



The Icon Series® presents  
**Connecticut Icon 2014**  
A Singing Competition

## Judging Criteria

Congratulations on making it to Connecticut Icon finals! Your performance ability and stage presence has rewarded you, and you are about to enter the final contestant elimination stage.

To be successful, it is important for you to realize how you will be judged and scored. The important areas for you to focus on are as follows:

- **Singing Ability (including range, tone, rhythm, etc.) (30 points)**
- **Creativity (10 points)**
- **Stage presence (5 points)**
- **Audience Reaction (5 points)**
- **Voting (various points)**

### **1. VOCAL ABILITY - [30 points of the Overall Score]**

This category has the most objective criteria of the four. It includes 6 fundamental qualifiers that are described below. You will not necessarily be rated on each individual qualifier, simply consider them as part of the performer's overall singing ability.

**A. Intonation** – Are you singing "in key?" Or are you singing sharp (above the appropriate pitch), or flat (below the appropriate pitch)? If one or two notes are off pitch, you will be scored accordingly, but your overall performance will be the main consideration in scoring. (5 points)

**B. Rhythm** – Are you "in tempo" with the underlying musical score? Or are you singing "out of rhythm" with the musical phrases early or late? A good performance will sound "locked in" and the judges will feel it. (5 points)

**C. Range** – Are you in command of a large range of pitches (low to high), or is the melody in a narrow range (one octave or less)? You've heard about singers with a solid two or three octave range! If you demonstrate a wide range, you should receive a higher score. But if you strain to sing the high notes or struggle to project the low notes, your score should be lower. A good vocal performance will simply sound natural. (5 points)

**D. Articulation** – Can the audience clearly hear the words? Are you clearly enunciating? Even if you aren't familiar with the language, the judges can tell if the singer is mumbling or slurring or stumbling through the song. (5 points)

**E. Vocal Quality** – Does the vocal come off sounding strong or weak, and is it consistent with the song being sung? If your voice sounds gravelly, it may be appropriate for a rock song, but not for a ballad. If the song is soft and sweet, does the vocal match and project the same feeling? The song is the message and you should deliver the message with the appropriate feeling. (5 points)

**F. Phrasing** - Is there emotional expression that's appropriate to the song, and if there is, does it "connect" with the audience on an emotional level? (5 points)

**Categories 2 thru 4 both relate your ability to *connect with the audience*, either through the interpretation of the song (Creativity) or the way you appear when singing (Stage Presence).**

## 2. Stage Presence- [10 points of the Overall Score]

Do you connect with you by appearing confident and relaxed, and singing directly to them?

### A high score would result from:

- Making good eye contact with the audience
- Using facial expressions and body gestures that help communicate the song's message
- Dancing or moving appropriately ("feeling the song")
- The judges will consider your style and appearance, and whether or not it enhances your performance.

### A low score would result from:

- Not knowing the words to the song
- Looking up or down
- Expressions and gestures that "get in the way" or detract from the performance
- Stiffness or lack of body movement.

## 3. Creativity – [5 Points of the Overall Judged Score]

Do you connect with the audience by *holding your interest in the performance*, and *bringing a unique, original approach (something unexpected and fresh)*?

- To *hold interest*, think of the song as a story, and yourself as the storyteller. Are you engaging and keeping the audiences interest all the way through to the end? Or does the audience become bored and distracted?
- To *bring a unique, original approach*, you should convey your personality. It should not "copy" the performance of another singer. A high creativity score reflects the ability of the singer to draw the listener into the performance because it is interesting and original, with qualities that do not detract from the song, but enhance it.

## 4. Audience Reaction (5 Points of the Overall Judged Score)

How did the audience react to your performance? Length of intensity of applause should be noted. Overall, did the audience focus on the performance or were they paying attention elsewhere.

## 5. Voting by Public (50 Total Points distributed based on the contestants % of total votes accumulated)

A total of 50 additional points are available that will be distributed to each contestant, for each Contest based on the following percentage:

**Contestant Voting Points = the total votes received by a contestant  
divided by the total votes accumulated by all contestants times 50.**

As an example, if a total of 1000 votes were cast in a Contest, and Contestant 1 received 200 votes, Contestant 2 received 500 votes and Contestant 3 received 300 votes, Contestant 1 would be awarded 10 points ( $200 / 1000 * 50$ ), Contestant 2 would be awarded 25 points ( $500 / 1000 * 50$ ) and Contestant 3 would be awarded 15 points ( $300 / 1000 * 50$ ).

As contestants are eliminated, the 50 voting points will be distributed to fewer contestants. Based on the design of the voting system, votes have more bearing on the outcome of the final Contests of elimination than in the beginning. This is based on the belief that the final contestants are closer in overall judged ability, and audience participation and reaction becomes more significant in determining the winner.

Vote counting will be reset to 0 for all contestants at the end of each daily contest, and will begin to tally again until the determined cutoff time of the next contest.