

## Otero Arts Festival Vocal Music Showcase

The purpose of the Otero Arts Festival – Vocal Music Showcase is to provide educational opportunities for artistic growth in young musicians and to recognize them for their musical achievements. Students shall prepare a solo piece to be performed before a panel of judges for comments and suggestions.

The Vocal Music Showcase will be held in the Ed Stafford Theatre on the campus of Otero College Monday, March 31, 2025, 9:00AM – 4:00 PM. Warmups are 8:00 – 8:45 AM, downstairs in the Humanities Center. Participants of exceptional musical achievement will be awarded ribbons for each division (Junior and Senior) in the category of participation (Solos Jr and Sr); an Otero Scholarship will be awarded to the top graduating Senior in the Senior Division.

### RULES/GUIDELINES

- 1) Each student must **COMPLETE AN ONLINE ENTRY FORM** by **Monday, March 17, 2025, 5:00 PM** <https://otero.edu/campus-community/events-registration/otero-arts-festival/> Assigned performance times will be emailed to entrants by **Tuesday, March 25, 2025**.
- 2) Open to Middle School students grades 7 – 8 (**Junior Division**) and High School students grades 9 – 12 (**Senior Division**). Vocal solos and ensembles allowed.
- 3) Performance should be between 3 – 5 minutes in length; penalty enforced for over or under time.
- 4) The contestant is responsible for accompanist, if needed; **PRE-RECORDED TRACKS ARE ALLOWED WITH PROOF OF PURCHASE** (original cd or paid invoice for downloaded music) **OR ACCOMPANIST RECORDED MUSIC WITH SCHOOL PURCHASED PERFORMANCE RIGHTS SHEET MUSIC. SIGNED RELEASE REQUIRED AT CONTEST CHECK IN.**
- 5) Music selection must be chosen from standard literature, in consultation with your music director.
- 6) **Must provide three (3) copies of music for judges with purchase proof if recorded music is being used.**
- 7) Student performances are FREE and OPEN to the public; all are invited and encouraged to attend.
- 8) Scoring is evaluated in three (3) primary areas:
  - a. **Tone/Sound** – diction, vocal blend, breathing, projection, posture, vowel unification, tone/focus
  - b. **Note/Rhythm** – note accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, tempo
  - c. **Musicality** – stylistic interpretation appropriate to song selection, dynamics, phrasing
- 9) The decisions of the judges are final

Ratings	Definitions
Superior (15 – 20)	Exceptional performance that exhibits musical maturity and excellence in all scoring categories
Excellent (21 – 30)	Truly fine work that is commendable; student exhibits great musical proficiency and development with minor mistakes affecting performance
Good (31 – 45)	Performance demonstrates good technical and musical achievements, on par with age and development range, with some areas of improvement noted in scoring categories
Fair (46 – 60)	Performance demonstrates average musical achievements for age and musical development with several musical issues noted affecting performance, such as an unsupported sound, intonation issues, diction sometimes difficult to hear, inconsistent phrasing, and varied rhythm/tempo
Unprepared (61 – 75)	Performance and musical maturity are developing but inconsistent, overall. Musical issues noted affecting performance, such as an under-developed musical style, a weak/unfocused sound, poor diction that makes the song difficult to hear, and inconsistent rhythm/tempo