

MTVA Middle School Honors
March 13, 2007 at Forest Hills Baptist Church

AUDITION PROCEDURES

General information:

- € Auditions are recorded and cd's/cassettes are *brought with you to the auditions*.
- € Application and fees are mailed to David Spencer, MTVA Treasurer, 940 Caldwell Lane, Nashville, TN 37204
- € Send a copy of the audition application form to the middle school honors chairperson.
- € Applications must be postmarked by January 9, 2007.

Preparing the audition tapes:

1. Place the school name, the voice part, and number of students auditioning on the outside of each tape;
2. Use one tape/cd per voice part - one for soprano, one for alto, etc.
3. Have the student speak the number that corresponds to the printed list sent on the audition application form (be sure no personal names/schools, etc. are included on the recording—it should be totally anonymous). **IMPORTANT:** Make sure the numbers on the audition tape correspond precisely to what is on the list.
4. The pitch used on the audition tape must be within a quarter-tone of A-440.
5. Do not electronically enhance the students' voice in any way.

Recording procedures:

1. Students will sing the first verse of "My Country, 'tis of Thee" a capella. There may be no other sounds on the tape than the starting pitch, which should be played—not sung.
2. TEMPO - Sing the song no slower than m.m. 120.
3. KEYS - Students sing according to the part for which they are auditioning:
 - a. Soprano - Key of A, begin on A (second space, treble staff)
 - b. Alto - Key of D, begin on D (first space below treble staff)
 - c. Tenor - Key of B, begin on B (just below middle C)
 - d. Baritone - Key of D, begin on D (third line, bass staff)
4. Audition Selection -
 - a) Students will sing the entire selection, Cantate Domino (download music and MIDI files at mtva.org) accompanied by the 4-part recording on the MTVA audition cd.
 - b) The recording should BEGIN with the sounding of the pitches.

Example audition steps - your first ALTO student:

1. Press "record" on recording device.
2. Student says "Number One"
3. Give "D" (above middle C) pitch (piano, recorder, pitch pipe, etc. - this should be clearly heard on the recording).
4. Student sings "My Country 'tis of Thee" a capella.
5. Press "play" on MTVA audition cd (4-part recording track).
6. Student sings alto part along with the cd recording
7. Press "stop" on recording device.

Director's Notes:

1. Auditions will be judged by the same standards as all-state.
2. Cassettes/CD's must be of acceptable audio quality in order to be judged—please check your recording before you come!
3. If you have students who you know will not be able to attend, or who are not of honor choir caliber, please do not send their auditions*.
4. Directors are expected to "screen" their own auditions - if you have students who clearly will not be selected (major pitch problems, don't know the audition piece, etc.), please do not send their auditions*. This screening saves time at the actual audition.

audition should be omitted from the recording brought to the adjudication. Example - if student number 5 clearly will not be selected, then your recording should go from Student #4 to Student #6 - #5 should be left blank on the form (or clearly marked out). DO **NOT RE-NUMBER STUDENTS, AS THIS CAUSES PROBLEMS ON ADJUDICATION DAY!*

5. **ADJUDICATION DAY DUTIES** - all directors submitting students to audition must bring their audition cd's/cassettes and be prepared to assist with the adjudication on **Saturday, January 27** (notice date change!), at Rockvale Elementary School. Assignments for the day will be made prior to this day.

Helpful Hints:

- Use the best recording equipment you can find. Make sure the student can be clearly heard, as well as the pitches, on the MTVA audition cd. It's a good idea to play back your recording on a different piece of equipment to make sure it is clear and plays at the correct speed.
- If you've never used "Audacity" - it is well worth the effort to check it out. It is a free download from www.audacity.com. With this program, you can record all of your student auditions individually, and then burn them onto a cd in the order needed. It also makes it easy to omit auditions that you don't want to include.

Variations from the outlined procedures could result in disqualification. Should you have any question(s), please feel free to ask—we're here to help you!

Brenda Williams
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(615) 542-9099 (cell)
(615) 904-3881 (school-leave message)
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SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

I. Schedule

8:30-8:50	Registration
9:00-11:30	Rehearsal
11:30-12:30	Lunch
1:00-4:00	Rehearsal
4:00-6:00	Dinner/Dress on your own
6:30	Concert

II. T-Shirts

- a) T-shirts are available for \$10.00 - YS through YL, and AS through AXXL. The colors this year will be burgundy with white lettering. The MTVA Honor Chorus logo will be on the front and the student names will be on the back by school.
- b) **Money** for shirts will be due that day. Use the attached order form for your shirt orders (print carefully so that spelling is clear). If you order a shirt, you must pay for the shirt. You will write ONE check for all of your shirts—elementary and middle--school or director's checks only - all payments will be given to Brenda Williams, payable to MTVA.
- c) **ORDER DEADLINE/SPELLING CONFIRMATION** - Send attached confirmation list/shirt orders to me by Friday, February 11 - you may email the form to me (preferred), or fax it to me at 615-904-3882. Please **VERIFY** the spelling of each name you send, as this will be the spelling on the back of the shirt.

III. LUNCH - you may bring your lunch or eat lunch provided at the church. The provided lunch will be \$5.50 per person and the menu will be: chicken tenders, mashed potatoes, green beans, biscuit, tossed salad w/sliced apples, cookie, lemonade, sweet tea. Use the order form attached to indicate who will order lunches. Payment for ALL lunch orders will be handled by Suzanne Craig (Elementary Honor Chairperson) and money will be given to her on that day (checks to be made payable to SANDRA BROCK). Reservations are due by February 11 with final t-shirt order.

IV. CONCERT DRESS -

Students may wear their choir's "formal" concert uniform (FORMAL does NOT mean chorus shirt/khaki, etc.), or they may wear black/white—black on bottom, white on top (long skirt preferred; black hose/tights with shorter skirts—appropriate length, please). In other words, if you do not have a "formal" uniform, wear black and white for the concert.

V. BEHAVIOR EXPECTATIONS -

Please remind students of appropriate behavior; no talking, no gum, bottled water only during rehearsal, respectfully follow the clinician's directions (posture, etc.). Directors are expected to help monitor rehearsals and help students stay on task.

VI. MUSIC REPERTOIRE -

- a) Audition piece - "Cantate Domino" (Pitoni) - you can download music and midi files at www.mtva.org.
- b) Music is being provided by MTVA and will be picked up at the auditions. Check J.W. Pepper for the music listing.
- c) Students should have music fully learned and almost memorized so that their performance folders will not be needed.

VII. Directions to Forest Hills Baptist Church - available at www.mtva.org

VIII. Directions to Rockvale Elementary - available at www.mtva.org

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me - williamsb@rcs.k12.tn.us, or (615) 274-3559 home; 615-542-9099 cell; 615-904-3881 school.

Thanks for all you do for your students!
Brenda

