

**DOROTHY SHOEMAKER AWARDS  
2021 Songwriting Contest Rubric**

Excellent (4)	Good (3)	Fair (2)	Poor (1)
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**SONG**

<b>Melody:</b> Is the melody memorable, and dynamic?	4	3	2	1
<b>Structure:</b> Is the song's structure organized, effective, and well-paced?	4	3	2	1
<b>Arrangement:</b> Is the arrangement creative, compelling, and balanced? Are elements like tempo, dynamics, and harmony used well?	4	3	2	1
<b>Originality:</b> Is the song original and compelling with a clear perspective?	4	3	2	1

**VOCALS & LYRICS**

<b>Performance:</b> Is the vocal performance compelling and memorable?	4	3	2	1
<b>Lyrics:</b> Are the lyrics evocative, relatable, and refined?	4	3	2	1
<b>Technique:</b> Are the vocalist's pitch, timing, register, and breathing appropriate?	4	3	2	1
<b>Instrumentals:</b> For instrumental pieces, is the performance of the lead melody instrument(s) impactful and expressive?	4	3	2	1

**MUSICALITY**

<b>Performance:</b> Is the instrumental and rhythmic performance exciting, dynamic, and complementary?	4	3	2	1
<b>Style:</b> Do the instruments groove, vibe, and reference relevant genres appropriately?	4	3	2	1
<b>Technique:</b> Is the timing, rhythm, pitch, dynamic, and craft of the performance impressive?	4	3	2	1
<b>Relevance:</b> Do the instruments sound interesting, fitting, and contemporary?	4	3	2	1