



## 2021 Chorus Auditions Manual

This manual includes specific information about auditions for the NMEA All-State Chorus. (Please refer to the other manuals for information about auditions for the All-State Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Band.)

### **WHO IS ELIGIBLE TO AUDITION FOR THE 2021 ALL-STATE CHORUS?**

- Students must be chosen by their director and be declared eligible for auditions by their administration. No student will be eligible without the permission of the music director and administrator.
- All students **MUST** be currently participating in the music program of the school in which they are enrolled.
- Students in grades 9, 10, 11 and 12 who are enrolled in their school's choir program may audition for chorus.
- If no music program exists in the school, students may be sponsored by their private music teacher. That teacher must be an active member of NMEA.
- Final determination of student eligibility is made by each school's music teacher and administration.
- No student is eligible if his/her director is not a current member of NMEA/NAfME and is not planning to attend the in-service conference/clinic.
- No student below ninth grade will be accepted in any All-State ensemble.
- Students may audition for multiple All-State ensembles but must prioritize their ensemble choice. A separate application and fee are required for **EACH** audition.
- Directors will verify, on the students' application, the eligibility of the student(s).

## CONTENT OF THE CHORUS AUDITION:

The timeline for submitting audition live recording will be September 23-25. **No entries will be accepted before or after these dates.**

- A nine-minute time limit will be observed for each audition.
- Auditions for all students will be recorded live by the respective directors at their respective schools and live-recorded to the OPUS website (OpusEvent.com).
- Only the director or designated adult and the student are to be in the room at the time of the actual audition.
- The student will perform:
  - One arpeggio  
With chordal accompaniment only played (the tonic pitch will be sounded 4 times in tempo)
  - One scale:  
Without accompaniment (only the tonic pitch will be sounded 4 times in tempo)
- Selections from the All-State Chorus repertoire announced by 8:00 a.m. on Sept 23<sup>rd</sup>
- A mp3 accompaniment will be used for all auditions.
- Selections using an accompaniment will use the accompaniment mp3; if the selection is to be performed a cappella, all the voice lines will be played on the accompaniment mp3. All applicants must use the mp3 accompaniment furnished by NMEA.

## HOW ARE APPLICATIONS SUBMITTED?

All applications will be submitted through the OPUS website (OpusEvent.com).

Guidelines for submitting applications:

- Use only the website (OpusEvent.com) for registration and live upload.
- Director's membership fee must be completed by accessing the NAFME website.
- It is the director's responsibility to check the accuracy of the information on this confirmation and correct any errors. Changes in a student's voice classification made after the September 13 deadline will result in creating a new application.

## AUDITION FEES AND DEADLINES:

- The fee for each audition is \$25.00. The only way to submit an application is through the website (OpusEvent.com).
- The application deadline is September 6, 2021. All applications submitted after midnight on September 6, 2021 will incur a \$20.00 late fee. (That fee is in addition to the regular application fee.) Late applications will be accepted from September 7 until September 13, 2021. No applications will be accepted after September 13, 2021.
- Once submission is complete there will be no changes allowed to the application. If a change in instrument/voice is required, the applicant will need to submit a new application and pay the application fee again.

## NOTIFICATION OF AUDITION RESULTS:

Notification of acceptance into an All-State ensemble will be made via email. Directors of all students auditioning will be sent results two days prior to public release of results. Results are scheduled to be posted on Wednesday, October 18, 2021.

## HOUSING INFORMATION:

- Participating schools are responsible for their own housing. Rooms will be filled on a first come-first served basis. The official conference hotels for the NMEA In-service Conference/Clinic are:
  - ✓ Embassy Suites Lincoln, 1040 P Street, (402) 474-1111
  - ✓ The Graduate, 141 North 9th Street, (402) 475-4011
  - ✓ The Cornhusker Hotel, 333 South 13th Street (402) 474-7474
  - ✓ Courtyard by Marriott, 808 R Street (402) 904-5135
- November 1, 2021 is the deadline for reserving rooms at the special conference rates at the three official conference hotels. The Cornhusker Hotel will not refund cancellations made after November 1.
- Be sure to identify yourself as a music director attending the NMEA Conference when you make your reservations at Lincoln area hotels.

## DIRECTOR'S RESPONSIBILITIES:

- The director of all students accepted for the All-State Chorus will receive a packet of forms to give to each student. This will be a PDF file that you receive by email. It should be printed

and given to the student or forwarded to a parent's email address. Included in this packet will be a congratulatory letter, the order form for tickets to the All-State final concert, links to the order forms for All-State memorabilia (apparel, CDs, DVDs, plaques, photos, etc.), and the student's participation contract.

- All-State Student Contracts - Selection to prestigious All-State ensembles carries with it an implied level of maturity. Therefore, each student will be expected to complete and sign a participant's contract and medical release form indicating his/her agreement to fulfill all responsibilities. Contracts will be sent to directors by email at the time of notification of acceptance into All State ensembles. It is the director's responsibility to make sure that the student completes each contract and their parents, notarized and the HARD COPY returned to NMEA. **A HARD COPY of the contracts must be returned to the NMEA Auditions Chair by November 1st.** Emailing the contracts is not acceptable as the forms need to be notarized.
- All participating schools and their directors are responsible for the behavior and well-being of students selected for the All-State ensembles.
- It is the director's responsibility to notify the Ensemble Affairs Director if their all state students are part of a performing or a demonstration group.

## ALL-STATE CHORUS REHEARSAL SCHEDULE (Tentative based on space available)

### Wednesday, NOVEMBER 17<sup>th</sup>

6:30 – 9:00 P.M. – All-State Chorus Rehearsal (Kimball Recital Hall)

### Thursday, NOVEMBER 18<sup>th</sup>

8:00 – 10:00 A.M. – All-State Chorus Rehearsal (Kimball Recital Hall)

1:00 – 3:30 P.M. – All-State Chorus Rehearsal (Kimball Recital Hall)

6:00 – 8:00 P.M. – All-State Chorus Rehearsal (Kimball Recital Hall)

### Friday, NOVEMBER 19<sup>th</sup>

8:00 – 10:00 A.M. – All-State Chorus Rehearsal (Kimball Recital Hall)

1:15-1:45 P.M. – All-State Chorus Meets in Kimball Recital Hall

1:45 – 2:30 P.M. – All-State Chorus Final Rehearsal in Lied Center

4:30 P.M. – All-State Jazz Band and Chorus Final Concert

(Any adjustments to this schedule will be announced during rehearsals. Check the NMEA website for a complete student schedule – [www.nmeanebraska.org](http://www.nmeanebraska.org).)

## NMEA ALL-STATE STUDENT REHEARSAL POLICY

Students participating in NMEA All-State ensembles are expected to attend and participate in all scheduled rehearsals and the final concert performance. Absences from any rehearsals because of an emergency reason will be considered on an individual basis to be determined by the respective clinic group chairman and the NMEA President.

Note: It is expected that all students actively participate in rehearsals. If a student cannot participate in a rehearsal due to illness it is considered a missed rehearsal.

Regardless if students stay in their own homes or a hotel, it is the director's responsibility to get their students to All-State rehearsals on time. NMEA will not be responsible for contacting any students absent from rehearsal.

### PLEASE BE AWARE THAT...

- Any student who is a member of an ensemble performing as an "NMEA Performance Group" during the conference/clinic may be excused from All-State rehearsal 30 minutes prior to the start of the performance. The student is expected to return to the All-State rehearsal immediately after the performance if the All-State rehearsal is still in progress.
- Any student who is a member of an ensemble performing as a demonstration group during the conference/clinic may be excused from All-State rehearsal 15 minutes prior to the start of the performance. The student is expected to return to the All-State rehearsal immediately after the performance if the All-State rehearsal is still in progress.

### Chorus Recording Procedure and Script

To begin, you will need to have the sound track file ready to play back while the student is auditioning. At the beginning of the audition you will record your voice reading the student voice part (Ex: Tenor I). The remainder of the recording will be the student's performance. Please follow this script exactly! You will record each portion of the audition separately.

Additional note: before you begin the actual recording make sure you have a good balance between the recording and the student singing.

#### Chorus Director's Script

Follow and announce the script exactly as follows:

1. Press RECORD. Read the director's statement into the digital recorder: "This is an audition for Chorus: (voice part)." (For example: "This is an audition for Chorus: Tenor I.") Do not identify your student by name or school. PLEASE BE SURE TO READ THE DIRECTOR'S STATEMENT EXACTLY AS IT IS PRINTED. DO NOT VARY FROM THIS SCRIPT IN ANY WAY.
2. Press play on the sound track. The student will perform the audition following the instructions given on the sound track.
3. (Press STOP if this is the end of the audition.)
4. Listen to enough of the recording to be sure that the student was recorded. If the audition was successfully recorded look for the green check mark of completion on the application. You are now finished and can set up for the next audition.

#### All-State Chorus Auditions – Required Scales and Arpeggios

The scale will be sung one time through acapella. The arpeggio is to be sung through once with the chordal accompaniment only. In each instance, the beginning pitch will be played 4 times in tempo. Tempo will be quarter note = 68. Male voices sing 8va basso.

#### **SCALE - the accompanist will sound only the tonic pitch.**

To be sung by soprano and tenor:



To be sung by alto and bass:



**ARPEGGIOS – The accompanist will sound only the starting pitch.**

To be sung by soprano and tenor (one octave lower) – will be sung once with accompaniment only:

A musical score for soprano and tenor with piano accompaniment. The score is in 2/4 time and B-flat major. The vocal line consists of three phrases: "Ah", "Oh", and "Oo", each followed by a dashed line indicating a long note. The piano accompaniment features a continuous arpeggiated pattern in the right hand and a simple harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.

To be sung by alto and bass (one octave lower) – will be sung once with accompaniment only:

A musical score for alto and bass with piano accompaniment. The score is in 2/4 time and B-flat major. The vocal line consists of three phrases: "Ah", "Oh", and "Oo", each followed by a dashed line indicating a long note. The piano accompaniment features a continuous arpeggiated pattern in the right hand and a simple harmonic accompaniment in the left hand.