



## California Music Educators Association Central Coast Section

[www.ccsmusic.org](http://www.ccsmusic.org)



September 29, 2019

Dear Middle School Choir Directors,

Here is the information for this year's CMEA-CCS Honor Choir Event. The FestivalScores audition procedure is the same as last year (details below), but we have updated the audition requirements to match that of CCDA. Please read the audition requirements on page 2 carefully.

Our Middle School conductor this year is **Dr. Corie Brown**, a member of the Choral department at University of California, San Jose. She has taught middle and high schools in Michigan and Chicago as well as working with Fundación Batuta in Columbia using the El Sistema program.

### Important Dates

- Monday, September 30, 2019 Digital online audition recordings open
- Friday, October 18, 2019 Audition fee and forms postmark deadline
- Friday, October 18, 2019 Digital online audition recordings close
- Sunday, October 19 through Sunday, October 26, 2019 Online adjudication by all participating teachers
- Thurs., Jan 23 – Sat. Jan 25, 2020 Honor Choir Event, Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium

### Event Schedule and Location

Thursday, January 23, 2020	1:00 pm – 9:00 pm	Rehearsal at Mission Hills Middle School 425 King St., Santa Cruz
Friday, January 24, 2020	9:00 am – 3:00 pm	Rehearsal at Mission Hills Middle School
Saturday, January 25, 2020	8:30 am – Noon	Rehearsal at Mission Hills Middle School
Saturday, January 25, 2020	2:00 pm	Concert at Santa Cruz Civic Auditorium, 307 Church St, Santa Cruz, CA

Event Location:

### Audition Procedure:

- Each director must make an director account at <http://www.festivalscores.com>
  - Make your account , so you are ready to upload recordings.
  - Add CCS MS Honor Choir event to your account with this event tag: **ZZJJWSM**
  - Add students – include their name, HS graduation year, and **adult** T-shirt size
  - Upload ALL THREE recordings for each student before: **10 pm, October 18, 2019**
- Each participating director will be required to judge a specific set of auditions online.
  - Each student will be judged by a minimum of three judges

## 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 CD.
  - **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 CD.
  - **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 CD
  - 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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## Forms & Fees

- **Forms and fees need to be postmarked by Friday, October 18**
- Include school form, all student forms, and one check for all fees.
  - Include **all** signatures on all forms (attached and also available at <http://www.ccsmusic.org>)
  - CCS requires that only one check per school be submitted for audition fees.
  - No parent checks will be accepted; only a school check, a director's check, or cash.
  - Audition fee is \$5.00 per student.
  - **Checks must be made payable to CMEA-CCS.**
  - Send to **Cathy Findley, 305 Bishop Ave, Pacific Grove, Ca 93950**
- Participation fee is an additional \$40.00 per accepted student. This fee will be due by the beginning of the event. There will be no refunds.

**Audition results** will be available October 31, 2019

**Music distribution.** Every effort will be made to distribute music by December 4.

## Membership

CCS policy requires that directors sponsoring students must be current NAFME members at the time of the event. If you are not a current member, visit <http://www.nafme.org> to acquire a membership. You will need a membership number to upload files at FestivalScores.com.

We are looking forward to providing an excellent experience for our CCS Honor Choir Students. If you have any questions or suggestions, especially with the new audition requirements, judging or the online applications, please do not hesitate to contact me. Properly recorded and uploaded files will make the audition procedure go more smoothly. I will send out judging assignments and information once the audition window has closed. Please schedule a few hours (3?) during the judging window to judge your assigned group.

Sincerely, *Cathy Findley*

CMEA-CCS MS Honor Choir Chair  
305 Bishop Ave. Pacific Grove, CA 93950  
[cathyfindley@aol.com](mailto:cathyfindley@aol.com)  
(831) 649-6067 home (831) 905-2505 cell