



How to be a CincySings Judge

So, you've agreed to be a judge for a Sing-Off or for CincySings. Thank You!

You probably have questions. This checklist and guide will help answer those and give you the tools to judge fairly when the big day comes. The most important things to do are to keep in touch with your contact at the company and at ArtsWave (if applicable). He/She will give you all the specifics and fill you in on any special rule changes from what is below. Read on, and don't forget to ask any questions you may have!

- **Familiarize yourself with the CincySings scoring rubric:** This is located later in this document beneath the CincySings rules. While most companies will adhere to these rules and rubric, some may have alternate rules so be sure to get those from your contact.
- **Attend a company choir competition or the CincySings Semi-Finals:** ArtsWave will partner you with a company, a company will contact you, or we will have you judge the city-wide Semi-Finals based on need and your specific area of expertise. Be sure to note that internal company competitions are generally during the workday.
- **Listen to company choirs perform.** Pay attention to the performances and be prepared to speak to the teams' strengths (like a positive American Idol Judge – not Simon Cowell!).
- **Score teams.** Did the teams maximize their performance based on the rubric? Conversely, what elements can they improve if they move on in the competition? Keep in mind these are amateurs!
- **Provide comments to the teams.** Most companies will have you speak directly after each group so pick a few things to focus on during the performance. Give feedback in a way that's both constructive, positive and adds to the fun atmosphere of the event. Remember again, that these are amateurs.
- **Attend CincySings.** Enjoy complimentary access for you and a guest to CincySings where you can see your team in action.

What You Get in Return:

- **2 complimentary tickets to CincySings Finals on April 9 at Music Hall**
- **Other perks TBD**

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:

- **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:

- **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:

- 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:

- **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:

- 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:

- **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.**