



AUDITION GUIDE FOR TEACHERS

OAKE National Conference Choirs

The OAKE National Choirs are a source of pride and inspiration. We look forward to receiving your students' auditions!



2023 Choirs: March 15-18, 2023 in Jacksonville, Florida

Please note the choirs start Wednesday, one day earlier than the PD conference for teachers.

Before auditioning singers, teachers:

- Visit the Choirs Menu at OAKE.org to learn about the conductors, city, and overall experience.
- Print/share the Family Brochure, also direct families to the Conference Choirs Menu at OAKE.org.
- Get confirmation from families that they can commit to the calendar and financial obligations. When a student is accepted and turns it down, another deserving singer has lost the opportunity.
- Explore financial and other support among your school and community (for you and singers).
- Explain why you'd like them to have this musical and educational experience!

Help families fully understand their commitment before you audition their singers:

- **\$26 audition fee**, and whether families or school are responsible for payment.
- **Full financial commitment, if accepted: \$300 registration fee, plus travel and hotel.** Once accepted, registration and fee are a very quick turnaround in December. Estimate other expenses.
- **Families must stay at the official conference hotel.** It's close to rehearsals, and importantly, these reservations defray the cost of rehearsal space and other aspects of the choirs.
- **Travel plans:** be at the conference hotel in time for Wednesday afternoon check-in and Orientation. Concerts are Saturday and we recommend Sunday departure.
- **Supervision:** The National Conference Choirs Committee will take care of students only during rehearsals. 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.

A few more things for teachers to know:

- **For your singers to be eligible**, teachers must meet deadlines, maintain your OAKE membership, register by the Early Bird deadline, and attend the conference.
- If you're in the local area and auditioning students for the first time, you may audition singers without an OAKE membership.
- OAKE is run by 2.5 staff members and a slew of volunteers who plan together the entire conference and choirs. Your timeliness helps us focus on creating a superb experience for you, singers, and families!
- Families may not receive our emails 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.
- Preparation! Imagine what these directors can do when *all* singers are confident with their parts. High School choirs will have music checks on Wednesday to be sure singers are prepared.

Quick Sheet for Teachers
Details will continually be added to www.oake.org

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

We are especially excited to grow the (new!) Youth Mixed Choir!
There is currently no audition limit per teacher for any of the choirs. OAKE values having participation from a variety of schools and teachers and in cases of close results may prioritize singers from schools with fewer accepted singers.

Important Dates and Financial Obligations

Auditions	Dates	Fee	Responsibility of
Audition Applications Open Online	September		Teacher educates families and singer about opportunity to participate
Audition and Fee Deadline <i>paid online through Opus Events</i>	October 13	\$26 USD <i>non-refundable</i>	Family completes student info form and returns form to teacher. Family pays fee online (unless school pays). Teacher submits audition.
Audition Results emailed <i>accepted or declined, all will be emailed</i>	By November 15		OAKE
If Accepted	Dates	Fee	Responsibility of
Student Registration & Fee Deadline <i>music packets can only be sent for singers registered by the deadline</i>	December 1	\$300 USD <i>non-refundable*</i> <i>*see website for specific exceptions</i>	Family pays and submits registration (unless the school covers the fee)
Music Packets Mailed to Teachers	mid-December		OAKE / music distributor
Singers Learn Music with Teachers	ongoing		Teachers, Singers rehearse regularly
Teacher Conference Registration Deadline	January Early Bird		Teacher
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
Accepted Singers In-Person: Jacksonville, FL MARCH 15-18*, 2023 (Wed-Sat rehearsals, Saturday evening performance) <i>*Teachers may arrive later than Wednesday; conference attendance and registration are required.</i>			
Visit the Choir Menu at oake.org for Rehearsal Locations & Hotel Lodgings and group rate booking link	Hyatt Regency JAX Riverfront OAKE Rate: \$177/night + tax Special Rate Closes: Feb 15, 2023 Parking rates may also apply		Parent arranges for student/family. Teachers arrange for themselves. WE STRONGLY RECOMMEND booking hotel long before the OAKE special rate deadline as the hotel block may fill sooner.
Flight/Travel to Jacksonville, FL (if accepted)	Costs Vary		All arrange for self / family

Audition Recording Guidelines

Audition Recordings

- Submit online as .mp3 files
- Must be **one combined track**. 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 recommend recording a single, uncut track.
- Individual sections may not be edited, but you may stop the recording at the end of completed sections. Please leave 2 seconds between each section. A section may be rerecorded if the student makes an error within that section.
- The teacher's voice cannot appear or be audible on recording while the student is singing.
- No enhancements such as adding reverb or auto-tune: these will likely result in disqualification.

For easy access, save the mp3 file on your desktop, and with this suggested file name format:

- CONFERENCE YEAR_SINGERS FULL NAME_VOICE PART_CHOIR.mp3
- Example: *JAX2023_ESPERANZA SPALDING_ALTO 2_CONCERT TREBLE CHOIR.mp3*

There are many platforms and utilities that you can use to record an mp3. While it is ultimately the teacher's responsibility to find a recording solution, common choices are Audacity or Apple's GarageBand. For more resources, we suggest that you contact a colleague or perform a google search.

Submitting Auditions Online (more info to come)

Teachers Submit Auditions Through Opus Events

Only teachers make Opus and OAKE accounts. Teachers will submit auditions and have greater visibility into whether payments have been made, registration submitted, etc.

Families and Students Do NOT Create Accounts

Other than Teachers, no accounts are needed with Opus Events, nor OAKE.

Through Opus, Teachers may send a payment link for others to make payments by credit card, however no account is needed by those paying.

More details about Opus Events will be available soon.

When auditions open, OAKE will publish a guide including how to

- Set up your Opus Events account as a Teacher (your Teacher account can include multiple "locations" for your private studio, school, community choir, etc).
- Create applications for each Student, with flexibility to attach their mp3 recording then or later.
- Make fee payments for your students or send payment links either to school or families (you'll see when/if paid).

CHILDREN'S CHOIR AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Children's Choir - (SSA) - Treble singers in grades 4 - 5.

There is currently no audition limit per teacher for any of the choirs. OAKE values having participation from a variety of schools and teachers and in cases of close results may prioritize singers from schools with fewer accepted singers.

Important! Teachers, see Audition Recording Guidelines

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

My name is _____.

This is my audition for the 2023 OAKE National Children's Choir.

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 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 TREBLE CHOIR AND YOUTH MIXED CHOIR AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

Youth Treble Choir - (SSAA) - Sopranos and Altos in grades 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.

There is currently no audition limit per teacher for any of the choirs. OAKE values having participation from a variety of schools and teachers and in cases of close results may prioritize singers from schools with fewer accepted singers.

Important! Teachers, see Audition Recording Guidelines

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

My name is _____.

This is my audition for the 2023 OAKE National Youth Choirs.

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



Four Starting Pitches for Vocalises for Youth Mixed 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

Tenor

- D below middle C
- F# below middle C
- A below middle C
- End on your highest comfortable note

Bass

- Start on your lowest comfortable note
- Bb 2nd line bass clef
- D 3rd line bass clef
- F 4th line bass clef

The starting notes for the Tenor and Bass parts have been selected based on the range of the literature. We are aware that singers in 6th, 7th and 8th grade are undergoing voice change and that their voice part might change between the fall when you are recording auditions and March for the honor choir. Please select the voice part that best fits the student's voice at the time of their audition.

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 (one step above middle C) for Soprano and Alto singers. Tenors will start on G (below middle C) and Basses will start on C (2 space of Bass Clef). Teachers should sing in the octave that is comfortable for them.



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	O Canada
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 A (key of D) Bass: Starting pitch is F (key of Bb)	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) Tenor: Starting pitch is A (key of F) Bass: Starting pitch is F# (key of D)

CONCERT TREBLE CHOIR & CHAMBER CHOIR AUDITION INSTRUCTIONS

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.

There is currently no audition limit per teacher for any of the choirs. OAKE values having participation from a variety of schools and teachers and in cases of close results may prioritize singers from schools with fewer accepted singers.

Important! Teachers, see Audition Recording Guidelines

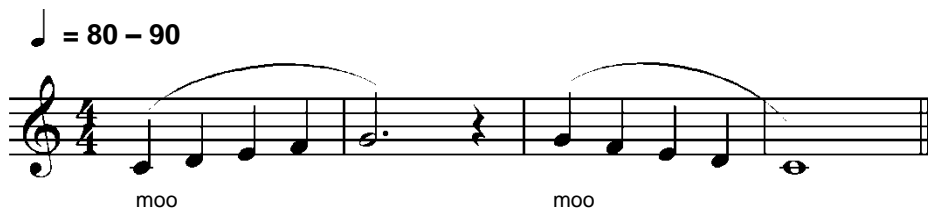
PART A: Spoken Introduction: At the beginning of the recording,

My name is _____.

This is my audition for the 2023 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 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 Concert Treble 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 Sopranos and Altos and E for the Tenors and Basses) may be given.
- The Sopranos and Altos 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 tenors and basses 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



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)