

The Southern California Regional Jr. High Honor Choir
A Presentation of the Southern California Vocal Association

Dear Director,

Thank you for encouraging your student(s) to audition for the Jr. High Honor Choir. This document is to give you information in helping your student prepare for the audition and what happens afterwards.

IMPORTANT DATES

All dates are tentative, subject to the current COVID-19 situation. Once these dates are confirmed, all deadlines are firm and WILL NOT be extended, and the guidelines CANNOT be altered. Keeping strict deadlines allows students and SCVA staff the greatest amount of time to prepare for the Honor Choir rehearsals and performance.

- Online Audition Application Available: DATE
- Online Audition Application & Payment Deadline: DATE
- Audition times and sites confirmed on SCVA Website: DATE
- Audition Results posted on SCVA Website: DATE
- Regional Rehearsal: DATE
- Honor Choir Final Rehearsal and Performance: DATE... Concert at 6:00pm

The performance is open to the public. General admission tickets are \$10.00 each may be purchased at the venue on the day of the concert (CASH ONLY).

HOW TO SCHEDULE AN AUDITION

1. Students need to be available for all dates as listed above. If your student(s) are selected, they must participate in all dates or your school may be suspended for one full year from Honor Choir.
2. Students will click on “**On-Line Honor Choir Audition Application**” (may not be enabled at this time)
3. Student will enter all information and select the desired audition site on the on-line form. Once an audition site fills-up, it will no longer be available for selection.
4. The student must also accurately enter his/her director's e-mail address. *The director's SCVA Membership must be current.*
5. After a student submits an application, an automated e-mail message will be sent to you for each student who applies. The e-mail message will include a link to a special web-page that allows you, the director, to see a list all of your students who have applied, and allows a selection of "Approve" or "Reject" for each student.
6. The first time a director approves or rejects a student's application for the current Honor Choir cycle, an additional form allows a director to indicate, review, and/or change contact and school information. A director's information is then stored for each new applicant (Information from directors whose students participated last year was previously stored).

AUDITION PROCEDURE

The Audition (100 points total)

SCVA recommends that students and teachers review each of these skills so that all singers are well prepared.

SOLO: (40 points) Students will sing the first verse, a cappella of America (My Country Tis of Thee) Students will be evaluated on preparation, interpretation, musicality, and tone quality. For sopranos, altos, and unchanged male voices, they will start on an F pitch. Changed male voices may start on C3 if it is more comfortable. Please note, adjudicators know to be flexible with the boys with their voices.

THEORY: (12 points) Students will sing a major scale, major triad, minor triad, and octave leap on any syllable. Students will be evaluated on pitch accuracy. Sopranos, altos, and unchanged male voices will start on middle C. Changed male voices may start on F or C3 depending on their changed voice.

TONAL MEMORY: (20 points) Five-note passages will be played on the piano for the singer to repeat, sung on any syllable.

RHYTHM READING: (8 points) A single-line will be supplied and the student may count out the example with any syllable.

SIGHT-READING: (20 points) A single-line, unaccompanied melody will be supplied, sung on any syllable. Humming during preparation is permitted.

STUDENT GUIDELINES AND POLICIES

1. All students auditioning for Jr. High Honor Choir must be members in good standing with their school choral program and their conductors must be current members of SCVA. Teachers may pay their dues online or by contacting the SCVA Vice President of Membership.
2. When a student drops out of the Jr. High Honor Choir or does not attend rehearsal, the student's school is subject to suspension from Honor Choir the following school year. The SCVA board makes the final determination regarding the one-year suspension of the school after reviewing the situation and consulting honor choir policy. Given our time constraints, when a student drops out of Honor Choir it is impossible for us to fill their vacancy. *Therefore, when a student drops out, another deserving student misses out on this wonderful opportunity.*
3. Students who must, out of extreme necessity (such as death in the family or serious illness) drop out of Honor Choir after being accepted are required to provide a signed, written note from their parents and from their school choral director stating the reasons for the drop out. The note **MUST** be sent immediately to the Honor Choir coordinator by mail, email or hand-delivered by the student, parent or director.

Unacceptable reasons for dropping Honor Choir:

- Schedule **conflicts of any kind**, such as an athletic event, drama or choir rehearsal or performance, transportation issues, a student deciding he/she would rather not participate, doesn't like the music, or doesn't want to work with a particular conductor.
- If a student drops for any reason, a panel of members from the SCVA Board will consider the reason given and decide whether it is an unacceptable or acceptable reason.
- Choral directors are responsible for remaining informed about their students' continued participation in the Honor Choir.

Acceptable reasons for dropping Honor Choir:

- Death in the family just before the concert
- A serious medical problem, or other matters of an equally serious nature.

PARTICIPATION FEES AND PAYMENT OPTIONS

Audition Fee - \$10.00

Participation Fee - \$65.00

Payment Options

- PayPal via the SCVA website (major credit cards are accepted)
- School Check (payable to SCVA)
- Booster Check (payable to SCVA)
- Money Order (payable to SCVA)
- No cash...No personal checks

AFTER AUDITIONS

If your student(s) gets into Jr. High Honor Choir, they will be receiving their music, sent to your school site. They will also get practice tracks to work on at home. Please help the student(s) get prepared.

VOLUNTEER OPORTUNITIES FOR DIRECTORS

There will be a need with help at the Regional Rehearsal, the final rehearsal, and the performance. SCVA expects directors that have two or more students in honor choir to volunteer at one event. Opportunities include:

- Registration at Regional Rehearsal
- Leading sectionals at Regional Rehearsal
- Registration at final rehearsal
- Chaperoning the final rehearsal (3 hour increments)
- Ticket sales for the performance
- Clean-up after the performance

If you have any additional questions, please do not hesitate to contact Amanda Benavides at: amandabenavides@gmail.com or 626.933.6000 ext. 6446.

Amanda Benavides
Mesa Robles School
16060 Mesa Robles Dr.
Hacienda Heights, CA 91745