



2019 OAKE National Conference Choirs FAMILY BROCHURE



Your child's music teacher has identified your child as a potential participant in the **2019 OAKE National Conference Choirs** in **Columbus, OH**. The **choir participation dates** are **March 20-23, 2019** (Wednesday through Saturday) with a culminating performance at the **Mershon Auditorium at the Wexner Center**, Saturday March 23, 2019.

We look forward to receiving your child's audition application! This document highlights important information that you as a parent need to know as you consider this opportunity and begin the process. While your child's teacher will complete the application and audition process, it is important for you to be aware of some of the key dates and financial obligations involved with this program.

What is the OAKE National Conference and the National Conference Choirs?

The **Organization of American Kodály Educators (OAKE)** was founded in 1975 to serve as a meeting place for music educators who embrace the Kodály Concept of Music Education. It draws its membership from educators of all levels, public and private, students, administrators, and others who share in its support and promotion. OAKE's **mission** is to support music education of the highest quality, promote universal music literacy and lifelong music making, and preserve the musical heritage of the people of the United States of America through education, artistic performance, advocacy and research. OAKE's **vision** is the realization of a world where the power of music as a unifying, humanizing, and healing force is an integral part of the lives of the American People.

The OAKE National Conference is an annual event occurring in a different city each year throughout the United States, bringing together well-known clinicians, educators, conductors, and entertainment over the course of four days culminating in the Saturday performance of the students who have been selected to participate in the National Choirs. There are four audition-based **OAKE National Conference Choirs**, each led by a nationally renowned conductor. Accepted singers will learn and memorize the music at home with their own teachers before going to the conference city. Here are demographics for the four choirs:

- **Children's Choir** - (SSA) - Treble singers in grades 4 - 5
- **Youth Choir** - (SSAA) - Singers in grades 6 - 8 with unchanged voices*
- **Concert Women's Choir** - (SSAA) - Female singers in grades 9 - 12
- **Chamber Ensemble** - (SATB) - Male changed voices in grades 9 - 12, plus female singers selected from all the high school women applicants

***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.

How does the audition work and what happens if my child is accepted?

Review the calendar and financial commitments in this document and consider whether this is an opportunity fitting for your family. Many families have found this choral endeavor to be life-changing for their young singers. Please carefully consider the choir dates, cost of registration, travel, and hotel expenses. Clearly fill out the Student Information Form in this packet and return it to your teacher.

Many young singers audition for this artistic experience – acceptance into the choirs is not guaranteed. Your child’s teacher will conduct the audition and submit the application on their behalf. Once submitted, you will receive a confirmation email—please note

however, that **your child’s application will not be complete until the application fee of \$25 has been received and processed.** Acceptance emails will contain links to complete the registration process and view travel, lodging and other information to help your child prepare for the OAKE National Choirs!



Mershon Auditorium at the Wexner Center

While it is not a requirement that you (the parent) accompany your child on this trip, your child must be chaperoned by either a parent, grandparent, relative over the age of 21, teacher or other designated chaperone at all times while not in a scheduled rehearsal. OAKE requires all choir members and chaperones residing outside of the conference city to stay in the designated conference hotel. You and your family will have free time to explore the host city and there will even be a handful of conference sessions choir parents will have the option of attending.

Student singers will participate in a rigorous 4-day rehearsal schedule, culminating in a final performance at the **Mershon Auditorium at the Wexner Center** on Saturday, March 23, 2019. The typical audience size for this performance is 1500 – 1800 people.

Are there scholarships?

Yes! OAKE does provide a limited number of partial scholarships intended to increase diversity in the OAKE choirs. **Scholarships are available only to students of OAKE members.** Interested students must write a short essay about their interest in music, and parents must write a short statement describing their need for financial assistance. These forms can be found at the end of this document and printed. Once completed, these forms must be returned to the music teacher. The amount of the scholarships varies but generally ranges from \$250 to \$500. Students are not eligible to receive scholarships more than once and OAKE will not award more than one scholarship per submitting teacher.



If you have more questions, feel free to check out our FAQ page:
<http://www.oake.org/choirs/choir-faq/>

Important Dates and Financial Obligations

Quick Guide

For all details, links, and updates 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 all checks.
Audition Results emailed * accepted or declined, all will be emailed	by November 15		OAKE National Office
If Accepted			
Student Registration & Fee* Deadline *this year's fee covers bus transportation for singers to and from the concert venue	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 <i>*Teachers may arrive later than Wednesday, however, conference attendance and registration are required.</i></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

OAKE National Conference Choirs

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM – Application Deadline: October 15

** We recommend payment by credit card at https://oake.formstack.com/forms/choir_audition_fee
 Be sure there are no typos in your Teacher name and email.

Teacher Name: _____ **Teacher Email:** _____

Please complete this fillable pdf on your computer; print, sign, and return to your child's teacher. **Notifications of acceptance and decline will arrive via email** and this will be OAKE's primary mode of communication with you. **Therefore it is very important to write legibly for your teacher and the reason we recommend typing into the digital form.**

TEACHER USE ONLY:
 Choir/Voice Part _____

Singer's First name _____ Last name _____
Enter the student's name exactly as you would like it to be printed in publicity materials if selected.

Grade _____ Date of Birth _____ Height (in inches) _____ T-Shirt Size* _____
Sizes: S, M, L, XL, XXL

*Children's Choir (4 - 5th Grade) orders fulfilled in Youth sizes;
 *Youth Choir, Concert Women's & Chamber Ensemble (6 - 12th Grade) orders fulfilled in Adult sizes

Singer's Address _____

Singer's Home Phone _____

Parent #1 Full name _____

Parent #1 Phone Number _____

Parent #1 Email address _____

Parent #2 Full name (optional) _____

Parent #2 Phone Number (optional) _____

Parent #2 Email address (optional) _____

Student Commitment: If selected, I will learn and memorize the music prior to the OAKE National Conference, and will proudly represent my institution to the best of my ability by exhibiting outstanding character, commitment, and musicianship.

Student Signature _____ Date _____

Parent Commitment: If accepted, the cost to participate in the OAKE National Conference Choirs is \$250 plus travel and hotel expenses. In addition, I am responsible for clearing the family calendar of all potential conflicts, and making travel arrangements. I understand these obligations and will support my child in accepting this national honor if he/she is chosen to participate in the OAKE National Conference Choirs.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Payment Info: Applications will be considered once the \$25 payment is complete. To streamline the audition process, we recommend paying online with a credit card at https://oake.formstack.com/forms/choir_audition_fee (\$1 processing fee). You may also write a check (to Organization of American Kodály Educators) and give to the teacher who'll send all checks. **Please include your child's name, written legibly on the check memo line.** One check or charge per audition, please.



TEACHERS: DO NOT mail this form to the OAKE National Office. Only mail the check, making sure that the student's name is written legibly onto the memo line. If your school is paying audition fees 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. Keep this parent and student commitment for your records.



OAKE National Conference Choirs

STUDENT SCHOLARSHIP ESSAY Application Deadline: October 15

This form is optional: Complete this paper form and return to your teacher only if the student is applying for a scholarship. **Scholarships are available only to students of OAKE members.**

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide partial funding for students whose participation in the program will expand diversity within the OAKE choirs. The student must:

- Enhance diverse representation in the choir
- Be musically talented
- Be in need of financial aid
- Exhibit good choir rehearsal behavior
- Be recommended by an OAKE member teacher

Student's Name: _____ Date: _____

Please write a short essay describing your interest in music. You may use extra paper if you need more space:

Note to teachers: This essay must be scanned and uploaded into the student's online application. Do not mail this form to the OAKE National Office.



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PARENT STATEMENT Application Deadline – October 15

This form is optional: Complete this form and return to your child's teacher only if student is applying for a scholarship. **Scholarships are available only to students of OAKE members.**

The purpose of this scholarship is to provide partial funding for students whose participation in the program will expand diversity within the OAKE choirs. The student must:

- Enhance diverse representation in the choir
- Be musically talented
- Be in need of financial aid
- Exhibit good choir rehearsal behavior
- Be recommended by an OAKE member teacher

Student Name: _____

Parent Name: _____

Please provide a short statement describing your family's economic situation. You may use extra paper if you need more space:

Note to teachers: This statement must be scanned and uploaded into the student's online application. Do not mail this form to the OAKE National Office.