still be collected for VA staff input into the electronic database on the SharePoint site. The electronic database will not allow you to successfully submit an entry into the competition unless each field is complete. Please be sure to provide as detailed a description of the mediums and techniques used as possible.

VA staff contact person: Be sure to obtain additional Veteran contact information for your reference use only, to notify the Veteran of the competition results.

- All entries submitted to the national level of competition **must be uploaded or postmarked on or before Friday, March 23, 2018.**
- The National Veterans Creative Arts Chairpersons prefer entries be sent via the NVCA Competition SharePoint site however CDs/DVDs containing images and digital video files will also be accepted.
- It is recommended to send your mailed items with the option to track the packages to ensure delivery.
- It is recommended to send a cover page with any paperwork that is faxed.



New Consent Form Information

<p>Consent Form 10-3203 (page 101-102) Consent for Production and Use of Verbal or Written Statements, Photographs, Digital Images, and/or Video or Audio Recordings by VA</p>	<p>This form must be signed and dated by every Veteran entering the competition.</p>	<p>The staff contact person submitting the entry(ies) for the Veterans should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.</p>	<p>It is no longer necessary to send this consent form to the national chairpersons.</p>
<p>Consent Form 10-5345 (page 22) Request for and Authorization to Release Medical Records or Health Information</p>	<p>This form must be signed and dated by every Veteran entering a category that requires a write-up including the Therapeutic Arts Scholarship (TAS) nominations.</p>	<p>The staff contact person submitting the entry(ies) and TAS nominations for the Veterans should safeguard the signed consent forms at their VA facility.</p>	<p>It is no longer necessary to send this consent form to the national chairpersons.</p>

Music Division Checklist

Categories 1-24

Jillian Thompson (117C) National Vocal Music Chairperson VA Medical Center 508 Fulton Street Durham, NC 27705	Phone: (919) 286-0411 x7728 FAX: (919) 416-5913 E-mail: Jillian.Thompson3@va.gov
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Checklist of Items Necessary for National Judging:	
✓	Entry Forms (It is a requirement to also submit typed lyrics for entries in Cat. 14, Original Vocal)
✓	List of Entries Form
✓	Local Level Participation Form
✓	Submit video recorded entries. Entries may be submitted via upload to the SharePoint site https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition OR mail a separate CD/DVD for each entry in each category.
✓	Therapeutic Arts Scholarship (TAS) Submission Forms – Only if nominating a Veteran for consideration to attend the Festival based on a therapeutic objective. <i>Each VA medical facility may only send <u>one</u> TAS Submission to the national level of competition.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomination Form (page 19)

Categories 25-46

Erin Todd (11G/RT) National Instrumental Music Chairperson VA Medical Center 10,000 Bay Pines Bldg. Bldg. 101 D14 Bay Pines, FL 33744	Phone: (727) 398-6661 x15884 FAX: (727) 398-9465 E-mail: Erin.Todd@va.gov
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Checklist of Items Necessary for National Judging:	
✓	Entry Forms
✓	List of Entries form
✓	Submit video recorded entries. Entries may be submitted via upload to the SharePoint site https://vaww.visn23.portal.va.gov/stc/NVCACompetition OR mail a separate CD/DVD for each entry in each category.
✓	Therapeutic Arts Scholarship (TAS) Submission Forms – Only if nominating a Veteran for consideration to attend the Festival based on a therapeutic objective. <i>Each VA medical facility may only send <u>one</u> TAS Submission to the national level of competition.</i> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> Nomination Form (page 19)



Please Note: See page 97 for information on the Consent Forms Veterans MUST SIGN to be eligible to compete at the local and national levels of competition.