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# FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS ABOUT THE CYPRESS CREEK CHORAL FESTIVAL

## HOW DO I CONTACT YOU?

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## WHY HAVE A CHORAL FESTIVAL FOR NON-COMPETING CHOIRS?

Having run this type of contest in another part of Texas, there is definitely a need for non-varsity groups who want to bring their choirs somewhere specifically devoted to groups that may not be ready for UIL.

Varsity groups will gain from the experience in singing in another location with top-of-the-line acoustics and a beautiful Steinway to accompany.

## IS THERE A MINIMUM SIZE FOR MY CHOIR?

No.

## WHAT ARE THE CONTEST RULES?

1. Directors must submit three original scores with numbered measures for judges' use. These scores will be returned along with score sheets, before the choir departs.
2. Warm-up will take place in the Choir Room, (Youth Building, 2<sup>nd</sup> floor) or the chapel (for smaller groups) and performance immediately afterward in the Forum, with a 5 minute transition time between. Choirs are given a warm-up time of 15 minutes (with a 5 minute transition time) and a 10 minute time for performance. Late arrivals will be worked in as available.
3. A piano is available. Choirs are encouraged, but not required to use it.
4. There are no specific repertoire requirements; you may use music from any repertoire list. There are also no specific requirements for *a cappella* music. (Those bringing students that will eventually compete may wish to conform to the UIL CC&R requirements, but it will not affect ratings.)
5. Non-varsity performers may compete with recorded accompaniments, so long as there are no backup singers on the recording. All singing must be done live.
6. (non-varsity/elementary only) Any recorded accompaniments should be played on a device brought by the choir/director. Technological problems are the responsibility of the choir director. Though staff at The Forum will try to resolve any problems, ultimately it is the director's responsibility to make sure an

accompaniment track works before the contest date. A non-working accompaniment track will result in a DNA (Did Not Arrive) rating.

7. Ratings will be given based on tone, technique, appearance, interpretation, and other areas (such as enthusiasm and focus). A copy of the score sheet is attached. Score sheets do not need to be filled out or brought in advance; the Cypress Creek Choral Program will provide these for you.

## IS THE SITE HANDICAP ACCESSIBLE?

Any students with wheelchairs should know that there are 4 long steps between the entrance of the forum and the stage where the piano and risers are. The warm-up area is completely handicap accessible.

## WHY AREN'T WE USING THE CENTRUM?

In August of 2017, Harvey destroyed the performance area, seating, and all electrical work in the Centrum. We are waiting for FEMA to approve our rebuild plans. Currently, the sheetrock, and stage, are gutted; the lighting system was replaced in early November. The sound system is still out. We are hoping to obtain bids the moment FEMA approves our application. By the time the contest starts, construction may well be underway in the Centrum.

## ARE THERE ANY PARKS NEARBY?

Yes! Collins Park is right behind the church.

## WHERE ARE WE SINGING?

Our contest will be located in the Forum Auditorium, a resonant, vibrant performance hall which hosts numerous recitals through the year. It is located right next to the Centrum and was used as a warm-up area before the flood. It includes a Model L Steinway grand piano and a small Visser-Roland pipe organ.

Located at 6823 Cypresswood Drive, Spring, Texas 77379, the Cypress Creek Christian Community Center is a one-of-a-kind church and community partnership model.

Since 1978, the Community Center has been the energizing force, creating a unique, centralized, civic and cultural complex, known as the Cypress Creek Cultural District, that includes:

- The Community Center and The Centrum;
- The Pearl Fincher Museum of Fine Arts;
- The Barbara Bush Harris County Public Library;
- Cypress Creek Foundation for the Arts (FACE);
- Harris County Precinct 4 Courthouse Annex;
- The 63-acre Don Collins (Harris County) Park; and
- The Cypress Creek Greenway Hike and Bike Trails.

The Center is located between the Courthouse and the Library, one block east of Stuebner-Airline Drive on Cypresswood Drive. The Forum is located in the center building on the campus, behind the Centrum.

We are in Northwest Harris County in the Spring/Klein area, approximately 5 miles west of I-45 (exit FM 1960) and 5 miles north of Beltway 8 (exit Stuebner-Airline Dr.)

## WHERE CAN I PARK OUR BUSES?

Harris County Precinct 4 has a huge parking lot right behind the church that we use along with the rest of the Cypress Creek Cultural District. You can see it (parking) on the left side of the map below. The right side is the street. The best place to drop students off is the “Circle” driveway.



## ARE THERE PLACES TO CHANGE CLOTHES IN THE CHURCH?

Yes. Students will be able to change in the first floor of the Youth Building. We ask that you please have your students clean up after themselves; i.e. paper towels should be put in the trashcan and items/trash not left on the floor.

## **WHEN WILL WE BE SCHEDULED?**

Participating choirs are scheduled on a first-come, first-serve basis. The earlier you enter, the more likely you'll get the time you want. Often you will have a time within a day or two.

## **DO I NEED TO FILL OUT THE JUDGES' SHEETS OR SUBMIT UIL FORM 1?**

No. We will provide judges comment sheets. You are responsible for making sure your students are eligible. Since we are not a UIL event, Form 1 eligibility forms are NOT required.

## **ARE YOU A 501(c)(3)? IF I HAVE TAX FORMS OR CONTRACT FORMS, WHO DO I SEND THAT TO?**

Yes! The Cypress Creek Community Chorale (the parent organization of the contest) is a registered educational, non-profit 501(c)(3) corporation in the State of Texas with a unique tax ID. Email any forms your district requires (such as a W-9) as soon as possible to [joel@cypresscreekchorale.cc](mailto:joel@cypresscreekchorale.cc) and we will get them filled out quickly and returned to you.