

2025 KWCUSA Judging Criteria

All contestants in the Karaoke World Championships are to be judged according to the following criteria, free from any personal bias whatsoever.

1. SCORING

For each category, each performer shall be scored from 1 to 10 points, with 1 being the lowest, and 10 being the highest.

10 - Exceptional, outstanding 9 - Excellent, almost perfect 8 - Very good, but a few imperfections 7 - Very good, but several imperfections 6 - Good, but imperfections throughout 5 - Average 4 - Mediocre 3 - Unsatisfactory 2 - Deficient 1 - Disappointing

2. JUDGING CRITERIA-

Judges shall award each performer between 1 and 10 points for each of the following categories, based upon the following specific criteria:

[SOLOS 4 Criteria/40 points] [DUETS 5 Criteria/50 Points]

SOLO DIVISION CRITERIA:

VOICE:

- ★ **Quality of Voice** - natural richness of tone, depth, resonance; a strong yet dulcet vocal sound that is enjoyable to listen to
- ★ **Range** - ability to hit low notes and high notes, and to glide smoothly through different ranges without strain
- ★ **Dynamics** - use of quieter and louder volumes as appropriate; variance of volume throughout performance
- ★ **Timbre** - ability to sing richer, deeper timbres as well as softer, sweeter tones; variance of colors throughout performance

TECHNIQUE:

- ★ **Pitch** - ability to sing in tune and exhibit control of intonation
- ★ **Timing** - ability to sing with rhythmic accuracy, taking liberties in a tasteful manner
- ★ **Breathing** - supporting the voice with breath control, ability to sustain notes, taking breaths in correct places (generally between phrases)
- ★ **Skill** - use of proper vocal technique (singing with an open palate, not shouting, not resonating in the nose, etc.), use and control of vibrato, microphone skills
- ★ **Diction** - correct pronunciation of words and clarity

ARTISTRY:

- ★ **Expressiveness** - exuding emotion and passion, as appropriate for song, conveyed through the voice, body, and facial expression
- ★ **Musicality** - genuinely feeling the music, shaping phrases artistically, incorporating aesthetic nuances, taking liberties in a tasteful manner

- ★ **Lyrical** - appropriate interpretation and delivery of song lyrics, placing emphasis on certain words
- ★ **Individuality** - deviating from original artist recording(s) to make the song one's own; creation of unique style and character
- ★ **Song Choice** - appropriateness of the song for the singer

STAGE PRESENCE:

- ★ **Charisma & Confidence** - allowing personality to shine through performance and emanate from the stage; radiating a special X factor that is appealing, magnetic, and makes for star quality as well as exuding command of the stage, strength of delivery with a self-assured performance
- ★ **Movement** - use of space, walking, dancing, or other movement appropriate for the song; use of arms; posture, poise, energy
- ★ **Costume & Appearance** - brightly colored, light reflective, or otherwise attractive costume that is appropriate for song; polished presentation on stage and on camera
- ★ **Audience Appeal & Excitement Level**- ability to connect and pull in the audience with the use of eye contact, body movement and overall song delivery.

* DUETS DIVISION ADDITIONAL CRITERIA- Harmony & Syncopation (5/5 points each)

★ **HARMONY & SYNCOPATION**

- ★ **Harmony**- simultaneously occurring frequencies, pitches (tones, notes), or chords.
- ★ **Rhythm**- the placement of sounds in time. Utilizing the not wholly separate elements, such as accent, metre, and tempo.
- ★ **Connection**- Using your individual melody to interact with your partner creating a feeling of connection to each other and to the song.
- ★ **Blending**- Merging the sounds of instruments of contrasting tone colors in such a way that they produce a sound that is quite different from the mere sum of their parts.
- ★ **Syncopation**- Timing of the phrasing between duet partners to provide accents between beats.

3. RANKING-BASED MODIFIED MEAN (OLYMPIC SCORING*)

In each round, the lowest-ranked score and the highest-ranked score for each singer shall be discarded. This avoids any possible bias in judging.

(*must have 5 judges or more present to use Olympic Scoring.