

MMEA ALL-STATE ELEMENTARY DIVISION HONOR CHOIR

Information Packet

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MMEA/ACDA Annual Conference, January 18 - 20, 2024.

University of Southern Mississippi

Hattiesburg, Mississippi

Audition Requirements

- NAFME membership card or confirmation of renewal is required with audition registration.
- Video/Photo Release is required for each auditioning student. This release must be signed by parents, scanned, and uploaded to student audition form on the google doc.
- \$10.00 audition fee per student.
- If you don't have a google/Gmail account, consider creating one for honor choir so you may have easy access to forms and uploading the audition videos.
- When google form "[MMEA Elementary Honor Choir Audition Registration](#)" is complete, you will be assigned a number (and a letter for each student) for your google drive folder so you can upload your videos.
- Once the form "[Student Audition Information Sheet](#)" is complete with the school number and the student letter, you will upload your videos.

Who may audition?

Any student in fifth or sixth grade taught by MMEA (NAfME) members in good standing.

*Students who are in foster care **MAY NOT** be photographed or videoed by state law or have their name printed in a program. Unfortunately, foster care children cannot participate in this choir without a release, and the state of MS will not authorize an exception for this. Please choose your representative students accordingly.*

How many may audition?

1. The number of students is based on per teacher, not per school. Teachers **cannot** submit students from their school and, for example, another school or a private studio. The teacher's name will represent only **one** organization.
2. If the combined enrollment of your school's fifth and/or sixth grades equals 300 or less, you may audition 5 students.
3. If the combined enrollment of your school's fifth and/or sixth grade equals 301 or more, you can audition 3% of that number. ALWAYS round DOWN and provide documentation on school letterhead, signed by a principal. (9.50 to 9.99 is still 9) Auditions will be submitted online through Google Docs.

What do the students sing? Please review judges' evaluation on the last page.

1. Happy Birthday – (a **cappella**) Starting on "D" in the key of G - 5 points per judge –
A perfect score requires singing completely in key with no embellishments.
Please sing at a good tempo (90 to 120 BPM).
Please visit this URL address for original notation:
https://en.wikipedia.org/wiki/Happy_Birthday_to_You
2. Path to the Moon - Eric Thiman - Boosey and Hawkes - JW Pepper 1511864 - 25 total points per judge
Memorize the first verse, sing with accompaniment. Please work on accuracy of intervals and rhythms.

What is the setting of the auditions?

Teachers will be required to send an audio/visual recording of the two songs to Google Docs. Make **one** recording to include both songs, Happy Birthday followed by Path to the Moon. Students will be assigned a number, letter, or combination prior to recording your auditions. This will represent the student's name, teacher's name, and school.

Virtual Auditions: This is both a video and audio recording which can be made on your iPhone, iPad, or laptop.

1. Masks are not to be worn during recording. Articulation and expression cannot be seen or judged.
2. Accompaniment should be the same for everyone. Use the recording given by the honor choir chairs.
3. The camera should be still throughout the recording.
4. The camera should be level, not looking up to the student. The student should look straight ahead or ignore the camera. Please include the whole body in the recording.
5. Please use a piano or piano app to give the pitch for "Happy Birthday" and play only one note. This song is to be sung a cappella. The note "D" should be given at the beginning and then the teacher should play "G" at the end. Make one recording with "Happy Birthday" followed by "Path to the Moon".
6. "Path to the Moon" should be memorized and sung in treble range.
7. The audition number and letter should be clearly visible in the recording. Avoid using the teacher's name when labeling each video. Name each video with the student audition number. (ex. 112-A)
8. Backdrops should be plain with no identifying colors or symbols that may identify the school.
9. Student's clothes should not be representative of the school in any way.
10. Movement during the audition was good overall. However, some schools use a lot of movement to help with expression. It should not be distracting during this recording. Too much movement does affect the score in relation to poise and posture.
11. Send your best recording of your best students. Behavior in your classroom should be considered before choosing a student to represent your school at All-State.

When is the audition packet information due?

We need your audition videos and information by **August 31, 2023**. This includes your student's Photo/Video release form, which is to be printed out from website, to be scanned, signed, and uploaded to the audition registration page. Checks/money orders of \$10.00 per student are to be made payable **only** to **MMEA**. We cannot take cash. This fee is **nonrefundable**. Please mail audition fees to:

Celia Criddle, 1026 CR 363, New Albany MS 38652

After the Auditions:

1. The list of accepted students will be released by the first of November. All selected students are required to have a chaperone/parent to accompany them during the honor choir weekend and pay honor the choir fee of \$75.00 per student. Teachers will receive additional chaperone information prior to the conference. Teachers don't forget about your \$15.00 music packet fee, as well.
2. Mail the student participation fees by **October 13th**, 2023, to Celia Criddle.
3. Send one check/money order from your school or organization to Celia Criddle. Make the check or money order payable to MMEA. **Personal checks or cash will not be accepted.**
4. Completing the "[Honor Choir Teacher Registration Form](#)" **does not** register the teacher for the conference. The honor choir teacher registration form gives us the information needed to send you the music for your students.
5. The teacher must be **pre-registered** for the MMEA/ACDA conference for their student(s) to be eligible to participate. Visit www.msmea.org for teacher registration prices.
6. Make sure your "[Participating Student Registration](#)" is complete **with heights in inches** for riser placement, t-shirt sizes and correctly spelled names. (**One Google form per student**) All lists will be generated with the spelling you submit on this form! It is strongly suggested that student T-shirts be ordered a size too big – the students grow!
7. The google drive folder used for auditions will be used to upload your all-necessary forms for student registration. **Pay special attention to instructions on each form. Separate payment may be required.**
8. J. W. Pepper will mail the music in October to the address listed on your teacher registration form. Music will not be mailed to you until you have registered your students for honor choir.
9. Student participation fees must be submitted in a timely manner. Late submissions could result in disqualification from the honor choir.
10. If you or parents would like to order a shirt, this is the form to order those on "[Honor Choir T-Shirt Order Form For Director and Parents](#)" (Student shirts are included on their registration. **DO NOT INCLUDE STUDENT SHIRTS ON THIS FORM**)
11. It is your responsibility to **teach the students their music**. Pay close attention to **voicing assignments**. *Practice tracks will not be available due to copyright laws.*
12. Hotel accommodations will be available on the MMEA website under the 2024 conference tab. www.msmea.org Please check the website frequently for information updates.
13. **Honor Choir students will not be allowed to have a cell phone or other electronic devices on their person during rehearsals.** Teachers, make parents aware of this guideline.

Send participation fees to:

Celia Criddle
1026 CR 363
New Albany, MS 38652
ccriddle@nasd.ms

What do students wear for the concert?

1. Students will wear choir T-shirts and SOLID BLACK from the waist down.
2. Girls and boys are to wear black pants or slacks. Black gauchos are acceptable if black. hose/stockings are worn. Black skirts are allowed for religious reasons, be sure to have black. hose/stockings as well. **No leggings. No jeans.**
3. ONLY solid black, closed-toe shoes please. **No heels. No tennis shoes.**
4. Teachers must personally approve attire BEFORE coming to the Honor Choir weekend.

Photo/Video Release Form

AUTHORIZATION TO USE PHOTOGRAPHS AND/OR AUDIO-VISUAL

I, (parent's name) _____, hereby authorize The MS Music Educators Association, MMEA, to use, reproduce, and/or publish photographs and/or video that may pertain to my child (child's name) _____ including his/her image, likeness and/or voice without compensation. I understand that this material may be used in various publications, public affairs releases, recruitment materials, broadcast public service advertising (PSAs) or for other related endeavors. This material may also appear on the MS Music Educators Association Internet Web Page. This authorization is continuous and may only be withdrawn by my (parent) specific rescission of this authorization. Consequently, MMEA may publish materials, use my child's name, photograph, and/or refer to my child in any manner that MMEA deems appropriate to promote/publicize service opportunities.

Signature of Parent

Print Child's Name

Date

Music Teacher Name _____

School _____

Teachers,

The judges are looking for the following when evaluating the singers:

Happy Birthday

It is sung *a cappella* with emphasis on pitch accuracy, diction, and moderate tempo. Remind students that it should be sung as if it were a classical piece.

Play a D at the beginning of your recordings, followed by a G at the conclusion of the song. The notes should be heard on the video.

Path to the Moon

- Accuracy of pitch, rhythm, and diction
- Vocal quality (resonant, clear, and natural)
- Musicality (phrasing, breath control, expressiveness)
- Diction (correct vowel sounds, clear consonants)
- Posture (poise, presence)

