



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 Chicago, Illinois!**

Young musicians will prepare in advance, then participate in a rigorous 4-day rehearsal schedule **March 5 - 8, 2025** (Wednesday - Saturday), culminating in a final performance the evening of Saturday March 8, 2025. Many families have found this choral endeavor to be life-changing for their young singers.

Please visit the OAKE website and speak with your music teacher to learn more. If your family commits to the dates and financial obligations, complete the Student Info Form and return it to teachers, who will then work with singers to complete the audition process.



Visit www.oake.org to learn about this musical experience!

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) | Youth Treble Choir (SSAA) | 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 *8th graders with changed voices may audition for Tenor or Bass in Chamber | Sopranos and Altos in grades 9-12 | Tenors and Basses, plus Soprano and Alto singers selected from the "Concert Treble" auditions, grades 9-12, Tenors and Basses in grade 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.

How Does the Audition Work and What Happens if My Child is Accepted?

Please visit the OAKE website and speak with your music teacher to learn more.

- **If your family can commit to these dates and financial obligations**, complete the *Student Info Form* in this document and return it to teachers who will then work with singers to complete the audition process. Many audition for this artistic experience and acceptance into the choirs is not guaranteed.
- **\$30 audition fee:** must be paid for auditions to be considered. Your teacher will email you a payment link unless your school is covering that cost. You do not need to create any accounts.
- **Full financial commitment, if accepted: \$300 registration fee, plus travel and hotel!** Once accepted, choir registration and fee are a very quick turnaround in December. Do estimate other travel expenses.
- **Should your singer be accepted**, register quickly by the deadline, then music packets will be shipped to teachers who will work with singers to prepare! The OAKE website will have all the info you need and we'll alert you to updates by email.
- **Families must stay at the official conference hotel:** It's close to rehearsals and these reservations defray the cost of rehearsal space and other aspects of the choirs which would otherwise drive up the cost of registration itself. Plus, it's just fun to see everyone, including the teachers enjoying their own professional conference!
- **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 OAKE 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.

Please be mindful that if your singer is accepted but then turns it down, another deserving singer has lost the opportunity.

Overview of Significant Dates and Financial Obligations

visit oake.org for all detail

| Auditions | Dates | Fee |
|--|--|--|
| Audition and Fee Deadline | <i>October 15</i> | \$30 USD <i>non-refundable</i> |
| Audition Results emailed | by November 15 | |
| If Accepted | Dates | Fee |
| Student Registration & Fee Deadline | December 1 | \$300 USD <i>non-refundable</i> |
| Flight/Travel to Chicago, Illinois | Costs vary and may be significant | |
| Hotel: Palmer House Hotel | OAKE Rate: \$179/night + tax Special Rate Ends February 6, 2025 (Parking rates may also apply) | |
| OAKE National Conference and Choirs | MARCH 5 - 8, 2025 (Wed-Sat rehearsals, Saturday performance) | |



OAKE NATIONAL CONFERENCE CHOIRS

STUDENT INFORMATION FORM

First, review all info in this Family Brochure and at www.oake.org. To audition, complete this form and return to your teacher. Doing this on the computer is best, but if you must complete it by hand, please write legibly for your teacher.

Notifications of acceptance/decline will arrive via email and this will be OAKE's primary way to communicate with you.

TEACHER USE ONLY: Voice Part _____

Singer's First name _____ Last name _____

Accepted singers' names will be printed on a name badge, participation certificate, and in the concert program. Please make sure this name is exactly how you would like it to appear in those specific materials.

Grade Level _____ Date of Birth _____ / _____ / _____ (month / day / year)

Gender Male Female Non-binary Prefer Not to Say

Parent / Guardian Name _____

P/G 1 Phone Number _____

P/G 1 Email Address _____

IMPORTANT: Hotmail and Yahoo email addresses are not accepted
If a student is selected for the choir, OAKE will request an additional family contact when registering.

By auditioning, you commit to the following:

_____ (student initial) **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.

_____ (family initial) **Parent/Guardian Commitment:** Auditions are \$30. If selected, 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 honor if they are chosen to participate in the OAKE National Conference Choirs.

Payment Info: Applications and payments are completed online through Opus Events. You will receive an email and do not need to create an account in Opus or the OAKE website. **TEACHERS: See the Teacher Guide. Type student information into Opus and send families the payment link. Keep this parent and student commitment for your records.**