

MTVA All-Mid State and Freshmen Honors Auditions
October 3-4, 2008
St. Cecilia Academy

Director's Meeting

I. Door Monitors

1. Take up/receive student audition tickets AND KEEP THEM!!!
2. Must confirm student ID numbers on ticket with your Audition/Registration Room Report Spreadsheet.
3. Make sure you have enough score sheets for the judges. If not, have a runner get more for you. There are five judges in each room, and every judge needs a score sheet for every student that auditions.
4. Make sure that score sheets are collected from the judges in the same order every time. The judges should assign themselves numbers (1-2-3-4-5). Each judge must put their number in the top left-hand corner of every judge sheet.
5. Place the student ID label on the top judge sheet every time (AFTER THE STUDENT AUDITIONS).
6. Remind each student before they audition where they will begin and end each selection. Also, tell them which song will be sung first in the audition. You will have a copy of each song with a highlighted part of the audition excerpts.
7. Always keep student scores confidential. Never let any student see their score sheets, even if they are your own student.
8. Only students that are auditioning are allowed in hallways- no friends, boy/girl friends, parents, etc. they must wait in the designated area.
9. Update judges on how time is going and when breaks are coming up.

II. Warm-Up Rooms

1. Make sure that only those students auditioning are in the warm-up room. No friends, boy/girl friends, parents, etc. are allowed in this area. They must wait in the designated area.
2. Answer questions about the audition selections. There are copies of each song posted in the warm-up room with highlighted parts of the audition excerpts.
3. Be familiar with where each audition room is located.
4. Be sure that students are warming up. This is not a socializing room. If they are not singing, ask them to leave.

III. Runners

1. Help keep friends, boy/girl friends, parents, etc. out of the audition hallways. They must wait in the designated area.
2. Frequently check on judges and door monitors to see if they need anything.

3. Report any problems immediately to Lia Holland in the tally room.
4. Bring scoring forms to the tally room. Each voice part will be in individual stacks. Make sure that you place the scoring forms in the correct stacks.
5. Make sure that door monitors have placed student audition ID labels on the scoring forms and that the forms are in order of judges. Each judge is assigned a number, and they will write their number in the top left-hand corner of every scoring sheet.

IV. Registration Table

1. Make sure you issue each student his or her audition ticket that must include his or her voice part and ID number. Be very precise in writing the ID numbers.
2. Each ID number is located on the far left-hand column of the Registration Audition Room Report Sheet.
3. Highlight each student's name when they have registered. Keep good records of this so we will know who has/has not shown up.
4. Any problems from students or parents- see Lia Holland immediately. However, do not send the parent or student to talk to me. Only directors should come to the scoring room to report problems.
5. Under no circumstances can a student change his or her voice part from what is listed on the registration form.
6. Tell students what the audition cuts are when they register.
7. You will have copies of each audition piece with highlighted sections of the audition excerpts.
8. Tell students where the warm-up rooms are located.
9. Tell students where the audition rooms are located.
10. Tell friends, boy/girl friends, parents, etc. that they are not allowed in the audition hallways or warm-up rooms. They must remain in the waiting area.
11. Again, do not send a student or parent to talk to a director. The student's director should speak to a board member if questions and/or problems arise.

Judging:

If this sounds like preaching, then I'm OK with that. I preach to myself as well. For me, this profession and the activities of this organization are about a mission. In our role of helping lead young people to a richer, better life as responsible and contributing members of our society, we have a moral obligation to model the best of humanity. I am proud of MTVA and believe that as an organization we further that goal - AND, that we can always improve.

The judging categories and how they are weighted -

Pitch = 24%, Tone = 21%, Rhythm = 19%, Technical Accuracy = 13%,
Diction = 12%, Musicality = 11%

Concept - Think of "zones" on the sheet. The right half is worthy of Mid-State inclusion, even though all who score there may not necessarily make it. The right $\frac{1}{4}$ should be considered the All State zone. Avoid extremes in scoring to allow room for better & worse singers. Consistency is the most important element of scoring.

We attempt to reconcile the subjective nature of judging with some basic values of pleasing tone. Avoid the tendency to favor bigger (or smaller) voices, rather than better. Extremes in sound that would detract from a solid ensemble sound would rank below well tuned and accurate, pleasing tone that would contribute to the ensemble blend.

What discussion is, and is not appropriate? General discussion at the very beginning over any technical issue might be helpful, or discussion on how the procedure works. However, discussion or other forms of communication that could be construed as an attempt to promote an opinion on any singers is inappropriate. This can also undermine the consistency in standard issue, especially if it is done somewhere in the middle of the process. Resist the urge to second-guess your standard once into the process.

There should be no competing media during an audition, including headphones.

Maintain anonymity of singers. Not just what school, but also any conversation not necessary to the audition. No quizzing about religion, training, experience, etc. No sounds should be made that could be interpreted by the student as critical or inconsiderate. Put yourself in their place - full of insecurity and paranoia - and when in doubt, Don't!

Take the process seriously - apply the golden rule. Complaints about being required to work the auditions are unprofessional, and untrue. We as directors make choices - it is wrong to do less than our best in this process. If a judge is bitter about their career, it is not the fault of these singers, nor of the fellow judges. Those unwilling should not join the process. Extraneous noise, including but not limited to talking, laughing, cell phones - are unfair to the students.

Similar to any team/choir, peer pressure is either part of the problem or solution. If we tolerate misbehavior it will continue. And if we serve notice that it will not be tolerated - then it will stop.

Parents should NEVER be directed to MTVA officers or other members. We are an association of professionals, and all questions or grievances are to be brought by association members to the officers. This is an imperfect process because it is run by imperfect people, chosen by imperfect people, judging imperfect students who are sent to us by imperfect parents. However, I am very proud of the absolute commitment by your officers to provide the best possible environment for the fairest possible hearing of our students, and believe that we should all begin from the assumption that everyone leading this process is doing their best.

Lastly - we must all assist in the process by humbly and willingly play our part.

1. Being on time - If you're early, you're on time. If you're on time, you're late. If you're late, you're hurting the team. 2. Being patient - resist the urge to hang out in the tally room or ask frequently when the results will be finished. That will only delay the process. All are welcome to stay, but results will be posted on-line and waiting is a choice with no guarantee on how long it will take. It is more important to get it Right than to get it Quickly! 3. Ask the questions, "If every teacher did this, would it make the process better, or worse? Would it make the job of those responsible for the process easier, or more difficult? Am I putting myself, or others first?"

Thank you.