

NWSA 2019-20 Audition Requirements

High School Chorus

Instructor- Ms. Stephanie Madsen (High School)

Audition length- 20 minutes

Please prepare the items below. The audition includes assessment of accuracy, intonation, tone quality, aural memory, technique, diction, artistic practice, preparation, engagement, and professionalism.

- ☐ **Vocalize using simple exercises demonstrated by the teacher.** The student's vocal range, ability to follow directions, sing on, and match pitch, and think and adjust quickly will be assessed.
- ☐ **Sing the major scale and the natural minor scale ascending and descending** in tune generating your own starting pitch and without assistance from the piano. Students must sing the major scale and minor scale on solfège syllables ascending and descending. Major scale consisting of: (do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do, ti, la, sol, fa, mi re, do) and a major arpeggio (do, mi, sol, mi, do), The minor consisting of (la, ti, do, re, mi, fa, sol, la) and a minor arpeggio (la, do, mi, do, la). Both must be done while simultaneously using solfège hand symbols.

Failure to perform with hand signs will result in a failed audition.

Students can study solfège hand symbols here:

<http://nwsamiddleschoolchorus.cmswiki.wikispaces.net/Introduction+to+Solfège>

- ☐ **Sing BOTH of the following.** Please sing tunes as written, without embellishment:

1. The first verse of **"My Country 'Tis of Thee"** (a cappella)

AND

2. A prepared solo (age-appropriate,) using sheet music supplied by the student (**required, see NOTE below.**) Breath support, vowels, tone, pitch, range, and ear development will be assessed. The student will be evaluated on individual musicality, intuition, and grasp of more advanced vocal concepts such as phrasing, diction, dynamics, tone, and general showmanship.

o The prepared solo can be a selection from a stage production (opera, oratorio, or musical theatre). One verse and one chorus will be all that is needed from the selection.

OR

o The prepared solo can be a folk song, art song, patriotic song, or hymn of your choice in any language. The links below have sheet music students can use:

Folk Song Examples: (Camptown Races, Frere Jacques, London Bridge, etc...)

<http://www.songsforteaching.com/folk/>

Art Song Examples: (Caro mio ben, Tu lo sai, Black is the Color of My True Love's Hair, etc...)

<http://artsongcentral.com/song-index/>

NOTE: SINGING WITH A RECORDING OR SINGING RAP/ROCK/POP/GOSPEL MUSIC IS NOT ACCEPTABLE. Sheet music (musical score including piano accompaniment) can be found at www.musicnotes.com. An accompanist will be provided.

requirements are continued on next page...

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high school requirements, continued:

- ☐ **Sing a short call and response pitch activity with teacher.** This will help to determine strength of ear training and tonal memory
- ☐ **Complete a sight-reading exercise.** This will be provided by the teacher and will be chosen for appropriateness for the age and musical ability of the student.

Students must be able to sight read an exercise containing quarter, half and whole notes in a major stepwise pattern. For more information please use these links:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=J1vKwNMPrGA> and https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Xn89naE_YjY

Students may sing through the exercise in any fashion they choose. Students are assessed on correctness of pitch and rhythm, with extra consideration given to those who execute with attention to dynamics and articulations. If a student is admitted, they will be placed in the appropriate vocal music ensemble based on their ability to perform each audition task and the cumulative audition scores.

Basic sight-singing skills are required for admission into the high school choral program.