

***Mar Thoma Inter-Regional Singing Competition
Guidelines & Rules - 2025***

1.0 Purpose of Regional Talent Fest:

To provide a Christian environment to motivate our choir members in the development and advancement of their God given talents for the glory of the Lord.

2.0 General Guidelines:

In order to maintain public acceptance of this program, it is very important to keep our participants fully informed of the guidelines, criteria used, the process, and the method of assessments.

- Decisions made by the judges are final.
- Solo competitions are based on age effective at the time of the competition.
 - 9-15
 - 16-25
 - 26-50
 - 51+
- There shall be two judges for each event.
- Participants are not allowed to use cell phones/electronic devices during the event.
- Every participant must be authorized by the Vicar for solo competition
- Only DSMC registered choirs are eligible for group competition

3.0 Scoring and Tabulation

Each Judge will evaluate the participant by assigning a whole numeric value (no decimals points) ranging from 1 to 10 based on the criteria provided.

1. For each participant, the tabulation office will determine the final placement award for each participant by selecting the average score.
2. The average score will be established based on the score given to the participant by each of the two Judges.
3. The final computation and the announcement of results will be independently checked in the tabulation room, before the results are announced.
4. Solo and group items will be awarded 1st, 2nd, 3rd places.

4.0 Solo Song (English and Malayalam)

- Solo song participants should adhere to the notations and lyrics provided for the songs, unless otherwise instructed. Lyrics and notations will be given to the Judges and the judges will use the given notations to judge the participant.
- The participants are required to sing the given song. (See Section 8.0 for list)
- A pitch pipe can be used to identify the starting musical note.
- In order to assess an individual's natural voice and skill, no amplifying devices, accompanying instruments or external direction shall be used.
- The given song shall not exceed one stanza and a chorus or two stanzas for songs without chorus.
- Participants shall be graded on four categories (5 points each):
 - Intonation - Accuracy of Pitch based on notes
 - Rhythm - Timing and Tempo
 - Diction - Articulation and Pronunciation of words, Breath control
 - Voice Quality - Steadiness of voice, Projection and Power, Tone, Dynamics (soft/loud)

5.0 Group Song for Choir Competition

- Choir group need to sing one mandatory (See section 8.0) and a song will be creative choice (your selection).
- One Mandatory song will be sung for Malayalam and English (See Section 8.0).
- All songs must be Christian songs.
- Each Church can have only one choir participating in each Group Song category. (English and Malayalam)
- The group must have a minimum of 6 and maximum of 12 participants from each Church.
- A pitch pipe can be used to identify the starting musical note.
- No amplifying devices or accompanying instruments allowed.
- The given song shall not exceed one stanza and a chorus or two stanzas for songs

without chorus.

- Special arrangements on introduction and ending would be allowed as long as it does not exceed the length of the chorus.
- The choir is expected to follow the given notes. For the mandatory song, no deviations or improvements are allowed from the notes given (melody and harmony). Improvements may be permitted for the song of choice.
- Participants shall be graded on five categories (5 points each):
 - Intonation - Accuracy of Pitch based on notes
 - Rhythm - Timing and Tempo
 - Diction - Articulation and Pronunciation of words, Breath controls
 - Voice Quality - Steadiness of voice, Projection and Power, Tone, Dynamics (soft/loud)
 - Harmony – How the voices converge and blend
- First prize will be ever rolling trophy; 2nd and 3rd prizes will also be awarded

7.0 Registration

- All participants must register by Sunday, September 7th, 5pm ET
- All participants must pay the registration fee as below
 - Choir Competition: \$50 per choir
 - Solo Competition: \$20 per participant

8.0 Songs

On the day of the competition, judges will select one of the two songs listed below in each category for English and Malayalam competitions.

Solo Competition: Age Group 9-15

- Malayalam
 - Mel veetil enneesu (Hymn 171)
 - Yeshuvin thirupadathil (Hymn 201)
- English
 - What can wash sin away
 - Jesus the very thought of thee

Solo Competition: Age Group 16-25

- Malayalam
 - Anugraha kadale (Hymn 27)
 - Karthavine naam stuthikkam (Hymn 57)
- English
 - I feel like singing (Hymn 57 English)
 - Pass me not (Hymn 350 English)

Solo Competition: Age Group 26-50

- Malayalam
 - Deva Deva Nandan (Hymn 139)
 - Enne Rakshippan (Hymn 416)
- English
 - Am I a soldier of the cross (Hymn 380 English)
 - Must I go empty handed (Hymn 302 English)

Solo Competition: Age Group 51+

- Malayalam
 - Jeevitha Yathrakkara (Hymn 182)
 - Yesu En Athamasakhe(Hymn 253)
- English
 - When upon lives billows (Hymn 179 English)
 - Holy spirit faithful guide (Hymn 274 English)

Choir Competition

- Malayalam
 - Paradeeva (Hymn 103)
 - Papikkayulla urava (Hymn 460)
- English
 - I will sing of my redeemer (Hymn 405 English)
 - O weary heart there is (Hymn 266 English)