

MTVA MIDDLE SCHOOL HONORS
AUDITION PROCEDURES
2014-2015

GENERAL INFORMATION/CHECK LIST:

- **Go online and register for the event at www.mtva.org**. The order you register your students is the order they should perform on your audition CD, so please keep a copy of your registration!!!! This is very important in order for your students to be scored correctly.
- Print the confirmation page and mail it along with your fees to the MTVA Treasurer:
Lori Busbey
208 Morton Avenue
Nashville, TN 37211
Keep a copy of this page so you will know the order to record your students
- Applications must be submitted and fees mailed (postmarked) by **OCTOBER 3RD, 2014**.
- This year's audition piece is "Adoramus Te" by Clemens. You will find a copy of the music and a MIDI recording on our website, www.mtva.org.
- Auditions are recorded and CDs are brought with you to the auditions on **Saturday, October 25th, 2014**.
- **ALL DIRECTORS MUST ATTEND THE AUDITION DAY!** It is very important to the success of the auditions for EVERY director to be present on 10/25/14.
- Auditions will be held at **Eagleville School**
500 Old Highway 99
Eagleville, TN 37060
- The performance venue is TBA.

PREPARING THE AUDITION TAPES:

1. Place the school name, the voice part, and number of students auditioning on the outside of each CD.
2. Use one CD per voice part – one for soprano, one for alto, etc.
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 within a quarter-tone of 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 other than the starting pitch, which should be played—not sung.
2. TEMPO - Sing the song no slower than m.m. 120.
3. KEYS – Students sing according to the part for which they are auditioning:
 - a. Soprano – Key of A, begin on A (second space, treble staff)
 - b. Alto – Key of D, begin on D (first space below treble staff)
 - c. Tenor – Key of B, begin on B (just below middle C)
 - d. Baritone – Key of D, begin on D (third line, bass staff)
4. AUDITION SELECTION–
 - a. Students will sing the entire selection of Adoramus Te (download music and MIDI files at www.mtva.org) accompanied by the 4-part recording.
 - b. The recording should BEGIN with the sounding of the pitches.

EXAMPLE AUDITION STEPS – YOUR FIRST ALTO STUDENT:

1. Press record on recording device.
2. Students says “Number one”.
3. Give D (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 play on MTVA audition CD (4-part recording track)
6. Student sings alto part along with the recording.
7. Press Stop on the recording device.

NOTES FOR DIRECTORS:

1. Auditions will be judged by the same standards as All-State.
2. CDs 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 choir 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*.
5. *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. #5 should be left blank on the form (or clearly marked out). DO NOT RE-NUMBER STUDENTS, AS THIS CAUSES PROBLEMS ON THE AUDITION DAY!

ADJUDICATION DAY DUTIES

All directors submitting students to audition must bring their audition CDs and be prepared to assist with the adjudication on Saturday, October 25th, 2014 at Eagleville School. Assignments for the day will be sent prior to the audition day.

HELPFUL HINTS:

- Use the best recording equipment you can find. Make sure the student can be clearly heard, as well as the pitches on the MTVA audition CD. 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 recording program, 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 in this document, could result in disqualification. ***

PLEASE CONTACT ME IF YOU HAVE ANY QUESTIONS ABOUT THE AUDITION
PROCESS. I WILL BE GLAD TO HELP IN ANY WAY!

MISSY COOK

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