

## **MTVA Elementary School Honors Information AUDITION PROCEDURES**

### **General Information:**

- The Middle Tennessee Vocal Association (MTVA) Elementary Honor Choir is an auditioned group of students from Middle Tennessee area schools that prepare and present a concert each year. Teachers who are a member of MTVA may select their students in grade 4-6 to audition for the group.
- Auditions for MTVA Elementary Honor Choir are recorded auditions that are held in October of each year. Registration forms for this event are located at [www.mtva.org](http://www.mtva.org) . Students will sing "America" (My Country 'Tis of Thee) as the recorded audition in the key of G.
- Please refer to Recording Procedures for complete recording information
- The concert for this event will be on **January 29, 2013**, at Brentwood United Methodist Church, Brentwood, TN, and will include the Middle School Honor Choir.
- Auditions are recorded and cassettes/CDs are brought with you to the auditions.
- ALL applications are now completed online. Please use the MTVA website for information for online applications.
- Fees are to be mailed to the MTVA treasurer:  
Jeanette MacCallum  
6204 Gardendale Drive  
Nashville, TN 37215
- Applications must be completed and fees postmarked by **Friday October 19, 2012, or late fees will be incurred.** Please refer to the handbook for late fee policy.
- Students must be enrolled in their school's choral program to be eligible to audition.

### **Preparing the audition tapes:**

- Place the school name, school code, the voice part, and number of students auditioning on the outside of each cassette/CD.
- Use one tape/CD per school.
- 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.**
- The pitch used on the audition tape must be tuned to A(440).
- Do not electronically enhance the students' voice in any way,

### **Recording procedures:**

- Students will sing the first verse of "America" (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.
- TEMPO – sing the song at a moderate tempo
- KEY – all students sing "America" (My Country, 'tis of Thee") in the key of "G."

### Example audition steps – your first student:

1. Press “record” on recording device.
2. Student 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 “America” (My Country ‘tis of Thee) a cappella.
5. Press “stop” on recording device. Now you are ready for student “Number Two.”

### Director’s Notes:

- Auditions will be judged by the same standards as all-state.
- Cassettes/CDs must be of acceptable audio quality in order to be judged – please check your recording before you come!
- 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\*.
- 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 #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!*

**ADJUDICATION DAY DUTIES** – all directors submitting students to audition must bring their audition cassettes/CDs and be prepared to assist with the adjudications **on Saturday November 10, 2013 at Sycamore Middle School.**

Jobs will be assigned to teachers before auditions. Please refer to the handbook for additional information concerning events.

### 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 have never used “Audacity”, it is well worth the effort to check it out. It is a free download from [www.audacity.com](http://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!*

Ashlee Sexton

MTVA Elementary Honors Chairperson

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