



OAKE 2022

Building Bridges to Strengthen Us
Pittsburgh, PA • March 3-6, 2022

2022 OAKE National Conference Choirs FAMILY BROCHURE (*Student Info Form included*)

Your child has been identified by their music teacher as a potential participant in the **OAKE National Conference Choirs in Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania!** Many families have found this choral endeavor to be life-changing for their young singers.

Student singers will participate in a rigorous 4-day rehearsal schedule **March 2 - 5, 2022** (Wed - Sat), culminating in a final performance at **Carnegie Music Hall** the evening of Saturday March 5, 2022.

We look forward to receiving your singer's audition application! 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.

Visit www.oake.org/choirs to learn about your commitments in this musical opportunity.

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

The **Organization of American Kodály Educators** has a mission 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.

The **OAKE National Conference** occurs in a different city each year, bringing together music educators and clinicians over the course of four days and culminating in the performance of singers selected to participate in the National Choirs. Audition-based **OAKE National Conference Choirs** are 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.

- **Children's Choir** - (SSA) - Treble singers in grades 4 - 5
- **Youth Treble Choir** - (SSAA) - Sopranos and Altos in grade 6 - 8
- **Youth Mixed Choir** - (SATB) - Soprano and Alto singers selected from the "Youth Treble Choir" auditions, and Tenors and Basses, all in grades 6 - 8.
- **Concert Treble Choir** - (SSAA) – Sopranos and Altos in grades 9 - 12
- **Chamber Choir** - (SATB) – Soprano and Alto singers selected from the "Concert Treble Choir" auditions and Tenors and Basses, all in grades 9 - 12.

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

Review the calendar and financial commitments listed at www.oake.org/choirs. Carefully consider the choir dates, cost of registration, spring travel, and hotel expenses. Please be mindful that if your singer is accepted but then your family cannot meet commitments another deserving singer loses out. If you are comfortable with the obligations, clearly fill out the Student Information Form on the last page of this packet and return it to your teacher.

The \$26 Audition/Application fee must be paid for auditions to be considered. Your teacher will email you a payment link from Opus Events unless your school is covering that cost.

Many audition for this artistic experience and acceptance into the choirs is not guaranteed. Your child's teacher will conduct the audition and submit the application on their behalf. Visit oake.org to view travel, lodging, and other information to help prepare for the OAKE National Choirs. Should your singer be accepted, future emails will include further details.

On the trip, your child must be chaperoned by an adult over the age of 21 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. Costs of rehearsal space are defrayed by your overnight room stay. You and your family will have free time to explore the host city and there will even be a handful of conference sessions choir families will be invited to attend.

2022 UPDATES

REGISTRATION COSTS: Participation previously included audition and registration fees then additional costs later for concert and shuttle tickets, recordings, etc. This year's \$300 registration fee includes many of these individual expenses *at the outset*. Travel and hotel expenses are significant and remain the responsibility of participants.

Complimentary concert recordings will be shared with all singers, families, and teachers of national choir members. Additional recording formats will still be available for purchase, as will extra t-shirts and "well wishes" printed in the concert programs.

PANDEMIC: As music teachers across the country, we have witnessed a great impact on music making and OAKE is glad to bring back national choirs this year. With shifting concerns, circumstances, and requirements related to the pandemic, we are considering mitigation strategies and other adaptations. OAKE cannot prevent you or your singer's exposure to COVID-19. We encourage participants to follow precautions in place in Pittsburgh during the March event, such as wearing masks in indoor public spaces, rehearsals, and the concert. We implore all to consider the many families joining yours in this experience and proactively help create a supportive culture in line with our Vision.

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.

REIMBURSEMENT: \$26 Audition fees are non-refundable. If your singer is accepted, \$300 participation/registration fees are due early December. OAKE incurs expenses in anticipation of the event and so cannot fully refund these fees, however 50% reimbursements will be offered in the following circumstances:

- OAKE must cancel the event due to official mandates by the U.S. or State of Pennsylvania (in which case we would shift to an online choir experience).
- Singer or a household member tests positive for Covid-19 between Feb 10 and the conference (with official documentation of proof)
- Your home state or school administration ban travel to Pennsylvania (with official documentation of proof)

CONCERTS: in 2022 there will be two concerts. The first concert will be Children's Choir and Concert Treble Choir and the second concert will be Youth Treble, Youth Mixed, and Chamber Choir. Families with children in both concerts will be accommodated, as will their teachers.



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Audition Steps	Deadlines/ Dates	Fee	Responsibility of
Audition Applications Open Online	September		Teacher educates families and singer about opportunity to participate
Application and Fee Deadline <i>paid online through Opus Events</i>	November 1	\$26 USD non-refundable	Family completes student info form and returns form to teacher. Family pays fee online (unless school pays)
Audition Results emailed <i>accepted or declined, all will be emailed</i>	by December 1		OAKE National Office
If Accepted			
Student Registration & Fee Deadline	December 15	\$300 USD <i>partial refunds in limited circumstances</i>	Family pays and submits registration (unless the school covers the fee).
Teacher Conference Registration Deadline	December 15		Teacher pays
Choir Packets Mailed to Teachers	January		OAKE National Office
Choir "Extras" Order Deadline <i>t-shirts, additional concert tickets, etc</i>	January 15		Family or Teachers are welcome to order extra (both optional)
Event Information	Details/ Cost		Responsibility of
<p>Dates for Accepted Singers: MARCH 2 - 5, 2022 (Wednesday through Saturday) Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania. <i>*Teachers may arrive later than Wednesday, however, conference attendance and registration are required.</i></p> <p style="text-align: center;">Final Performance Date & Venue: March 5, 2022 Carnegie Music Hall</p>			
Rehearsal Locations & Hotel Lodgings <i>(if accepted)</i> Choirs will rehearse in the Westin and at the David L Lawrence Convention Center (they are right across the street from each other)	Westin Hotel 1000 Penn Avenue- Right across from the David L Lawrence Convention Center Nightly Room Costs: \$165+tax Nightly Parking: \$24-36		Parent arranges for student/family. Teachers arrange for themselves. RESERVATION ALERT: The OAKE Conference Rate expires FEB 9, 2022 OR when the OAKE room block is sold out, whichever comes first.
Flight/Travel to Pittsburgh, PA <i>(if accepted)</i>	Costs Vary		All arrange for self / family

OAKE NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHOIRS

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

Return this form to your teacher by their requested date.

Teacher Name: _____

Teacher Email: _____

Complete this pdf on your computer and email to your child's teacher. **Notifications of acceptance or decline will arrive via email** and this will be OAKE's primary mode of communication with you. **If you must complete by hand, it is very important to write legibly for your teacher.**

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 Treble, Mixed, Concert Treble & Chamber Choir (6 - 12th Grade) orders fulfilled in Adult sizes

The t-shirts do tend to run small, so please plan accordingly

Singer's Address _____

Parent #1 Full name _____

Parent #1 Phone Number _____

Parent #1 Email address _____

Parent #2 Full name (*suggested, but optional*) _____

Parent #2 Phone Number (*suggested, optional*) _____

Parent #2 Email address (*suggested, 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 \$300 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 they are chosen to participate in the OAKE National Conference Choirs.

Parent Signature _____ Date _____

Payment Info: Applications and the \$26 payment are completed online through Opus Events.



TEACHERS: DO NOT mail this form to the OAKE National Office. All of this information needs to be typed into the Opus Events site. Keep this parent and student commitment for your records.