

ALL-STATE CHORUS AUDITION RULES

2017-2018

The All-State Chorus program was organized to provide an opportunity for superior choral students in South Carolina to sing together and to represent the state in statewide events. Students who participate in All-State have an opportunity to further utilize the skills obtained and developed in their local school programs. The South Carolina All-State Chorus program provides an intensive and demanding vocal experience, which fosters self-discipline and personal growth as well as musicianship.

A. MEMBERSHIP

1. Membership in the All-State Mixed Chorus, All-State Women's Chorus and All-State Men's Chorus is on the basis of total points received in the audition. Students in the 10th, 11th, 12th grades must be enrolled for credit for both semesters in a school choral program directed by a member in good standing of SCMEA and NAFME. Home-schooled students who are enrolled in a school choral program must provide documentation which qualifies them as 10th, 11th, or 12th grade student at the time of registration. A copy of the director/member's current membership card should be sent with the registration form. A director may not sponsor students who are enrolled in a school other than his/her own. Failure to comply with these rules will result in the involved student(s) not being able to participate in the All-State weekend and their school being suspended from participating in auditions for the next academic year.
2. SCMEA and NAFME membership checks should be sent to the SCMEA MEMBERSHIP CHAIRMAN. A list of Choral Division members will be compiled and checked before requests are accepted. If your membership card expires between October and November, and you do not receive your new registration card before your November audition date, please take the time to call NAFME and have documentation that NAFME is currently processing your membership. This will prevent slowing your audition process down while waiting for verification from NAFME National Headquarters.

B. REGISTRATION FOR AUDITIONS

1. **Choral directors should limit registration only to students who possess superior musical skills. Audition registration information can be found at <http://www.scmea.net/divisions/choraldivision>.**
2. Teachers must submit All-State Audition Registration through the process designated by the All-State Chairman. The registration process is completed online, then followed by a hardcopy mailing.
3. Audition Registration Forms must be signed by the sponsoring choral director and the principal of each participating school.
4. The audition fee is fifteen dollars (\$15.00) per student and must be remitted to the All-State Chairman along with a hard copy of the Audition Request Form. Please send only one school check, personal check, or money order payable to SCMEA Choral Division.

5. ****Online registration will close at noon on Friday, September 29, 2017.**

Registration forms and appropriate fees must be postmarked by Friday, September 29. (LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL BE RETURNED) It is recommended that this application be sent by certified mail. Please send Registration to: Lizzi Elliott, Andrew Jackson High School, 6925 Kershaw Camden Hwy, Kershaw, SC 29067.

6. Once the audition request form has been submitted to the All-State Chairperson, no refunds will be made, no substitutions of names will be allowed, and no changes can be made.

C. ALL-STATE REGISTRATION INSTRUCTIONS

ALL REGISTRATION MUST BE DONE ONLINE

Go to <http://www.scmea.net/divisions/choraldivision>. Click the link titled: 2017-2018 All-State Online Registration Instructions. Follow all directions precisely and accurately. **All registering directors MUST have a working e-mail address that they check frequently. Please carefully check your e-mail address as you type it on the registration form.**

Questions about eligibility and the online registration process should be directed to Lizzi Elliott at Lizzi.Elliott@lcsdmail.net

D. AUDITIONS

1. Auditions will be held on November 6-9, 2017 at Cayce United Methodist Church, 1600 12th St, Cayce, SC 29033

2. Auditions will be divided into two phases:

- a. Prepared audition selection: SSATB "Honor and Glory" by J. S. Bach
- b. Sight-Singing

3. The prepared audition selection portion of the South Carolina All-State Chorus auditions will be blind auditions. Students will be placed behind a curtain, screen, or partition. If this is not possible, judges will sit with their backs to the students.

4. Each student will be given a number of points on each phase of the audition. Individual singers will be selected according to their overall performance at the audition based on the total number of points received in the two phases listed above.

5. Basic techniques and sight-singing will be judged individually. The ensemble will audition in quintets before six judges. Three judges will adjudicate the Soprano 1, Soprano 2, and Alto voice parts simultaneously, and three judges will adjudicate the Tenor and Bass voice parts simultaneously. Each student will receive scores from three judges for the prepared piece. Individual student scores for the prepared piece, "Honor and Glory", will be determined immediately. **The score range will be 0 – 50 from each judge. Each judge will award up to ten points in each of the following categories: Pitch and Rhythmic Accuracy, Intonation, Diction, Tone Quality, and Musicality.** Scores from all

three judges will be combined for a total score for the prepared piece. The maximum score possible for the prepared piece will be 150 (50 points from three judges).

6. Sight-singing material will be selected by the All-State Committee Chairperson and the Audition Coordinator. After successfully completing the prepared selection, all students will sight-sing individually for one judge in a separate audition room. After completing the sight-singing portion of the audition process, students will leave the building and have no contact with students who are waiting to go into the sight-singing room.

7. Sight-Singing Process:

All directions will be given from a recorded prompt. Students will be given the tonic triad and the beginning pitch. They will have 60 seconds to practice the 4 measure piece. After 60 seconds, the students will hear the tonic triad and the beginning pitch again. The students will have 30 seconds to sing through the piece. The student must set his own tempo. Count off tempo will NOT be given. The student may sing on solfege, numbers, la, ta, count-singing, etc. **The score range will be 0 – 10.** The students sight-singing score will be double for the final score. Students will receive 1 point for completing each half measure perfectly as written, one point for retaining tonic and one point for maintaining a steady tempo with no hesitations or restarts. This portion of the audition will not be blind.

Sight Reading Parameters:

1. The piece will be in any major key.
2. It will start on Do and end on Do.
3. The most difficult rhythm will be a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note.
4. Skips could come from the I, IV, and V7 triads. (Do, Mi, Sol; Fa, La, Do; Sol, Ti, Re, Fa)
5. There will be no rests.

8. ALL STUDENTS MUST AUDITION COLLECTIVELY AT THEIR SCHOOL'S ASSIGNED TIME. Although students may have previously been members of the All-State program, they will be required to audition again.

9. Absolutely no tape players, tape recorders, CD players, CD recorders, Ipods, MP3's, video/DVD recorders, radios, or text messaging devices will be allowed in or near the audition site. Cell phones and beepers are to be turned off and left outside the building. If a student is found using any device listed above within the audition site building, the device will be confiscated immediately. That student's teacher must pick up the device for the student before leaving the premises.

10. No changing of clothes on site.

11. Students must sing the prepared piece in complete quintets. Fill-in parts to complete the quintets will not be provided. **IT IS THE TEACHER'S RESPONSIBILITY TO MAKE ARRANGEMENTS WITH ANOTHER SCHOOL'S SINGERS TO COMPLETE QUINTETS BEFORE REGISTERING ON LINE. YOU WILL THEN REQUEST TO BE SCHEDULED IMMEDIATELY AFTER THE SCHOOL FROM WHICH YOU ARE BORROWING STUDENTS.** Teachers should notify the All-State Audition Coordinator in this circumstance. No students who are ineligible to audition will be allowed to complete quintets. No teacher may fill in quintets. You may not borrow singers from another school if you have at least one complete quintet.

12. The number of quintets per school must not exceed the largest number of students registered in a vocal part. If you have cancellations at audition time, you must adjust your quintets to comply with this rule.

13. Students who act as fill-in voices with another school must postpone their personal sight-singing portion of the audition process until they have completed acting as a fill-in voice. This is to prevent the passing of sight-reading information from student to student prior to their entering the sight-singing audition room.

14. Teachers must be present with their students at the auditions. Students not accompanied by their own teacher will not be allowed to audition.

15. No photocopied music will be allowed.

16. All incidents or exceptions pertaining to the All- State rules and regulations will be subject to review by the All-State Committee and could result in consequences to the school and/or student(s) involved.

E. SELECTED PARTICIPANTS

1. The All-State Chorus will be comprised of three ensembles (SATB, SSAA, TTBB) chosen at random from the highest scoring students. No alternate All-State Chorus members will be selected nor may any teacher make any substitutions. Failure to comply with the substitution rule will result in the substituted students not being allowed to participate in the All-State weekend and their school being suspended for the next academic year.

2. Selected participants and score sheets will be posted on the scfas.net website. Cut-off scores, and other information will be emailed to each director after auditions have been completed. **It is the responsibility of the director to double-check the scores and notify students of their acceptance into the All-State Choirs.** If you do not receive an email, or have questions about scores, please contact Lizzi Elliott, Audition Coordinator.

3. **Teachers are responsible for the preparation of the music by their students prior to the All-State weekend.** In the event an unbalanced group is chosen from any one school, cooperative learning rehearsals may be conducted by combining two or more schools. Teachers should not expect students to learn the music entirely independently. Rehearsal tracks will be provided for each student along with the registration.

4. **Attendance:** All students that have been selected for the All-State Choirs must attend 100% of the All-State Weekend. **All absences will be reviewed by the All-State Committee and could result in consequences to the school and/or student involved. All written documentation pertaining to absences must be submitted to the All-State Weekend Coordinator two weeks prior to the All-State weekend.**