

MTVA Middle School Honors  
Audition procedures  
2018-2019

General Information/Check List:

- Go online and register for the event at [www.mtva.org](http://www.mtva.org). The order you register your students is the order they should perform on your audition recordings, 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:

Alexis Yatuzis-Derryberry

212 Braley Court Murfreesboro, TN 37129

*If this is your first activity of the year then be aware you will also need to pay the \$50 school activity fee.*

Keep a copy of the confirmation/registration page so you will know the order to record your students

- Applications must be submitted and fees mailed (postmarked) by OCTOBER 12<sup>th</sup> 2018.

- This year's audition piece is "Cantate Domino" by Giuseppe Pitoni. You will find a copy of the music and a MIDI recording on our website, [www.mtva.org](http://www.mtva.org).

- Auditions are recorded and will be judged online this year. More info to follow regarding this!

- The performance venue is unknown at this time.

## Preparing the audition recordings:

1. 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. Once the students are registered DO NOT change their registration number.**

2. The pitch used on the audition tape must be within a quarter-tone of A-440.

3. Do not electronically enhance the student's voice in any way. Doing so will result in disqualification.

## Recording procedures:

1. Students will sing the first verse of My Country, tis of Thee a cappella. There may be **no other sounds** (this includes hearing the director take a breath) 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 “Cantate Domino” (download music and MIDI files at [www.mtva.org](http://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. 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\*.
3. 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\*.
- 4.\*Auditions should be omitted from the submitted recordings to be adjudicated. 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!**

## 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](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 in this document could result in disqualification.***

If you have questions regarding any of the above information please don't hesitate to ask. I'm happy to help in any way I can.

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