

MIDDLE TENNESSEE VOCAL ASSOCIATION

ALL MID-STATE CHOIRS

DIRECTORS' PACKET

This document presents information regarding the MTVA Mid-State Choir event, from auditions through the performances.

I. Auditions

A. Location

a. Address:

Stewarts Creek High School
301 Red Hawk Blvd
Smyrna, TN 37167

b. Parking:

- i. Park on the north side of campus, which looks like the side of the school.
- ii. Enter through the gym entrance.
- iii. **On Saturday, do not park in the band practice lot.** Cones will be setup to keep this area off limits.
- iv. **See the maps on the Event Directions portion of mtva.org.**

B. Dates

a. Thursday-Saturday, September 25-27.

- i. Due to the allocation of singers per part, some rooms will require an additional night of audition slots (Thursday). Students auditioning on those traditionally more populated parts should plan on being available for all three dates unless a special request is placed at registration.
- ii. Only a handful of directors will be required to come on Thursday evening to judge and register students. Those that do will be paid a modest stipend. However, directors will be chosen at random, so all directors should plan on coming all three days until director assignments have been published.
- iii. Director assignments will be published after the event deadline once the student audition times have been finalized.

b. Thursday, Sept. 25 schedule:

- i. 5pm – Directors' meeting in choir room.
- ii. 6-9pm – Student auditions

c. Friday, Sept. 26 schedule:

- i. 5pm – Directors' meeting in choir room.
- ii. 6-9pm – Student auditions

d. Saturday, Sept 27 schedule:

- i. Start times for each room will stagger according to the number of singers per part.

- ii. If possible, we will try to end all rooms between 2-3pm.
- iii. Results should be available around 5:15pm.
- iv. ALL DIRECTORS ARE REQUIRED TO STAY until results are posted and you have picked up music for your students, likely by 6pm.

C. Registration/Special Requests

- a. Registration deadline is Friday, September 5.
- b. Fees must be postmarked by Friday, September 5. DO NOT RELY ON YOUR BOOKKEEPER TO MAIL YOUR CHECK!
- c. Director Special Requests
 - i. Per MTVA guidelines, directors are required to participate in the auditions. Students will not be allowed to audition if their director does not fulfill his/her responsibilities at the audition.
 - ii. To be considered for excuse, except in the case of illness or family emergency, any request must be submitted along with the event application.
 - iii. If the request is approved, a fee of \$50 will be assessed per day missed (except in the case of illness or family emergency). This fee is designed to serve as a deterrent to unnecessary absences in fairness to those members who also have legitimate conflicts but choose to be present to perform their responsibilities. The money may be used at the discretion of the Board and recommendation of event chair to hire a qualified substitute to work in the place of the excused director.
 - iv. Directors, if you have students with disabilities auditioning, please email russellb@rcschools.net; it will help as rooms are assigned.
- d. Student Special Requests
 - i. Directors can, on a student's behalf, request a block of time if other school-related events present conflicts. These special requests are submitted at the time of registration.
 - ii. When you register, you must indicate the times each student will not be available, choosing from the following blocks of time: Thursday evening, Friday evening, Saturday morning, Saturday afternoon. You must also include a reason for each special request – only school-related requests can be honored.

D. Audition Material

- a. Audition material is available at mtva.org.
- b. Sound files are available for practice at mtva.org.
 - i. Some files have the individual part louder than the others; this will help facilitate the learning of the part.
 - ii. However, the file that has all voices equal will be the file that is used during the audition.
 - iii. Sound files might or might not include tempo variations according to the clinician's wish to best represent his/her interpretation.

E. Audition Cuts

- a. The student should learn all of the audition pieces, however only specific portions of each piece will be heard during the audition.
- b. Audition cuts will be published on Monday of the audition week for those parts who begin auditions on Thursday night and on Tuesday for those parts who begin auditions on Friday night.
- c. Audition cuts might or might not be the same across all parts, but will be chosen to give judges adequate representation of a student's range and musical/vocal abilities.

F. Logistics of the Audition

- a. Student logistics:
 - i. Registration will be immediately inside the gym entrance.
 - ii. Students will be assigned a unique number at registration – this is how you will be identified, so do not lose it!
 - iii. Students can warm-up in the Cafeteria. A few CD players will be available with the audition cuts available.
 - iv. It is recommended that students bring their own means of playing the audition music (personal players w/ headphones) in the warm-up area.
 - v. Around 10 minutes prior to your time, you may make your way down to your audition room. Check in with the door monitor.
- b. The Student audition:
 - i. When you enter the room, a curtain will stand between you and the judges. They will ask if you are ready and then push play on their CD player for the same audition cuts published. Once the CD begins, it will not be stopped.
 - ii. After the prepared portion of the audition, the sightreading portion will begin (see below).
- c. Parent logistics:
 - i. PARENTS ARE ONLY ALLOWED IN THE WARM-UP AREA.

G. Results from the Auditions:

- a. Directors will be given the results by 6pm on Saturday, September 27.
- b. Results will be posted at mtva.org sometime within the weekend.
- c. Number of students selected:
 - i. Treble: 144 members (36/part)
 - ii. Male: 96 members (24/part)
 - iii. Mixed: 144 members (20/part females and 16/part males)

H. Sightreading procedures:

- a. The sightreading portion of the audition will follow the singing of the prepared material.
- b. Upon completion of the prepared portion of the audition, one judge will place the sightreading sheet on a music stand. This judge will stay in full sight of the student through the completion of the sightreading portion of the audition. The

judge will ensure that the student does not write on the examples or duplicate the examples with digital media.

- c. Sopranos and Altos will be given examples in treble clef.
- d. Basses will be given examples in bass clef.
- e. Tenors will be given two sheets, one in the octave treble clef and one in bass clef.
- f. The same set of examples will be used in each room.
- g. Written instructions for sightreading will be posted in the common areas of the audition location and posted online. The instructions will include information about procedural order of the sightreading audition, clef information (with special instructions for tenor rooms, where two sheets will be made available), and all other pertinent information. The Mid-State/All-State Chair should oversee the creation and posting of these materials.
- h. Once the sheet is placed on the music stand, verbal instructions will be given to the student via a prerecorded sound file (.mp3, CD, etc). The recording will instruct the student which excerpt he/she will sing and give the opening pitch. The recording will read as such: “You are now being handed the sightreading examples. You will sightread Example Number __. (Opening pitch, then 30 second pass). After you hear the first pitch and a count-off, please sing the excerpt. (note, click, click...)”
- i. After the instructions and the opening pitch, a voice will say “One, two, ready, go” in tempo, concurrently with the preparatory clicks. The clicks will continue for the four measures of the exercise, plus an additional two measures of clicks.
- j. Students may sing the example on solfege or a neutral syllable of his/her choice. Please avoid “oo” vowels for the sake of volume. If the student cannot be heard the excerpt will be judged as incorrect.
- k. The student will be given the first pitch prior to having 30 seconds to review the material. During this time, students are encouraged to vocalize.
- l. Upon completion of the sightreading portion of the audition, the judge will take the sightreading sheet and the student may leave.
- m. Past examples of sightreading materials can be made available online for perusal and study.

I. Sightreading Example Guidelines

- a. Each example will be equal in difficulty.
- b. Each example will not exceed four measures in length.
- c. Each example will begin and end on the root of the key (DO).
- d. The first pitches will not exceed D-natural for Soprano/Tenors; C-natural for Bass/Alto.
- e. Each example will be in common time.
- f. The metronome marking of each example will be between 60-100 bpm.
- g. Each example can include the following rhythmic elements:
 - i. Quarter notes, half notes, whole notes, eighth notes
 - ii. Dotted quarter notes, dotted half notes
 - iii. Quarter rests, half rests.
- h. Each example will include stepwise melodic motion.
- i. Each example will include leaps of a third and/or leaps within the tonic triad.
- j. Examples will not stray from the diatonic major scale.
- k. Melodies can ascend higher and descend lower than the tonic.

- l. The overall range of the example will not exceed one octave. For example, if an example descends below the tonic to the fifth scale degree, it will not exceed in range the fifth scale degree above the tonic.
 - m. The Mid-State/All-State Chair will, in consultation with the MTVA Board, appoint someone to write the sightreading excerpts each year and create the corresponding sound files. This person can, but does not have to be, a member of MTVA.
- J. Sightreading Judging Guidelines
- a. Each adjudicator will judge the students on two separate indicators – rhythmic accuracy and pitch accuracy.
 - b. Each will be equal in value. Both indicators will be assessed on the same four-measure excerpt.
 - c. Judges will bubble in the Excerpt Number on the tally sheet for each student.
 - d. The highest and lowest sightreading scores for each student will be dropped and the average of the remaining three will contribute to the student’s mean score.
 - e. The performance and sightreading indicators will change in value according to the following schedule.

2014	Performance					Sightreading	
	Pitch	Tone	Rhythm	Diction	Musicality	Pitch	Rhythm
9	25%	25%	25%	13%	12%	0%	0%
10-12	24%	24%	24%	12%	11%	2.5%	2.5%

2015 and forward	Performance					Sightreading	
	Pitch	Tone	Rhythm	Diction	Musicality	Pitch	Rhythm
9	24%	24%	24%	12%	11%	2.5%	2.5%
10-12	23%	23%	23%	11%	10%	5%	5%

II. Event

- a. Location
 - i. Address:

First Baptist Church
108 S. Avenue South
Nashville, TN 37203
- b. Dates/Schedule

Monday, November 17, 2014
5:30pm – Registration
6:15pm – Meeting for all Students
6:30-9:00pm – Rehearsal

Tuesday, November 18, 2014
9:00am-12:00m – Rehearsal
1:30-4:30pm – Rehearsal
6:30, 7:15, and 8:00pm – Concerts (order TBD)

- c. Parking
 - i. Six Hundred parking spots are available on the FBC Campus. A detailed map will be available at mtva.org as we get closer to the event.
 - ii. Directors and students will have ample parking when you arrive on Monday afternoon.
 - iii. Most parents/guests will be able to park for free in the FBC lots on Tuesday evening for the concerts. Other parking is available at a fee downtown.
- d. A more detailed rehearsal/performance schedule will be available as we get closer to the event.
- e. Hotels:
 - i. MTVA is not reserving a block of hotel rooms at one of the downtown establishments (in fact, we are housing our clinicians in hotels 15-minutes away from downtown to save on money).
 - ii. Directors are responsible for securing your own hotel arrangements.
- f. General Suggestions:
 - i. Check into your hotel before the Monday evening rehearsals.
 - ii. Eat dinner before the Monday evening rehearsals.
 - iii. Downtown hotels can be upwards of \$175/night; consider choosing a hotel in south Nashville/Brentwood and driving into downtown Tuesday morning.
 - iv. **AVOID/PLAN FOR DOWNTOWN TRAFFIC.** This includes coming into downtown Monday evening and more so as you come into town Tuesday morning. If possible, avoid I-24 W coming in from the southeast or I-65 S coming in from the north. **RULES REGARDING ALL-STATE ELIGIBILITY CANNOT BE WAIVED DUE TO TRAFFIC CONCERNS** – it is better to arrive safe and early rather than late!
 - v. **READ AND KNOW THE RULES AND REGULATIONS REGARDING THIS EVENT FOUND IN THE MTVA HANDBOOK!**
 - vi. **IF YOU HAVE STUDENTS WHO MAKE ALL-STATE, KNOW THE RULES AND REGULATIONS FOR ALL-STATE AS FOUND ON THE TNMEA WEBSITE** and in the MTVA Handbook. Mid-State is one step of the All-State process, and timeliness/preparedness at this event are necessary to be considered for All-State.