

The Southern California Regional Honor Choirs
A presentation of the
Southern California Vocal Association
In support of the California All-State Choirs
A collaborative effort of California ACDA and SCVA
Adjudicator's Information 2015
NEW INFORMATION THIS YEAR! Please read carefully.

Dear Adjudicator:

Thank you for agreeing to serve as an adjudicator for this year's SCVA Regional Honor Choir and California All-State Choir. In order for these choirs to reach the desired level of excellence, it is very important that the auditions be run in a consistent and uniform manner across the state as well as each judge being tough but fair in their scoring. To that end we ask that you read all information carefully and thoroughly before the audition day.

- 1) You were sent a confirmation of your judging day/time and site on September 7th by e-mail. It is important that you arrive as scheduled so that no site is left without a judge.
- 2) Your site host has been given your name, phone and e-mail and will contact you with directions to the site. You are welcome, however to contact them if you have any questions. Please arrive to the audition site **30 minutes prior** to the first audition time.
- 3) When you arrive you will have a chance to meet with other adjudicators, review the audition process and check any recording equipment.
- 4) Once auditions begin it is important to be positive with students without using language that they will misconstrue that they have or have not been accepted into the honor choir. Do not use the audition to "teach" or correct. **Audition forms are sent back to students** and their director. Do not write extraneous words, such as "great tenor" on the audition sheet. We have found that the most effective words to students are, "**Thank you**" with a **smile**.
- 5) After the audition, discuss the scores with your fellow adjudicator, add the scores and sign each sheet or put your judge's number. It is important to be accurate. Mark your suggested divisi.
- 6) In order to remain objective, no adjudicator may audition his/her own students under any circumstances

THE AUDITION PROCESS

Each judge is to conduct the audition in this exact order!

SINGABLE RANGE

Vocalize the singer with a simple stepwise accompanied warm-up to check range and write it on the grand staff provided on the audition form. This is also a good warm-up for the student.

Please vocalize the singer only through the singer's "usable range", and indicate this range on the score sheet.

1. SOLO PERFORMANCE OF SONG

A rubric for the solo portion of the audition is attached. Please read it carefully so that all judges are scoring all students as fairly and as objectively as possible. The singer must audition with one of the 24/26 Italian Art Songs or comparable Italian Art Song or Aria. **Students may sing in any key they wish regardless of the voice part** that they mark on their application. Score the singer on preparation, interpretation and musicality. Make an evaluation on the singer's tone quality and circle appropriate descriptors. The forms include a suggested score for "superior," "excellent"... to help guide you. The student is to provide his or her own accompaniment; mp3 file, CD or a pianist. Due to time constraints The singer should sing the song once through with NO repeats or *da capo*. Please inform the student that you will stop them after the first time through.

2. THEORY

- The singer may use solfege, numbers or a syllable of their choice.
- **USING THE STARTING PITCHES BELOW**, ask each singer to sing **IN THIS ORDER**:
 - Major Scale (3pts)
 - Major Triad (3pts)
 - Minor Triad (4pts)
 - Chromatic Scale (5pts)

The minor triad must start on the major tonic. No la based minor triad.

- Score each item according to pitch accuracy. The maximum points possible for each theory musicianship item is listed on the audition form. Partial points can be awarded.
- **STARTING PITCH:**
 - Soprano/Tenor..... Eb scales and triads
 - Alto/Bass..... C scales and triads

3. TONAL MEMORY (the same examples are used state-wide)

A sample example has been attached – this example is from a previous year – the 2015 example is confidential and will be at your site on the day of the audition.

Please carefully play each tonal memory example with precise rhythm. Adjudicators should take rhythm as well as pitch into account when scoring.

- Play the example **TWICE** for the singer. Students may hum. Student sings back on any syllable a cappella.
- Write down a score between 1-5 based on the pitch AND rhythmic accuracy for each example.
- Give them **one point** for each correct note they sing.
- Play the example at approximately mm 80 for the quarter note.

NOTE: Singers may hum while the example is being played.

4. SIGHT-READING (the same example is used state-wide)

A sample example has been attached – this example is from a previous year – the 2015 example is confidential and will be at your site on the day of the audition.

- Allow the student **ONE MINUTE** – **use a watch-** to study the sight-reading example and mentally prepare to perform it. Students may hum or sing the melody while they are studying. Let them hear the starting pitch before they study the example. Remind the student they only have one opportunity to sing the example.
- Give each student a tonic rolling chord AND the starting pitch before they begin. The singer may use solfege, numbers, or the syllable of their choice.
- Each measure is worth **FOUR POINTS** (2 points for rhythm/2 points for melody)
 - ***Rhythmic: 2 points = ALL rhythms in measure correct/ 1 point = 1 error in measure***
 - ***Melodic: 2 points = ALL pitches in measure correct/ 1 point = 1 error in measure***

(Give students partial points if they get ONLY the melody correct or ONLY the rhythm correct)

Be sure to thank the student for auditioning.

Be positive! Once the student has left the room, finish conferring with your fellow adjudicator and complete the form, including a total score calculation. Make sure that you both sign the form at the bottom of the page or put your judge's number. When you have completed auditioning all the students, check your score calculations, and give the audition forms to the site host.

Thank you for helping the Honor Choir and All-State Choir this year. SCVA will be paying you a fee of \$75.00 for your efforts. Please fill out and give your payment voucher to your site host. It is a small token of our appreciation of your time and talents.

Please be sure to call or email if you have any questions on the judging process.

Sincerely,

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Attachments: 1) Audition Form 2) Solo Rubric 3) Tonal Memory from pervious year 4) Sight Reading Sample from previous year