

MTVA Elementary Honor Choir Information

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 members of MTVA may select their students in grade 4-6 to audition for the group.
- Students must be enrolled in their school's choral program to be eligible to audition. There is a \$5.00 audition fee per student. If this is the first MTVA event that you are registering for, don't forget to include your membership fee of \$25.00 and your school activity fee of \$50.00.
- Applications must be completed and fees **postmarked** by **September 26, 2011, or late fees will be incurred.** Please refer to the handbook for late fee policy.
- Auditions for MTVA Elementary Honor Choir are recorded auditions. Students 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
- Directors bring the recorded auditions (cassettes/cds) with them to the adjudication. This year the adjudication will be **October 29, 2011**, at Christiana Middle School.
- The concert for this event will be on **March 6, 2012**, at Brentwood United Methodist Church, Brentwood, TN, and will include the Middle School Honor Choir.
- Registration forms for this event are located at www.mtva.org . 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**

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 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 October 29, 2011, at Christiana 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. 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!

Laura Coppage
MTVA Elementary Honors Chairperson
(615) 904-3885 (school)
(615) 480-5180 (cell)
coppagel@rcschools.net