



# FOR TEACHERS

## 2020 OAKE National Conference Choirs

### AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Thank you for your interest in the 2020 OAKE National Conference Choirs to be held **March 4-7, 2020 in Portland, OR**. 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.



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

- Share that this is a powerful musical and educational experience
- There is a \$26 audition fee which must be paid for their audition application to be considered.
- If accepted, the turnaround is very quick to register and pay the \$250 registration fee. They might prepare now for the financial commitment of the choir fee this fall **plus travel and hotel expenses in the spring**. The expense of traveling with a singer plus family can be significant.
- Families must stay at the official conference hotel. In addition to the close proximity to rehearsals, these hotel reservations offset the cost of rehearsal space and other aspects of the choirs.
- Before auditioning, **read the *Family Brochure* and confirm families can commit to the calendar and financial obligations, including travel and lodging**. A student who is given a spot and turns it down means another deserving singer has lost the opportunity.
- Notice the choir and professional conference dates are offset by one day. OAKE.org serves both.
- 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.

#### Teachers, here are important things to know before auditions:

- Choir dates are Wednesday, March 4-7**, offset from the professional conference Mar 5-8.
- For your singers to be eligible, you must meet all deadlines and follow directions.
- Your **OAKE membership** must remain active to have singers in the choirs.
- The website is the "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](http://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 will have music checks to be sure singers are prepared.
- New – you'll receive a **password** to access the rehearsal tracks and some notation
- Teachers must **register and attend the conference**. There's a Secondary Choral Track on Sat.
- All 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!

## Important Dates and Financial Obligations

**Quick Sheet for Teachers**  
For all details, visit [www.oake.org/choirs](http://www.oake.org/choirs)

Audition Steps	Deadlines/ Dates	Fee	Responsibility of
<b>Audition Applications Open Online</b>	August 15		Teacher educates families and singer about opportunity to participate
<b>Application and Fee Deadline</b> <i>*Avoid mail issues - Pay online!</i>	October 15	<b>\$26</b> USD <i>Non-refundable</i>	Family completes student info form. Family pays online or by check to teacher. Teacher submits checks.
<b>Audition Results emailed</b> <i>* accepted or declined, all will be emailed</i>	by November 15		OAKE National Office
<b>If Accepted</b>			
<b>Student Registration &amp; Fee Deadline</b>	December 2	<b>\$250</b> USD <i>Non-refundable</i>	Family pays and submits registration (unless the school covers the fee).
<b>Choir Packets Mailed to Teachers</b>	Mid-December		OAKE National Office
<b>Teacher Conference Registration Deadline</b>	December 10		Teacher pays
<b>Choir Tickets Order Deadline</b> <i>*2020: limit of five total audience seats per singer</i> <b>Deadline to Invite Your Principal</b>	January 10		Family or Teachers are welcome to submit both items due Jan 10 <i>(BOTH OPTIONAL)</i>
Event Information	Details/ Cost		Responsibility of
<p><b>Dates for Accepted Singers:</b> MARCH 4-7, 2020 (Wednesday through Saturday) Portland, OR <i>*Teachers may arrive later than Wednesday, however, conference attendance and registration are required.</i></p> <p><b>Final Performance Date &amp; Venue:</b> March 7, 2020 evening   Trinity Episcopal Cathedral</p>			
<b>Rehearsal Locations &amp; Hotel Lodgings</b> <i>(if accepted)</i>  Choirs will rehearse in the Hilton. Women's Choir will rehearse just across the street at the Duniway Hotel.	<b>Hilton Portland Downtown or The Duniway Portland</b>  Nightly Room Costs: <b>\$199</b> for single or double bed rooms. If you drive, there is also a parking fee.		Parent arranges for student/family. Teacher arranges for themself.  <b>RESERVATION ALERT:</b> The OAKE Conference Rate expires FEB 20, 2020 OR when the OAKE room block is sold out, whichever comes first.
<b>Flight/Travel to Portland, OR</b> <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	Sopranos and Altos in grades 9-12	Soprano and Alto singers selected from the "Concert Women's Choir" auditions and Tenors and Basses, all in grades 9 - 12.
<p>Teachers may submit up to 12 applications per ensemble for Children's, Youth, and Concert Women's Choirs.</p> <p><b>*Middle school changed voices:</b> We currently do not accept applications for tenor or bass parts for the Youth Choir, however, beginning with the 2021 OAKE National Conference (Jacksonville, Florida), there will be a new choir available for singers in grades 6-8. The new choir will include changed voices and perform SATB repertoire. The name of this new choir will be announced at a later date and is expected to be <i>in addition</i> to the present SSAA Youth Choir. Although we cannot accept changed voices in this year's Youth Choir, OAKE looks forward to expanding offerings soon!</p>			<p>Teachers may submit an unlimited number of <b>tenor and bass</b> applications for Chamber Ensemble.</p>

### STEP 1 – Provide the Family Brochure to educate families and collect information

The Family Brochure is found at [oake.org/choirs](http://oake.org/choirs). You may email or print the brochure for them, but please fully explain their commitments from page 1 of this document.

- Student Information Form. We recommend the following to make this process simpler on everyone:
  - email families the Family Brochure pdf (includes a fillable Student Info Form); they type in their information and email the form back to you, which you simply copy and paste into the online audition form later! No typos or deciphering their handwriting!
  - Clearly write your name and email address on the Brochure and Student Info Form so they have that information when paying online.** This is how teachers will receive emailed confirmation upon students' payment.
  - Alternatively, you may use paper and check payment process; families fill out a paper version which you'll re-type when submitting their audition online. Be extremely accurate.
- Optional* Scholarship Applications are available through [oake.org/choirs](http://oake.org/choirs). Singer and family must handwrite their statements, which you will scan and upload. Cell phone pictures are acceptable only if extremely clear. You will also complete a typed statement as part of their application.
  - Student Scholarship Essay
  - Parent Statement

\*OAKE provides 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

Auditions are incomplete until the \$26 payment is secured.

**Recommended!** Parents may pay the audition fee online. They will enter the teacher's email address and a confirmation will be sent to you immediately. Find it on the choir page or send them a direct link: [https://oake.formstack.com/forms/choir\\_audition\\_fee](https://oake.formstack.com/forms/choir_audition_fee)

Payment may be made by check to "OAKE" and sent to the address below. Must be postmarked by deadline.

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

- student name written on memo line
- if multiple checks, teachers mail all in one envelope
- if a school writes a single check, include student list
- do NOT include any other attached documents

## STEP 3 - Record the Audition

Teachers must ensure COMPLETE tracks and there will not be an opportunity later to submit any portions left out. If you are concerned about this, we strongly recommend you record a single, uncut track.

Each recording begins with a recorded introduction.

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

This is my audition for the 2020 OAKE National \_\_\_\_\_ (insert appropriate choir name).

I am in \_\_\_\_\_ grade. I am auditioning for the voice part of \_\_\_\_\_

See instructions for applicable choir:

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

## STEP 4 - Complete Online Application

Find the online audition application at [www.oake.org/choirs](http://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.

Optional scholarship essays will be uploaded during this time.

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

Payment Reminder: The application fee of \$26 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, otherwise we won't know you've completed payment.** 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](mailto:info@oake.org) or 310.441.3555. Thank you and good luck to your students!*

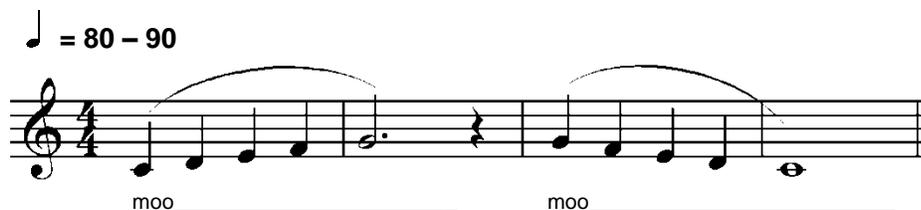
# CHILDREN'S CHOIR AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

**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.
- Teachers must ensure **COMPLETE** tracks and there will not be an opportunity later to submit any portions left out. If you are concerned about this, we strongly recommend you record a single, uncut track.
- 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,  
My name is \_\_\_\_\_.  
This is my audition for the 2020 OAKE National \_\_\_\_\_ (insert appropriate choir name).  
I am in \_\_\_\_\_ grade. I am auditioning for the voice part of \_\_\_\_\_

**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 slighted 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.
- Teachers must ensure **COMPLETE** tracks and there will not be an opportunity later to submit any portions left out. If you are concerned about this, we strongly recommend you record a single, uncut track.
- 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"

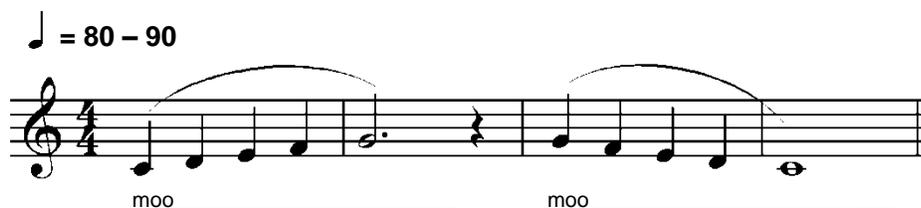
**PART A: Spoken Introduction:** At the beginning of the recording,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

This is my audition for the 2020 OAKE National \_\_\_\_\_ (insert appropriate choir name).

I am in \_\_\_\_\_ grade. I am auditioning for the voice part of \_\_\_\_\_

**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/Solfège 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) – Sopranos and Altos in grades 9 - 12.  
Teachers may submit up to 12 applications for Women's Choir.

**Chamber Ensemble** - (SATB) - Soprano and Alto singers selected from the "Concert Women's Choir" auditions and Tenors and Basses, all in grades 9 - 12. Teachers may submit an unlimited number of tenor and bass 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.
- Teachers must ensure **COMPLETE** tracks and there will not be an opportunity later to submit any portions left out. If you are concerned about this, we strongly recommend you record a single, uncut track.
- 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,

My name is \_\_\_\_\_.

This is my audition for the 2020 OAKE National \_\_\_\_\_ (insert appropriate choir name).

I am in \_\_\_\_\_ grade. I am auditioning for the voice part of \_\_\_\_\_

**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.)

♩ = 80 - 90

moo \_\_\_\_\_ moo \_\_\_\_\_

**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

**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

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)