



# How to be a CincySings Coach

So, you've agreed to be a coach for the CincySings Finals. Thank You!

You probably have questions. This checklist and guide will help answer those and give you the tools to help your assigned team be the best they can be. You were chosen to be a judge because of your expertise in the performing arts so hope you will impart wisdom, directorial help, singing critiques, and of course, have fun!

- ❑ **Partner with a Finals team:** Once a company has held their internal singing competition or made it past the Semi-Finals, ArtsWave will pair you with a team so that you can help them prepare for CincySings. You should arrange to attend 1-2 rehearsals.
- ❑ **Share your expertise with your team:** Are you an opera singer? Did you study music in college? Are you a theatre expert? Let your team know who you are and how you can help them. **IMPORTANT:** Think of yourself as a consultant, NOT their choreographer or director. This is because we want to 1) keep the focus on the choir's creativity, 2) not take advantage of your time and talents, and 3) keep the competition as fair as possible. Your job is to assist in cleaning, honing, editing, and creating, not do it for them. So, just make sure you are empowering them to make the decisions.
- ❑ **Familiarize yourself with the CincySings rules and scoring rubric.** Help the team maximize their performance based on Stage Presence, Creativity, Vocal Quality and Overall Performance. Do they need to add choreography? Should they amp up their costumes? Should they focus more on their vocals? Conversely, what elements can they eliminate to make things cleaner and sharper?
- ❑ **Ask your team for a recording of their music or the score.** Make sure you know what they plan to perform and provide coaching to help them achieve their best possible sound.
- ❑ **Cover the details of performance.** Remember, most of these singers are amateurs and may not have performed on a stage before. Share your tips for handling nerves in front of an audience. Give them a quick primer on backstage etiquette and help choreograph entrances, exits, and bows if they need help (however, this may change based on mic and technical needs).
- ❑ **Attend CincySings and cheer on your team.** Enjoy complimentary access for you and a guest to the CincySings Finals where you can see your team bring home the win!

## What You Get in Return:

- ❑ **2 complimentary tickets to ArtsWave CincySings**
- ❑ **Recognition in the CincySings program for you AND your organization (if affiliated)**
- ❑ **2 Complimentary Tickets to the Cincinnati Reds Game at which the winners will perform the National Anthem**

# CincySings 2020: Official Rules

**Mission Statement:** Bring the community together to celebrate the arts in our region and spread awareness for ArtsWave.

*\*\*All rules subject to change\*\**



## The Events:

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- **CincySings Semi-Finals:** Sunday, March 15, 2020, 3pm-5pm, Jarson-Kaplan Theatre, Aronoff Center
- **CincySings Rehearsal (Mandatory):** Wednesday, April 8, 2020, 4pm-8pm, Music Hall
- **CincySings Finals:** Thursday, April 9, 2020, 7pm-9pm, Music Hall

## Prizes Awarded:

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- **Grand Champion:** Sing the national anthem at a Cincinnati Reds Game\*; guaranteed entry CincySings 2020
- **First Runner Up:** Guaranteed entry into CincySings 2021; Other Prizes TBD
- **Second Runner Up:** Guaranteed entry into CincySings 2021; Other Prizes TBD
- **Fan Favorite Award:** Guaranteed entry into CincySings 2021; Other Prizes TBD

*\*National anthem must be traditional version, 90 seconds or less. Team must submit 'audition tape' singing the anthem.*

## Teams:

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- There will be 10 – 12 teams in the CincySings Finals
  - All Companies holding an internal Sing-Off will send their winner *directly to the Finals*.
  - All other teams (companies that can only field one team) must compete in the CincySings Semi-Finals for a spot in the competition.
    - All Semi-Final bound teams must schedule a public performance to be seen by an ArtsWave representative.
  - After qualifying for the Finals, teams will be paired with a coach from Cincinnati's music and arts community.
- Wild Card Competition: Non-winning teams from companies with Sing-Offs can enter the online Wild Card vote. The winning team will be given a spot in the Semi-Finals.
- Companies will hold their own Sing-Offs to:
  - Identify the winning team to compete in the Finals against other companies
  - Spread awareness and encourage support within the company for the ArtsWave campaign.
- Choirs must be comprised of 4 – 20 singers.
- If applicable, teams must provide their own accompanist(s). The number of accompanists + singing members of the group should not exceed 20. *There is a limit of two (2) accompanying musicians/instruments.*
- Choir members and accompanist(s) must be employees or retirees from the company, however, rehearsal accompanists who will not perform at the competition do not.
- Paid, professional performers or choreographers are not permitted.

## Performance/Event:

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- **The total performance time must not exceed 5 total minutes**—this includes the performance, getting on & off stage, instrument set-up, etc. Points will be deducted if teams exceed this limit. Keep this in mind when choosing your songs.
- **Teams will perform songs appropriate for public performance.** Obscene, provocative or otherwise questionable content will result in disqualification.
- **Songs can be performed a cappella, with instruments or a backing track.** "Bands," however, are discouraged.

- **Teams may provide a background image, PowerPoint or video** to be projected behind their performance *for the Finals only*. Media will be sent to ArtsWave no later than two weeks before the competition.
- **Songs must be legally obtained.** Teams *ARE* allowed to modify lyrics.
- **All musical styles/genres are welcome!** Choirs are encouraged to perform to their strengths, whether that's great harmony, cool dance moves, high-energy audience interaction, or musical skill.

#### Judging Rubric:

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- Judges will score teams from 0 – 10 in the following categories:
  - **Stage Presence:** the ability to “own” the stage and connect with the audience.
    - Do the performers look comfortable and at ease?
    - Is the group making eye contact with the audience and/or each other?
    - Is the group radiating energy and power?
  - **Creativity**
    - Was this a standout performance because of interesting staging or dancing?
    - Was the presentation witty or funny?
  - **Vocal Quality**
    - Did the group sound on key?
    - Was the song recognizable if not better than the original?
    - Did the group harmonize nicely?
  - **Overall Performance**
    - Did all aspects of the performance come together in a pleasing way?
    - Was the “idea” executed successfully?
    - Did costumes, choreography, and the singing work together?
- Judges may also recognize excellence via Special Recognition awards as they see fit at the Finals, including, but not limited to:
  - Best Choreography
  - Best Harmonies
  - Cincinnati Spirit Award
  - Most Inspirational

#### Please Note:

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- **To help ArtsWave achieve our fundraising goal, we ask that companies participating in CincySings contribute to the event by purchasing a block of tickets to the Finals.**
- **All rules are subject to change.**