

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

AUDITION PROCEDURES

General information:

- Auditions are recorded and cassettes/CD's 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 Elementary School Honors chairperson by mail or fax.
- Applications must be postmarked by **Sept. 28, 2006.**

Preparing the audition tapes:

1. Place the school name, school code, the voice part, and number of students auditioning on the outside of each cassette/CD.
2. Use one tape/cd per school.
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 tuned to 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 cappella. There may be no other sounds on the tape than the starting pitch, "G," which should be played—not sung.
2. TEMPO - Sing the song no slower than m.m. 120.
3. KEY - All Students sing "My Country, 'tis of Thee" in the key of "G."

Example audition steps - your first student:

1. Press "record" on recording device.
2. Students says "Number One"
3. Give "G" (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 cappella.
5. Press "stop" on recording device. Now you are ready for student "Number Two."

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 chorus 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 with no blank space on the tape- #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 cassettes/CD's and be prepared to assist with the adjudication on Saturday, Oct. 28, at David Lipscomb in the Middle School chorus room. 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. 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!

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SCHEDULE AND INFORMATION

I. Schedule

8:30-8:50	Registration
9:00-12:00	Rehearsal
12:00-1:00	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 - Y5 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 T-shirt payments will go to Brenda Williams.** (Checks made out to MTVA to be paid on March 13.)
- c) **ORDER DEADLINE/SPELLING CONFIRMATION** - Send attached confirmation list/shirt orders to Brenda Williams by Friday, February 11 - you may email the form, or fax it to 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. Cost and menu will be provided as soon as possible. Use the order form attached to indicate who will order lunches. **Lunch orders** must be turned in no later than **Friday, Feb. 11**, while lunch money will be given to Suzanne Craig on the day of the festival, \$5.50 for each lunch purchased. (Don't forget about chaperones and director's meals.) Any meal ordered must be paid for even if you have students that cannot attend. Menu includes chicken fingers, mashed potatoes, green beans, salad, roll, dessert, and more! **Write ONE check for lunches to SANDRA BROCK.** (The food was YUMMY last year!)

DINNER - Dinner will be on your own that day. Forest Hills is fairly close to Brentwood (heading east on Old Hickory about 10 minutes) or Green Hills (heading north on Hillsboro Rd. about 10 minutes) or Cool Springs (heading south on Hillsboro about 15 minutes). There is a food court at the Green Hills Mall and Cool Springs Mall.

IV. CONCERT DRESS -

Students may wear their choir's "formal" concert uniform (FORMAL does NOT mean chorus shirt), or they may wear black/white—black on bottom, white on top (long skirt

preferred; black hose/tights with shorter skirts—appropriate length, please). Your students can change at the church or change wherever they choose to eat dinner.

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 - "My Country, 'tis of Thee" in the key of "G."
- b) Other selections will be given out the day of auditions, Oct. 28.
- c) Students should have music fully learned and almost memorized by March 13 so that their performance folders will not be needed.

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

If you have questions, please feel free to contact me - suzanne.craig@lipscomb.edu or at 615-279-6465 (school number).

Thanks for all you do for your students!
Suzanne Craig

