

2008 EASTERN DIVISION JUNIOR HIGH HONOR CHOIR

ACDA EASTERN DIVISION CONVENTION
HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, FEBRUARY 13-16, 2008
ANTHONY SEARS, CONDUCTOR

Honor Choir Co-Chair
Mrs. Marily Berrie
Hackettstown Middle School
500 Washington Street
Hackettstown, NJ 07840
908-852-8554
mberrie@hackettstown.org

Honor Choir Co-Chair
Mr. Jack Idenden
White Township School
565 CR 519
Belvidere, NJ 07823
908-453-2013
mreye@comcast.net

ELIGIBILITY AND EXPECTATIONS

- The applicant must be in 7th, 8th or 9th grade as of **January 2008**.
- The applicant must be a member in good standing in either the nominating director's voice studio or choral ensemble, with at least a 50% attendance record.
- Honor Choir members will be responsible for their own expenses including application fees, registration fees, meals, housing and transportation.
- **THERE WILL BE SCHOLARSHIPS AVAILABLE BASED ON NEED. See your sponsoring director for further details.**
- The applicant must be capable of responsible rehearsal behavior and sustained focused attention for the duration of all Honor Choir activities.
- The ACDA definition of vocal parts comes from the *Harvard Dictionary of Music*: Tenor — The highest natural voice of men.
- It is the responsibility of the nominating ACDA choral director to ensure that the music is learned in advance of the Honor Choir's first rehearsal. Re-auditions will take place prior to that rehearsal. **Students who do not know their music will not be allowed to participate in the honor choir.**
- Sponsoring Directors must be members in good standing of ACDA at the time of application and the convention. It is expected that sponsoring directors will be in attendance at the convention.
- **Chaperone Statement of Obligation:** If this applicant is selected for the 2008 ACDA Eastern Division Junior High Honor Choir, in Hartford, Connecticut, February 13-16, 2008, I understand that I will be staying in the official Honor Choir hotel with the participant. I further understand that I will be responsible for ensuring that the applicant attends all Honor Choir rehearsals and the convention performance. I understand that ACDA is not responsible for the costs of my transportation, lodging, show, or meals. I also understand that I will be expected to assume at least one duty during this honor choir experience. I certify that I am at least 21 years old as of October 1, 2007.

PROCEDURE

- Complete the application.
- Use a high quality cassette or CD, labeled with the name of the student, the student's grade and his/her voice part. Please do not record earlier than September 1st, 2007. Recordings will not be returned.
- The recorded audition has 3 parts which must appear in the order listed:
 1. The applicant will clearly state his/her name, grade, voice part.
 2. The applicant will sing two diatonic scales (each spanning the range of an octave), using the pitches indicated below for their voice part. Scales must be sung a cappella, using the vowel sound "Ah" Legato style. **The initial pitch must sound prior to the sung scale.**

Tempo: mm = 66 to 80 (one pitch = one beat).

High Scale — ascend, breath, descend

Low Scale — ascend, breath, descend

Each scale should be announced, filling the blank with the appropriate information:

"My starting pitch for this scale is ____."

| Voice Part | Starting Pitches |
|------------|--|
| SOPRANO | 1. A above mC 2. D above mC |
| ALTO | 1. E above mC 2. A below mC |
| TENOR | 1. G below mC 2. E below mC* |
| BASS | 1. D below mC 2. B ^b 8va below mC* |

* *May be sung descending first*

3. "Dona Nobis Pacem"

The song must be sung a cappella. Starting pitches are given below. **The initial pitch must sound prior to the sung solo.** The applicant will introduce the solo by speaking the following sentence, filling the blank with the appropriate information:

"My starting pitch for "Dona Nobis Pacem" is ____."

| Voice Part | Starting Pitch |
|------------|-----------------------|
| SOPRANO | 1. A above mC |
| ALTO | 1. F above mC |
| TENOR | 1. A below mC |
| BASS | 1. E \flat below mC |

♩ = 66-76

Dona Nobis Pacem

Do_ na no_bis pa_ cem, pa-cem. Do__ na_ no__ bis pa_____ cem.

9
Do - na no__ bis pa-cem, Do-na no-bis pa_____ cem.

17
Do - na no_____ bis__ pa- cem, Do - na no - bis pa_____ cem.

- Include a non-refundable application fee of \$25, payable to "ACDA Eastern Division."
- Mail the completed application package to: **Mr. Jack Idenden**
ACDA Eastern Division JH Honor Choir Co-Chair
c/o White Township School
565 CR 519
Belvidere, NJ 07823
- The application package must be postmarked no later than 9/21/2007.

NOTE: The selection committee will meet on October 5, 2007. Tapes/application materials received after this time cannot be considered, even if they are postmarked prior to the September 21, 2007 deadline. It is the responsibility of the director to ensure tape/application arrival prior to the selection committee date.

GENERAL INFORMATION

- Acceptance letters will be mailed no later than 10/15/2007.
- The Junior High Honor Choir will be housed and rehearse at the Crowne Plaza Hartford Downtown. A block of rooms (and a group room rate) is being established for Junior High Honor Choir members and their families/chaperone. It is estimated that the room rate will be \$109/night for a double/triple (plus tax).
- The fee for participation in the Junior High Honor Choir will not exceed \$300 and will include music, activity fees, and two dinners + 3 breakfasts and 3 lunches.
- Parents/Chaperones will need to be with their singer(s) for breakfasts and lunches. Any meal options that become available will be included with registration materials.
- The concert will be at Central Connecticut State University, one of Hartford's most prestigious concert venues, on Saturday afternoon, February 16, 2008.
- Each singer will be given 2 complimentary tickets for the Honor Choir Concert for the use of his/her family.

APPLICATION FOR 2008 EASTERN DIVISION JUNIOR HIGH HONOR CHOIR

ACDA EASTERN DIVISION CONVENTION

HARTFORD, CONNECTICUT, FEBRUARY 13-16, 2008

ANTHONY SEARS, CONDUCTOR

TO BE COMPLETED BY THE NOMINATING CHORAL DIRECTOR. DUPLICATE AS NEEDED.

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY IN INK.

Name of Student _____ Home Phone () _____

Address _____ City _____

State _____ Zip Code _____ Age (as of 2/1/2008) _____

Voice part Circle one: S A T B

Grade in school (as of January 2008) Circle one: 7 8 9

School _____ School District _____

School Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Nominating Director _____ Home Phone () _____

Work Phone () _____ Cell Phone () _____

Home Address _____ City _____ State _____ Zip Code _____

Fax Number () _____ Email _____

ACDA Membership Number _____ Expiration Date _____

Signatures

If selected as a member of the 2008 ACDA Eastern Division Junior High Honor Choir, I am prepared to meet all financial, musical and behavioral requirements, as well as all rehearsal obligations.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent/Guardian Signature _____ Date _____

Nominating Director Signature _____ Date _____

Administrator Signature _____ Date _____

Send the entire application package to Jack Idenden (address on previous page). The package must be postmarked no later than 9/21/2007.

- Completed application, including all signatures.
- Audition cassette or CD, appropriately and completely labelled.
- Non-refundable application fee of \$25, payable to "ACDA Eastern Division."

Judging Rubric for This Choir & Some Additional Comments

- Each singer will be scored

| | |
|--|------------------|
| | 1. on the scales |
| | 2. on the solo |
- Each of these scores will have three components:

| |
|---------------|
| Vocal Quality |
| Intonation |
| Musicianship |
- Singers will be scored on a 10-point scale, 1 being superior, and 10 unacceptable

The Managers are including the following list to help directors avoid common pitfalls which occurred in the auditions for New York:

- "band scales" (i.e. long first note followed by a slide up to the octave)
- scales with less (or more) than 8 tones or non-diatonic scales
- tempo too fast to judge intonation
- the singer failed to begin on the pitch given by the director
- scoops and slides to pitches
- singer utilized belted or forced tone
- incorrect rhythm
- breathing in the middle of scales and/or phrases
- poor tape quality (either because of background noise or technical difficulties)
- use of over-recorded tapes: sometimes it was hard to know which was the audition and which was the echo of previous material
- CDs with a volume so low that it was virtually impossible to hear clearly
- instrumental pitches were played while the student sang (i.e. first note[s] played as the student sang)
- excessive vibrato made judging intonation very difficult
- singer repeated "hah", "lah", "mah" syllable throughout scales
- non-legato style on scale performance
- no audible pitch on the the tape/CD before singer began to sing the scale/solo
- if using a CD, please make sure it is playable on a standard CD player

In general, please listen to your tapes/CDs before you send them.

One final note to directors: Please keep in mind that the rehearsals are long and can become tedious. Be sure that your singers are able to maintain their focus during these rehearsals. Singers must be able to follow directions and act appropriately during all Honor Choir events. They should understand that membership in the choir may be terminated if they fail to comply with the rules set forth by ACDA and/or the managers of the choir.