

## District XII All-District Choir Middle School Audition Information

### Audition Registration - Costs and Procedures

- The cost varies between \$8 and \$11 per student based upon the total number of students auditioning
- Students are registered by their teacher on a link that is sent out about a month prior to the audition. Students can use the form to choose the voice part and preferred audition time block
- Teachers are sent a spreadsheet to confirm all names, spellings voice parts, and time requests
- Teachers can update and make corrections up to a certain date set by the chair of the event. Usually all edit are complete three weeks prior to event.

### Audition Location

- The location rotates among middle schools of directors. Directors can expect to host and/chair the event every couple of years

### Audition Piece

- Alternating each year between “How Can I Keep from Singing” and “Shenandoah”

### Sight-Reading Procedures

- Students have 30 seconds to study the sight-reading example before they perform it for a score
- The sight-reading s a 4-measure excerpt written by the District Representative
- The example has the following limits:
  - stepwise motion, diatonic (Do-So), in 4/4
  - may contain half notes, quarter notes/rests, no syncopation
  - basses sing in D, tenors in G, altos in D and sopranos in F
- Students may practice aloud in the practice period.
- Students may use any sight-reading text they prefer- solfege, numbers, neutral syllable.
- Students are not marked down for inaccuracies in solfege, numbers, etc.- they are only judges on pitches and rhythms

### Judges (who and how they are funded)

- Audition chair selects and two judges per room with recommendations from the district
- Judges are not voice teachers of the auditioning students
- Judges are not current MS choral directors in the district
- The judges’ fees are paid through the student audition fees that are charged per student

### Who staffs the auditions?

- The audition chair/host staff the auditions, teachers do all registrations throughout the day, students who are not auditioning or parent volunteers serve as room proctors,

### Audition Rubric

- A rubric evaluates a three-step audition (Prepared Piece, Diatonic Scale, and Sight Reading) totaling 100 points from each judge:
  - Intonation of Prepared Piece (20 points),
  - Rhythmic Accuracy of Prepared Piece (20 points)
  - Tone Quality of Prepared Piece (20 points)
  - Diction of Prepared Piece (10 points)

- Musicianship of Prepared Piece (10 points)
- Diatonic Scale on Solfege (Pitch Accuracy 5 points, Tone Quality 5 points)
- Sight Reading (10 points)
- After 5-10 auditions, adult room runners collect score sheets and take them to the tabulation room
- Tabulators check the judges' scores for accuracy and enter the scores into a scoring spreadsheet. Once all scores are entered, the spreadsheet is sorted by voice part, then by highest to lowest score. Tabulators are selected by the event chair and can only be staffed by Directors (no parents)

#### Results and How They are Announced

- There is an SSA group and an SATB group
- Upon the completion of auditions, scores are sorted from highest to lowest.
- The cutoff scores are decided by the directors based upon the size of the stage which will house the District Event. Teachers look at the smallest groups of auditioning students and look for a natural cut off in the scores to find the total number of the first section. The remaining sections are then balanced accordingly.
- In the event of a tie, the students with the higher sight reading is selected. If there is a secondary tie, intonation is the tie breaker.
- Two to three alternates are selected per voice part.
- Sopranos and altos are divided among the two ensembles (SSA & SATB) by alternation of rank, i.e. odd ranking placed into SATB, even ranking placed into SSA
- All tenors and basses are placed into the SATB ensemble

#### Description of Hospitality for Judges

- Light breakfast is provided for judges along with a full lunch during their break
- Snacks and lunch are provided for volunteers as well.

#### Concessions/Meals Available for Auditionees

- No meals are available for auditioning students, but concessions are sold by the host school if they choose to do so