



California Music Educators Association Central Coast Section

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September 20, 2021

Dear Middle School Choral Director:

Thank you for your hard work in preparing your students for this year's CMEA-CCS Middle School Honor Choir. I look forward to receiving your students' auditions and then hearing the choir at our Honor Choir event. The information on the following pages will help you through the audition process and contains all the information needed to ensure that you, your students, and their parents are informed and prepared. There are a number of changes in our normal routine due to COVID concerns, please take note. All accepted students will be required to show **proof of vaccination or a negative COVID test** within 2 days of the event. Please note that even though we will be using Festival Scores again this year for the audition process and judging. All paperwork will still need to be mailed with your audition fees 2 weeks before the upload deadline.

DIRECTOR

Our director is Anthony E. Arnold. He is the conductor of both instrumental and choral music at Miller Middle School. He is very excited to work with our singers and comes with a wealth of experience in the Middle School Choir classroom.

REHEARSAL AND PERFORMANCE SITE

Location TBA

*Masking required during all rehearsals. We will be rehearsing outdoors.

PERFORMANCE SITE

Location TBA

The Concert will be sung LIVE without an audience and will be videotaped.

EVENTS SCHEDULE

- October 1 - Festival Scores Event begins accepting uploads
- November 5 - Student and school forms with a check are due to the Honor Choir Chair.
- November 17 - Deadline to upload student files to Festival Scores
- November 18-24 - Judging window
- November 30 - Honor Choir Roster is completed
- Early December - music is distributed
- Friday, January 28 - Rehearsal: 9:00 am-3:00 pm (tentative)
- Saturday, January 29 - Rehearsal / Performance: 8:30-1pm (tentative)
(Video / Audio Recording, no audience)

Paper FORMS and FEES

1. The school director must complete a 'school application.'
2. Auditioning students must complete a 'student application' and obtain the proper signatures.
3. Completed application forms and fees must be sent NO LATER THAN November 5.
 - a. Audition fee is \$5 per student.



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- b. Directors need to send one check for all fees.
- c. Participation fee, if selected, is \$40 per student.
4. We will be using Festival Scores for our audio **ONLY** audition
5. All directors who upload student tracks will be asked to help with the judging (Thursday through Wednesday: November 18-24).

FESTIVAL Scores / AUDITION PROCEDURES/TIMELINE

- You will need to create an account on FESTIVALSCORES.COM (If you already have an account you can use that and the event code below.)
 - Please watch this instructional video: <https://youtu.be/5BTaSiXdLR8>
 - Make your account now, so you are ready to upload recordings later.
- Our event code is: **JG3TC8D**
- All MP3s need to be fully uploaded **NO LATER** than November 17 at 5 pm. Each element is a different MP3. I strongly suggest that you upload files well before November 17, in case you encounter any difficulties. November 17 to upload is a **HARD** deadline, as is the judging window.
- Teachers, in addition to preparing and uploading the MP3s, you will need to collect the following information from all students who are auditioning and have handy when you create the student record and upload mp3s:
 - Full Name
 - Graduation year
 - Student email address
 - Parent name and email address
 - Voice part
 - T-shirt size



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Audition Requirements –

Three recordings are now required per student. They must be uploaded separately. Any student with files missing cannot be judged. Please check endings and beginnings of your recordings before uploading them, and make sure they are complete and comply.

1. **Unaccompanied ascending major scale** sung on a neutral syllable or on solfege.

- Determine the student's highest note that has good tone; this pitch will be their high Do.
- Have them sing an one-octave scale ascending from the Do below up to their high Do.
- The scale should be sung in one breath at the tempo of 90 – 100 bpm
- Include the name of the starting pitch in the title of the file along with voice part.
- There should be no speaking on the recording.
- Starting pitch must be audible on the mp3.
- **Sample File Title:** SchoolNameMS-BaritoneSamSinger-AscScaleE.mp3

2. **Unaccompanied descending major scale** sung on a neutral syllable or on solfege.

- Determine the student's lowest note that has good tone; this pitch will be their low Do.
- Have them sing a one-octave scale descending from the Do above down to their low Do.
- The scale should be sung in one breath at the tempo of 90 – 100 bpm
- Include the name of the starting pitch in the title of the file along with voice part.
- There should be no speaking on the recording.
- Starting pitch must be audible on the mp3.
- **Sample File Title:** SchoolNameMS-BaritoneSamSinger-DescScaleBb.mp3

3. **My Country 'Tis of Thee (America)** – first verse, unaccompanied, in the appropriate key:

- a. **Soprano** G above middle C
 - b. **Alto** Db above middle C
 - c. **Baritone** – Choose a starting pitch that best represents the students voice:
 - Tenor G below middle C
 - Baritone E below middle C
 - Bass C below middle C
- Starting pitch must be audible on the mp3
 - Tempo should be 80 – 90 bpm
 - Breaths should be taken at appropriate places (not in the middle of a word)
 - There should be no embellishments or liberties taken with pitch or rhythm
 - Enunciation should be clear.
 - **Sample File Title:** SchoolNameMS-BaritoneSamSinger-MyCountryC.mp3



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AUDITION POLICIES AND FEES

CCS policy requires that directors sponsoring students **MUST BE CURRENT NAFME MEMBERS. You will be asked to enter your membership number on Festival Scores before you can upload any sound files.** If you are not a current member, please visit www.nafme.org to acquire a membership. CCS also requires that only ONE CHECK per school be submitted for audition/participation fees. School checks, directors' checks, and cash are accepted. Checks must be made payable to CMEA-CCS.

The audition fee is \$5.00 per student. **Audition fees and paper forms MUST be postmarked by November 5.** If accepted, there is a \$40 participation fee.

REHEARSAL / PERFORMANCE POLICY

- Students who are selected for the Honor Choir must participate in all rehearsals and the concert. Failure to fulfill this obligation is subject to board action for future student or school participation. Students should check their schedules for conflicts with January 28, 29 (sports, mock-trial, etc) PRIOR to auditioning.

We are looking forward to providing an excellent experience for our CCS Honor Students. If you have any questions or suggestions, please do not hesitate to contact me.

Sincerely,

Jared Masar
CMEA CCS Middle School Honor Choir Chair
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