

# Memo

**To:** Directors of All-State students and alternates  
**From:** Lewis Walling, All-State Chair  
**Date:** 1/8/2004  
**Re:** 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier Auditions

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Some last information as we prepare for the final phase of All-State auditions:

- Auditions will be held Tuesday, January 13, 2004 at Riverdale High School in Murfreesboro, TN. Directions are included and will be available on the MTVA web site, [www.mtva.org](http://www.mtva.org).
- Students and directors will need to arrive no later than 5:20 PM.
- Directors will meet at 5:30 PM to finalize duty assignments and receive a last-minute briefing.
- Students should be prepared to sing a portion of each piece of All-State repertoire. The exact audition sections will be provided to the student upon check-in.
- Students should check-in at the registration table upon arrival to receive their octet assignment. Once that is done, they will be seated with the other members of their octet to wait until it is called. Once a result has been posted for the student, they will be dismissed. The exception to this is students who sing in the first or second octet. They are to remain available to fill in vacancies in later octets.
- Additional details on the audition procedure as well as responsibilities of directors are outlined in the MTVA Handbook. Please be knowledgeable of these as they apply.
- Please notify me IMMEDIATELY if a problem should arise with a student scheduled to audition. It is vital that notification of a problem occur BEFORE the audition begins when possible. My contact information is below.
- Note at the end of this memo is a portion of the Handbook dealing with details of the 2<sup>nd</sup> Tier audition process.
- Finally, THANK YOU for giving your time and effort to your students. It makes all of us proud. Thank you also for your understanding and patience with me in my role. If I can assist you further in any way, do not hesitate to ask.

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From the TMEA All-State Handbook:

### ***The Screening Audition***

- The screening audition will be on all the literature to be performed at All-State by all three ensembles. The students are to be prepared to sing all the pieces of the choir to which they are assigned, although they may only be asked to sing an excerpt from the piece during the screening audition. When a piece is in a language other than English or Latin, the students have the option of singing their part on a neutral syllable or solfege for their audition.
- The All-State choir will have a professionally prepared practice CD that contains all the pieces to be performed by each ensemble (that is, one CD with the SATB music, one with the SSA music, and one with the TTBB music). One CD for each student in each choir will be ordered by TMEA and distributed to each regional association. The associations will be billed for their total number of CDs by TMEA. These CDs must be prepared in time to allow the students to use them to learn their All-State music.
- **The All-State Choral Chair**, along with the All-State SATB, Women's, and Men's Chorus Chairs will determine audition sections on each piece of the All-State literature. The audition sections will be kept secret until the actual day of auditions. To ensure this the audition CDs will be professionally prepared and delivered to the All-State Chair. Each region will be required to purchase one CD for each choir. Should a region desire to have multiple copies of an audition CD, they will be billed for the additional expense. The auditions chair will deliver the audition CDs to the auditions chair of each association (or the designated person from each association) in time for the actual auditions. The selections may be announced on the morning of the auditions.
- The auditioning students should be divided into octets and/or quartets in any manner the regional association thinks appropriate. Students from the same school should NOT audition in the same octet and/or quartet. If there are not enough students to have a complete octet and/or quartet, students who have already auditioned may be asked to sing a second time to fill out the octet and/or quartet, but their second audition will not be counted.
- The regional audition will be held at one site within the region. Enough judges must be used so that no one judge is listening to more than two students in an octet and/or quartet simultaneously. Judging responsibilities should be divided so that no one judges his/her own students. The judges should be actively walking in front of the students to ensure that the student is actually prepared and not coasting on the strength of another singer.
- If a warm up room is provided, the auditions material should NOT be performed, rehearsed, or sung-through in the warm up room.
- Grading on the audition will be pass/fail. After each octet and/or quartet, the panel of judges may confer on their decision. If the judges want to hear a particular student a second time, they may be recalled later in the day to sing in a different octet and/or quartet. If during the audition the judges decide there are extenuating circumstances, they may call back the octet and/or quartet. Decisions should be sent to the auditions chair immediately so that students being called back may be notified that they need to remain.
- A student who fails the audition is ineligible for All-State.
- Alternates for All-State should be the next ten top scores after each section has been filled. Five alternates from each section should be assigned to prepare the mixed chorus music and would only be eligible to replace a mixed chorus singer. The remaining five alternates would prepare the Women's or Men's Chorus music and would only be eligible to replace a Women's or Men's chorus singer.
- All-State alternates should go through the octet and/or quartet audition process. An alternate who has passed the octet and/or quartet audition may replace a student who fails the audition or who has to drop out of All-State. It shall be the area association's responsibility to determine eligibility of alternates, to notify them, and to assure that they receive the proper information. It shall be the area All-State chairperson's responsibility to notify the state All-State chairperson of alternate replacements.