

FOR TEACHERS

2019 OAKE National Conference Choirs

AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your interest in the 2019 OAKE National Conference Choirs to be held **March 20-23, 2019 in Columbus, OH**. These choirs are OAKE in action! They're a source of pride and inspiration and we look forward to receiving your students' auditions.



We're honored that you're considering auditioning students and bringing them into an experience that many families want to repeat year-after-year.

Teachers, here are important things to know before auditions:

- Choir dates are Wednesday, March 20-23**, offset from the professional conference Mar 21-24.
- For your singers to be eligible, you must meet all deadlines and follow directions.
- Before auditioning, **share the *Family Brochure* and get confirmation families can commit to the calendar and financial obligations**. A student who is given a spot and turns it down means another deserving singer has lost the opportunity.
- The website is the new "one stop shop"** for you and families to find OAKE Choirs info. It contains more details than this introductory packet. Find more at **www.oake.org/choirs**
- Some families may not receive our email for a variety of reasons. It's important that you **check in with them** along the way and let us know immediately about any communication issues.
- There are a handful of **partial scholarships** to assist students who expand the diversity of OAKE choirs. We are looking for donors and opportunities to grow the scholarship fund.
- Memorization! Imagine what these directors can do when all singers are confident in their parts. HS choirs may have music checks to be sure singers are prepared.
- New this year – you'll receive a **password** to access the rehearsal tracks and some notation
- Please **renew your OAKE membership**
- Teachers must **register and attend the conference**. There's a Secondary Choral Track on Sat.
- Teachers bringing singers must **register in December** although the Early Bird deadline is later.
- OAKE is comprised of 2.5 staff members and a slew of volunteers like you who together plan the entire conference and choirs. Your timeliness and attention to directions allows us to focus on creating a superb experience for you, singers, and families!

Help families understand their commitment *before* you audition their singer:

- The choir and professional conference dates are offset by one day
- If accepted, the turnaround is very quick to register and pay the \$250 fee. They might prepare now for the financial commitment of the choir fee this fall plus travel and hotel expenses in the spring.
- Families must stay at the official conference hotel. In addition to the close proximity to rehearsals, these hotel reservations help offset the cost of rehearsal space and other aspects of the choirs.
- The OAKE National Conference Choirs Committee will take care of students during rehearsals only. Families or a designated chaperone must accompany them during all down-time, including meal breaks. The rehearsal schedule will be finalized in the weeks just prior to their trip.

Important Dates and Financial Obligations

Quick Sheet for Teachers
For all details, visit www.oake.org/choirs

Audition Steps	Deadlines/ Dates	Fee	Responsibility of
Audition Applications Open Online	August 15		Teacher educates families and singer about opportunity to participate
Application and Fee Deadline *Avoid mail issues - Pay online!	October 15	\$25 USD <i>Non-refundable</i>	Family completes student info form. Family pays online or by check to teacher. Teacher submits checks.
Audition Results emailed * accepted or declined, all will be emailed	by November 15		OAKE National Office
If Accepted			
Student Registration & Fee Deadline	December 1	\$250 USD <i>Non-refundable</i>	Family pays and submits registration (unless the school covers the fee).
Choir Packets Mailed to Teachers	Early December		OAKE National Office
Teacher Conference Registration Deadline	December 10		Teacher pays
Choir "Extras" Order Deadline Deadline to Invite Your Principal	January 15		Family or Teachers are welcome to submit both items due Jan 15 <i>(BOTH OPTIONAL)</i>
Event Information	Details/ Cost		Responsibility of
<p>Dates for Accepted Singers: MARCH 20-23, 2019 (Wednesday through Saturday) Columbus, OH *Teachers may arrive later than Wednesday, however, conference attendance and registration are required.</p> <p>Final Performance Date & Venue: March 23, 2019 Mershon Auditorium at the Wexner Center</p>			
Rehearsal Locations & Hotel Lodgings <i>(if accepted)</i> All 4 choirs will rehearse in the Hyatt Regency Columbus, Lobby Level	Hyatt Regency Columbus Nightly Room Costs: \$180 single/double/triple/quad		Parent arranges for student/family Teacher arranges for themselves RESERVATION ALERT: The OAKE Conference Rate expires at 5 PM (EST) FEB 22, 2019 OR when the OAKE room block is sold out, whichever comes first.
Flight/Travel to Columbus, OH <i>(if accepted)</i>	Costs Vary		All arrange for self / family

CHOIR DESCRIPTIONS

Children's Choir (SSA)	Youth Choir (SSAA)	Concert Women's Choir (SSAA)	Chamber Ensemble (SATB)
Treble singers in grades 4-5	Singers in grades 6-8 with unchanged* voices	Female singers in grades 9-12	Male changed voices in grades 9-12, plus female singers selected from all the high school women applicants.
<p>Teachers may submit up to 12 applications per ensemble for Children's, Youth, and Concert Women's Choirs.</p> <p>*Middle school males with changed voices: Because many of our conductors feel that the long rehearsal schedule is not healthy for young men whose voices have recently changed, we currently do not accept applications for middle school males with changed voices.</p>			<p>Teachers may submit an unlimited number of male applications for Chamber Ensemble.</p>

STEP 1 – Use the Family Brochure to educate families and collect their info, Optional Scholarship Essays

- Provide parents the Family Brochure found at oake.org/choirs. Include your name and email address. You may email or print the brochure for them, but please explain their commitments from pg 1 of this document.
 - It is vitally important that you use the Family Brochure to gather accurate information from your students and families. It contains one student info form and two optional scholarship forms.
 1. Student Information Form (*aids in the completion of the student's online application*) They can fill out the paper form for you to type later, but we instead recommend two ways to make this process simpler and less error-prone. These new options will save the teacher typing in student information and gathering checks:
 - email families the fillable pdf provided by OAKE; they type in their information and email the form back to you, which you simply copy and paste into the online audition form later.
 - urge families to pay their \$25 audition fee online at www.oake.org/choirs (\$1 processing fee). **Clearly write your name and email address on the brochure so they have that information when paying online.** This is how teachers will receive emailed confirmation upon students' payment.
 - Alternatively, you may use the same paper and check payment process as in the past; families fill out a paper version which you'll re-type when submitting their audition online. Be extremely accurate.
 2. Student Scholarship Essay (*OPTIONAL - only if student is applying for scholarship*)- scanned paper forms only
 3. Parent Statement (*OPTIONAL - only if student is applying for scholarship*)- scanned paper forms only
- *OAKE does provide a limited number of partial scholarships intended to increase diversity in the OAKE choirs. The amount of the scholarships varies but generally ranges from \$250 to \$500. PLEASE NOTE: Scholarships are available only to students of OAKE members. Students are not eligible to receive scholarships more than once and OAKE will not award more than one scholarship per submitting teacher.

STEP 2 - Send Payment

New! Parents may pay the audition fee online. Otherwise, collect all of your student checks and send them to the OAKE Office together. Parents paying online will be required to enter the teacher's email address and a confirmation will be sent to you when payment goes through. The application fee for each student is \$25 and must be paid either online or by check, made payable to OAKE and mailed to the address below. **DO NOT** send any other attached documents, * **mail only the check and be sure that the student's name is written legibly onto the memo line of the check.** Applications will be considered incomplete until payment is secured. *If your school is paying for multiple students via one check, please make sure you mail the check along with a complete list of the students for whom the check applies.



Parents Pay Online:
https://oake.formstack.com/forms/choir_audition_fee

Teachers Mail in Checks:
OAKE National Office
3415 S Sepulveda Blvd, Suite 1126
Los Angeles, CA 90034

STEP 3 - Record the Audition

See instructions for each choir:

- Children's Choir
- Youth Choir
- Concert Women's Choir
- Chamber Ensemble

STEP 4 - Complete Online Application

The written portion of ALL applications must be submitted online. Printed applications will not be accepted. Find the online audition application at www.oake.org/choirs. Complete one audition application for each student using information gathered from the "Student Information Form." For families who submitted fillable pdf forms, copy/paste their info into the online audition form. This will greatly reduce errors due to typos or illegible handwriting.

After submitting an application, you and your student's family will receive an automated confirmation email.

Payment Reminder: The application fee of \$25 must be paid online or by check made payable to OAKE and given to the teacher. Please make sure student names are written on the memo line for each check. Review Step 2 of this document.

If you have any questions or need assistance with the audition process, please contact the OAKE National Office at info@oake.org or 310.441.3555. Thank you and good luck to your students!

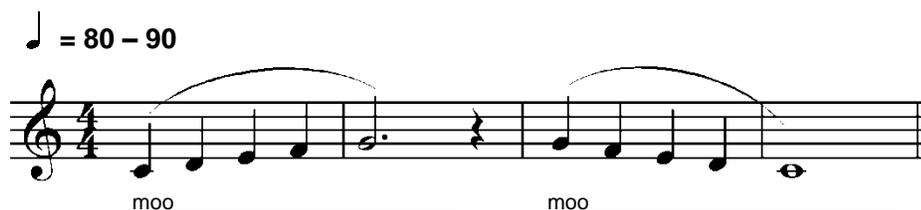
CHILDREN'S CHOIR AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Children's Choir - (SSA) - Treble singers in grades 4 - 5.
Teachers may submit up to 12 applications for Children's Choir.

- **Read the directions carefully.**
- Auditions must be submitted online as mp3s.
- Auditions must be on one **combined track**, not separate tracks.
- The teacher's voice must not appear or be audible on recording while student is singing.
- The recording may not be edited; however, you may stop the recording at the end of **each** completed section. **Please leave 2 seconds between recorded sections.** A section may be rerecorded if the student makes an error within that section.
- There are many platforms and utilities that you can use to record an mp3. While it is ultimately the teacher's responsibility to come up with a recording solution, below are simple instructions for one of the most popular platforms, Apple's GarageBand. For more resources, we suggest that you contact a friend, or colleague or perform a google search for more options. Audacity is another free tool.
- If using GarageBand, record, save and export your audition as an MP3 using these steps:
 - Any recording enhancements such as adding reverb or using auto-tune are strictly forbidden. Using such techniques may result in the disqualification of a student's application.
 - In the main GarageBand window, click the **Share** dropdown menu.
 - Select **Export Song to Disk**.
 - Select Compress Using **MP3 Encoder** and leave on **High Quality**. Do not select highest quality as this will increase file size and upload time.
 - Name and save the mp3 file on your desktop for easy access. Name file in the following format: "Singer's full name, voice part, choir, year), i.e. "John Smith, Tenor I, Chamber Ensemble"

PART A: Spoken Introduction: At the beginning of the recording, the singer clearly states his/her name, the current year, grade in school and the voice part for which he/she is auditioning.

PART B: Vocalise: The student will sing four (4) legato five-tone scale passages, ascending and descending, beginning on the given pitches. All vocalises must be sung a cappella. Only the starting pitch (one note) may be given for each of the four vocalises on piano, pitch pipe, or voice. If singing the pitch, the teacher may play the pitch for himself/herself. Vocalises are to be sung on the syllable, "moo". We understand that the vowel may need to be slightly adjusted for the higher range. (Please sing these slowly, follow the metronome markings and do not stop the recording until all four phrases are completed.)



Four Starting Pitches for Vocalises for Children's Choir:

Soprano I
 Db above middle C
 F above middle C
 Ab above middle C
 fourth line Db

Soprano II
 middle C
 E above middle C
 G above middle C
 C above middle C

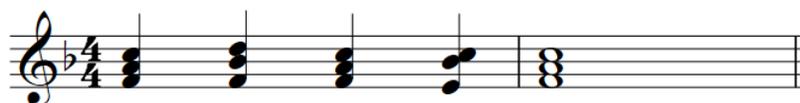
Alto
 Bb below middle C
 D above middle C
 F above middle C
 Bb above middle C

PART C: Part-Singing/Solfege Exercise: The student will sing the following exercise three times, first singing the top notes of the phrase, then the middle notes of the phrase, and then the lower notes. ***The three lines are sung continuously, without stopping or giving any pitches to the student other than the first pitch (sol).***

Using the chord pattern below, the student will:

1. first sing the top notes of the chord progression in solfege while the teacher plays the bottom two notes on the piano.
2. next sing the middle notes of the chord progression in solfege while the teacher plays the outer two notes on the piano.
3. and finally, sing the bottom notes of the chord progress in solfege while the teacher plays the upper two notes on the piano.

♩ = 80 – 100



Part D: Prepared Song (a cappella) – *America, the Beautiful* (or *O Canada*)

The judges will be listening for musicality, phrasing, breath support, beautiful tone, pure vowels, beginning and ending consonants, and great intonation.

♩ = 80 – 100

Only the starting pitch (one note) may be given on piano, pitch pipe, or voice.
You may not play more than one note.

America, the Beautiful

Soprano I: Starting pitch is A (key of D)
 Soprano II: Starting pitch is G (key of C)
 Alto: Starting pitch is F (key of Bb)

O Canada

Soprano I: Starting pitch is B (key of G)
 Soprano II: Starting pitch is A (key of F)
 Alto: Starting pitch is F# (key of D)

YOUTH CHOIR AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

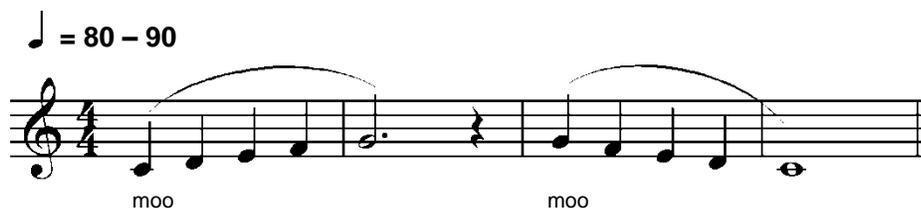
Youth Choir - (SSAA) - Singers in grades 6 - 8 with unchanged* voices.
Teachers may submit up to 12 applications for Youth Choir.

***Middle school males with changed voices:** Because many of our conductors feel that the long rehearsal schedule is not healthy for young men whose voices have recently changed, we currently do not accept applications for middle school males with changed voices.

- **Read the directions carefully.**
- Auditions must be submitted online as mp3s.
- Auditions must be on one **combined track**, not separate tracks.
- The teacher's voice must not appear or be audible on recording while student is singing, except during the part-singing exercise.
- The recording may not be edited; however, you may stop the recording at the end of **each** completed section. **Please leave 2 seconds between recorded sections.** A section may be rerecorded if the student makes an error within that section.
- There are many platforms and utilities that you can use to record an mp3. While it is ultimately the teacher's responsibility to come up with a recording solution, below are simple instructions for one of the most popular platforms, Apple's GarageBand. For more resources, we suggest that you contact a friend, or colleague or perform a google search for more options. Audacity is another free tool.
- If using GarageBand, record, save and export your audition as an MP3 using these steps:
 - Any recording enhancements such as adding reverb or using auto-tune are strictly forbidden. Using such techniques may result in the disqualification of a student's application.
 - In the main GarageBand window, click the **Share** dropdown menu.
 - Select **Export Song to Disk**.
 - Select **Compress Using MP3 Encoder** and leave on **High Quality**. Do not select highest quality as this will increase file size and upload time.
 - Name and save the mp3 file on your desktop for easy access. Name file in the following format: "Singer's full name, voice part, choir, year), i.e. "John Smith, Tenor I, Chamber Ensemble"

PART A: Spoken Introduction: At the beginning of the recording, the singer clearly states his/her name, the current year, grade in school and the voice part for which he/she is auditioning.

PART B: Vocalise: The student will sing four (4) legato five-tone scale passages, ascending and descending, beginning on the given pitches. All vocalises must be sung a cappella. Only the starting pitch (one note) may be given for each of the four vocalises on piano, pitch pipe, or voice. If singing the pitch, the teacher may play the pitch for himself/herself. Vocalises are to be sung on the syllable, "moo". We understand that the vowel may need to be slightly adjusted for the higher range. (Please sing these slowly, follow the metronome markings and do not stop the recording until all four phrases are completed.)



Four Starting Pitches for Vocalises for Youth Choir:

Soprano I
 Db above middle C
 F above middle C
 Ab above middle C
 fourth line Db

Soprano II
 middle C
 E above middle C
 G above middle C
 C above middle C

Alto I
 Bb below middle C
 D above middle C
 F above middle C
 Bb above middle C

Alto II
 A below middle C
 middle C#
 E above middle C
 A above middle C

PART C: Part-Singing/Solfege Exercise: The student will sing “Row, Row, Row Your Boat” with solfa, in a round with the teacher. **The teacher will start** singing first, and the student will enter at m. 3. This will be sung a cappella starting on D (key of D).



Part D: Prepared Song (a cappella) – *America, the Beautiful* (or *O Canada*)

The judges will be listening for musicality, phrasing, breath support, beautiful tone, pure vowels, beginning and ending consonants, and great intonation.

♩ = 80 – 100

Only the starting pitch (one note) may be given on piano, pitch pipe, or voice.

America, the Beautiful

Soprano I: Starting pitch is A (key of D)
 Soprano II: Starting pitch is G (key of C)
 Alto I: Starting pitch is F (key of Bb)
 Alto II: Starting pitch is Eb (key of Ab)

O Canada

Soprano I: Starting pitch is C (key of Ab)
 Soprano II: Starting pitch is A (key of F)
 Alto I: Starting pitch is F# (key of D)
 Alto II: Starting pitch is E (key of C)

CONCERT WOMEN'S CHOIR & CHAMBER ENSEMBLE AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

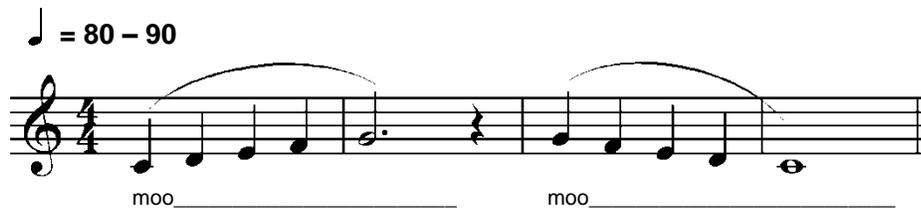
Concert Women's Choir - (SSAA) - Female singers in grades 9 - 12.
Teachers may submit up to 12 applications for Women's Choir.

Chamber Ensemble - (SATB) - Male changed voices in grades 9 - 12, plus female singers selected from all the high school women applicants. Teachers may submit an unlimited number of male applications for Chamber Ensemble.

- **Read the directions carefully.**
- Auditions must be submitted online as mp3s.
- Auditions must be on one **combined track**, not separate tracks.
- The teacher's voice must not appear or be audible on recording while student is singing.
- The recording may not be edited; however, you may stop the recording at the end of **each** completed section. **Please leave 2 seconds between recorded sections.** A section may be rerecorded if the student makes an error within that section.
- There are many platforms and utilities that you can use to record an mp3. While it is ultimately the teacher's responsibility to come up with a recording solution, below are simple instructions for one of the most popular platforms, Apple's GarageBand. For more resources, we suggest that you contact a friend, or colleague or perform a google search for more options. Audacity is another free tool.
- If using GarageBand, record, save and export your audition as an MP3 using these steps:
 - Any recording enhancements such as adding reverb or using auto-tune are strictly forbidden. Using such techniques may result in the disqualification of a student's application.
 - In the main GarageBand window, click the **Share** dropdown menu.
 - Select **Export Song to Disk**.
 - Select Compress Using **MP3 Encoder** and leave on **High Quality**. Do not select highest quality as this will increase file size and upload time.
 - Name and save the mp3 file on your desktop for easy access. Name file in the following format: "Singer's full name, voice part, choir, year), i.e. "John Smith, Tenor I, Chamber Ensemble"

PART A: Spoken Introduction: At the beginning of the recording, the singer clearly states his/her name, the current year, grade in school and the voice part for which he/she is auditioning.

PART B: Vocalise: The student will sing four (4) legato five-tone scale passages, ascending and descending, beginning on the given pitches. All vocalises must be sung a cappella. Only the starting pitch (one note) may be given for each of the four vocalises on piano, pitch pipe, or voice. If singing the pitch, the teacher may play the pitch for himself/herself. Vocalises are to be sung on the syllable, "moo". We understand that the vowel may need to be slightly adjusted for the higher range. (Please sing these slowly, follow the metronome markings and do not stop the recording until all four phrases are completed.)



Four Starting Pitches for Vocalises for Women's Choir and Chamber Ensemble:

Soprano I
D above middle C
F# above middle C
A above middle C
fourth line D

Soprano II
middle C
E above middle C
G above middle C
C above middle C

Alto I
Bb below middle C
D above middle C
F above middle C
Bb above middle C

Alto II
A below middle C
middle C#
E above middle C
A above middle C

Tenor
C below middle C
E below middle C
G below middle C
End on your highest comfortable note

Bass
Start on your lowest comfortable note
Bb (second line)
D (third line)
F (fourth line)

PART C: Solfege/Intonation Exercise: The student will sing the following exercise a cappella on solfege. The starting pitch may be given on piano, pitchpipe, or voice.

Four Starting Pitches: Soprano 1 - E; Soprano 2 - D; Alto 1 - C; Alto 2 - B; Tenor - D; Bass - Bb

♩ = 80 – 90

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PART D: Part-Singing/Solfege Exercise: The student will sing the following exercise on solfege in this way:

The teacher will play three parts while the student sings the fourth part as follows:
The first pitch (C for the women and E for the men) may be given.
The women will sing the soprano line (while the teacher plays the ATB lines), followed continuously by singing the alto line (while the teacher plays the STB lines).
The men will sing the tenor line (while the teacher plays the SAB lines), followed continuously by singing the bass line (while the teacher plays the SAT lines).

♩ = 80 – 90

(Continued on next page)

2020 OAKE Concert Women's Choir & Chamber Ensemble Auditions

Part E: Prepared Song (a cappella) – *America, the Beautiful* (or *O Canada*)

The judges will be listening for musicality, phrasing, breath support, beautiful tone, pure vowels, beginning and ending consonants, and great intonation.

♩ = 80 – 100

Only the starting pitch (one note) may be given on piano, pitch pipe, or voice.

America, the Beautiful

Soprano I: Starting pitch is A (key of D)
Soprano II: Starting pitch is G (key of C)
Alto I: Starting pitch is F (key of Bb)
Alto II: Starting pitch is Eb (key of Ab)
Tenor: Starting pitch is G (key of C)
Bass: Starting pitch is D (key of G)

O Canada

Soprano I: Starting pitch is C (key of Ab)
Soprano II: Starting pitch is B (key of G)
Alto I: Starting pitch is F# (key of D)
Alto II: Starting pitch is E (key of C)
Tenor: Starting pitch is A (key of F)
Bass: Starting pitch is F# (key of D)