

NWSA 2019-20 Audition Requirements

Middle School Chorus

Instructor: Mr. Aaron Lafreniere (Middle School)

Audition Length: 20 minutes

Previous training (or the lack of) is not necessarily a determining factor in acceptance.

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 arpeggio ascending and descending in tune generating your own starting pitch and without assistance from the piano. Students must sing the major scale on solfège syllables ascending and descending (do, re, mi, fa, sol, la, ti, do, ti, la, sol, fa, mi, re, do) and a major arpeggio (do, mi, sol, mi, do). Both must be done while simultaneously using solfège hand symbols. Failure to perform scale and arpeggio 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 tune as written, without embellishment:

- ☐ The first verse of "My Country 'Tis of Thee" (a cappella)

AND

- ☐ A prepared solo (age appropriate, see choices below) 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 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 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 Love's hair, etc...)

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

NOTE: Singing with a recording or singing rap/rock/gospel/pop music is not acceptable. Sheet music (musical score with piano accompaniment) can also be found at www.musicnotes.com.

requirements continued on next page...

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middle school chorus 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 (rising 7th and 8th graders.) This will be provided by the teacher and will be chosen for its appropriateness for the age and musical ability of the student. Students may sing through the exercise in any fashion they choose. Students are assessed on correctness of pitch and rhythm.