

Virginia ACDA All-Virginia Middle School Honor Choir 2023-2024 Application Packet



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General Information and Deadlines

Directors must be members in good standing with the American Choral Directors Association in order to submit auditions for the All-Virginia Middle School Honor Choir. OpusEvent has a direct link to the ACDA membership database and will only allow auditions from current members. The database is not updated immediately so ensure your membership is current at least a week before the deadline.

There are TWO choirs:

The Treble Choir (TC) is for 6th and 7th grade sopranos and altos

The Mixed Choir (MC) is for 8th grade sopranos and altos and 6th-8th grade tenors and basses

Deadlines and Schedules:

January 8, 2024 Registration window opens.

February 1, 2024 All applicants must be registered by the teacher (students should **not** register themselves) and paid for in OpusEvent by 11:59pm. We are only accepting credit card payments. See page 6 for more details.

Snow Dates If any part of Virginia has a snow day from January 29 – February 1, the new deadline for submissions will be February 6. No other extensions will be made.

February 19, 2024 Notification e-mails of acceptance into the 2024 Virginia ACDA Middle School Honor Choir sent to directors and guardians.

March 1, 2024 Participant registration deadline. Participants' guardians will receive a link to register and pay the \$90 participation fee for their singers. If schools want to pay the participation fee for their singers, that will be an option, but still only by credit card.

April 18, 2024 Participants travel to Richmond area for registration and first evening of rehearsal under the guest conductors.

April 20, 2024 Performance time and location TBD.

Director's Expectations for Students:

Directors should only nominate students who are strong in all of the following categories: 1) music reading skills, 2) tone quality, 3) social skills, 4) willingness to work with peers and adults, and 5) ability to maintain focus in long rehearsals.

2024 Virginia ACDA Middle School Honor Choir Application Form

Photocopy this form as needed for your students to complete.

You will NOT mail this application. When registering each applicant, you will complete the online form with this information.

Singer Information: Please print legibly! Applicants must currently be enrolled in grades 6, 7, or 8.

Singer First Name

Singer Last Name

Parent First Name

Parent Last Name

Parent e-mail – **PLEASE PRINT VERY CLEARLY**

Parent cell

Make clear distinctions between number 1 and letter l, number 0 and letter O.

Street Address

City, ST Zip

Grade and Voice Part

Directors choose this, not singers or guardians

Treble Choir

6 th Soprano 1	7 th Soprano 1
6 th Soprano 2	7 th Soprano 2
6 th Alto 1	7 th Alto 1
6 th Alto 2	7 th Alto 2

Mixed Choir

8 th Soprano 1	6 th Tenor 1	7 th Tenor 1	8 th Tenor 1
8 th Soprano 2	6 th Tenor 2	7 th Tenor 2	8 th Tenor 2
8 th Alto 1	6 th Bass 1	7 th Bass 1	8 th Bass 1
8 th Alto 2	6 th Bass 2	7 th Bass 2	8 th Bass 2

Parent and Applicant Statement of Obligation:

We have read the entire application form and understand that selection for the 2024 Virginia ACDA Middle School Honor Choir brings with it significant musical and financial obligation. We understand that as a member of the Honor Choir, the applicant must pay a \$90 participation fee, and that ACDA is not responsible for the costs of the applicant's transportation, lodging, or meals. We understand that the applicant must arrive in the Richmond area for registration and first evening rehearsal on Thursday, April 18, 2024, and that the applicant must attend ALL Honor Choir rehearsals and the performance on Saturday, April 20, 2024. Failure to participate in rehearsals will result in dismissal from the choir. The applicant will be committed to having the music fully prepared according to the instructions provided and may be spot-tested at rehearsal. If selected, a parent or appointed guardian will chaperone this applicant to and during the event. We understand that ACDA is not responsible for the costs of the chaperone's transportation, lodging, or meals, and that the chaperone is responsible for the student at all times, including rehearsals and meals.

Student's Signature: _____ Date: _____

Parent/Guardian Signature: _____ Date: _____

Director's Signature: _____ Date: _____

**STOP! Directors, do not mail this form. Register your students at OpusEvent.
Parents should NOT register students. Students should NOT register themselves.**

All-Virginia Middle School Honor Choir Parent and Singer FAQs

What is the All-Virginia Middle School Honor Choir?

The All-Virginia Middle School Honor Choir is a gathering of the best singers from grades 6-8 from the entire Commonwealth of Virginia.

How do I apply?

You must be sponsored by a current member of the American Choral Directors Association. This could be your school's chorus director, church's music minister, or community choir director. They will record you singing a major scale and the audition song, *A Song That Surrounds Us*. Professional judges will then score that audition and the highest scores will be selected for the event.

Does it cost?

Yes. There is a \$10 audition fee. This goes towards paying the judges and the online registration platform. If you are selected, there is also a \$90 registration fee. Your director will instruct you on how to pay.

How competitive is the audition process?

There are two choirs. The Treble Choir is for 6th and 7th grade sopranos and altos. The SATB Choir is for 8th grade sopranos and altos and 6th-8th grade tenors and basses. Approximately 160 singers will be chosen for each group.

When is the event?

April 18-20, 2024. Rehearsal starts approximately at 1:00pm on April 18. The final concert will be in the afternoon of April 20.

How do I find out if I made it?

Your sponsor and guardian will receive an email announcement on or around February 19.

Where is the event?

Rehearsals and the concert will be in the Richmond area, precise location TBD.

What do we do there?

About a month prior to the event you'll receive a packet of music. Your director will help you learn the notes for these songs but you will also have access to practice tracks you can listen to online. When you arrive for the first rehearsal, you'll meet your guest conductor. It's their job to get you concert ready with approximately 12 hours of rehearsal!

What if I live far away?

There are several hotels within 15 minutes of the rehearsal site. The overnight trip is part of the fun of this event!

Do I go alone?

No. Every singer must have a chaperone. Usually, that's a parent. That generally means they will need to take two full days off of work. Sometimes, schools that have multiple students accepted can double up students with chaperones. That's up to your director.

Recording Your Applicant

Read and follow instructions exactly!!!

Each section of the audition (scale and song) must be on a **separate file**. Any audition recording that has been electronically enhanced in any way (reverb, auto-tune, etc.) will be disqualified. If you record in GarageBand, please note the vocal default is to **add** reverb. You must change this setting.

One Octave Major Scale – 30 points

- Must be sung a cappella ascending and descending.
- **Accompanied singers will receive zero points** for this section.
- The judges will assess...
 - Tone – 15 pts (including pure vowels)
 - Intonation – 15 pts
- Singer must use solfege.
- Use a tempo between 60 and 80 bpm and sing quarter notes. **Judges cannot adequately assess tone and intonation at speeds faster than 80.**
- The starting pitch should be played *after* pushing the record button so the judge can hear the given pitch.
- Use the following starting pitches (soprano and alto keys same for both choirs):



- **Singing in a key other than those assigned may result in an Intonation score of Zero.**

Audition Song – 70 points

- All applicants sing the audition song, *A Song That Surrounds Us*.
- You must use the accompaniment track provided on the www.vaacda.org site.
- You may play the track on a separate device or import it into GarageBand or Audacity and mix with the singer. Ensure that the singer is more prominent than the accompaniment.
- The judges will assess...
 - Tone – 15 pts
 - Intonation – 15 pts
 - Musicality – 15 pts (includes phrasing and dynamics)
 - Diction – 15 pts
 - Rhythmic Accuracy – 10 pts
- Caution your singers to use an appropriate choral sound rather than “pop.”

Registering Your Applicant
Read and follow instructions exactly!!!

Registration window is January 8 – February 1 @ 11:59pm

Registering your auditions in OpusEvent

- Go to **OpusEvent.com**
- Click **Opus Audition** at the bottom
- Select **All Virginia Middle School Honor Choir**
- Create an account; you will need your ACDA membership ID number and e-mail address
 - If you are not a current member or your membership has expired, it may take several days after renewing for the membership database to be fully updated
- You may need to add a location (this would be your school or other organization)
- Login and click **New Application**
- Select the singer's choir and then voice part
- Type in singer's name and parent information
- *PLEASE* type the parent e-mail address carefully
- Click **Save and Close**
- **You cannot upload their recordings until the registration fee is paid**

Paying for your auditions in OpusEvent

- We are only accepting credit card payments this year but you have several options for that...
 - Parents pay
 - Select a singer
 - Click [E-mail CC Paylink to Selected...](#)
 - Type a subject and e-mail body so parents know what they are receiving and click send
 - The parent will receive an e-mail from no-reply@opusevent.com with a link for them to pay with their own card
 - Finance Specialist pays
 - Select all singers
 - Do steps from above but select **Other Address** and input your finance specialist's e-mail
 - They can pay for all of them at once
 - Director pays
 - Select all singers
 - Click [Pay Selected...](#)
 - Input credit card info

ID	Name	Email	Category	Item	Cost	Balance	Status	
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	162849	Test Kid	mommykid@gmail.com	6th Grade	Soprano 1	\$10.00	\$10.00	unpaid
<input type="checkbox"/>	162850	Sample Kiddo	mommykiddo@gmail.com	7th Grade	Alto 1	\$10.00	\$10.00	unpaid

From: no-reply@opusevent.com

Recipient Count: 1

Reply To*

Cc

Subject*

Payment Link will be included

App ID	Applicant	Amount
162849	Test Kid	\$10

Email to: Parent/Guardian
 Teacher
 Other Address

Other Address:

Uploading your recordings in OpusEvent

- After the registration fee is paid, select a singer
- Upload the song files for the scale and song separately

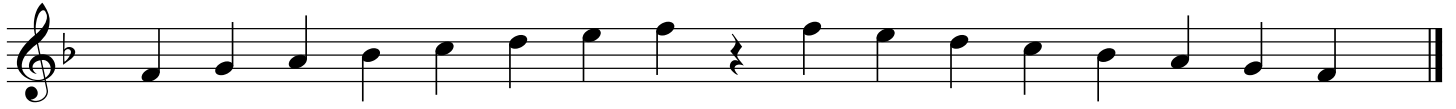
All-Virginia

Middle School Honor Choir Scale Requirements

Scale should be sung a cappella on solfege syllables within the given tempo window

Soprano 1

♩ = 60-80



Soprano 2



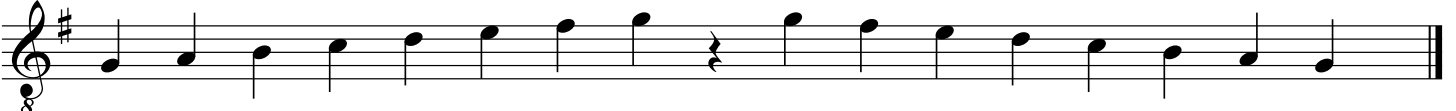
Alto 1



Alto 2



Tenor 1



Tenor 2



Bass 1



Bass 2



SOPRANO

A SONG THAT SURROUNDS US

Words and Music by Mark Patterson

With confidence ♩. = 52

The musical score is written for Soprano and Piano. It consists of four systems of music. The key signature has two flats (Bb and Eb), and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked 'With confidence' with a quarter note equal to 52 beats per minute. The dynamics range from *mp* (mezzo-piano) to *f* (forte). The lyrics are: 'A whis-per to wel-come the morn-ing, — a sound that sails on the breeze, a rhy-thm that rip-ples and rush-es — and bids us all to sing; There is a song — that sur-rounds us, — with words my heart seems to know; There is a song — that sur-rounds us. Just lis-ten my friend and hear it be-gin to rise once more. There is a song. —'

mp *mf*

A whis-per to wel-come the morn-ing, — a sound that sails on the breeze, a

mp *mf*

7 *f*

rhy-thm that rip-ples and rush-es — and bids us all to sing; There is a song — that sur-

f

12 *mp*

rounds us, — with words my heart seems to know; There is a song — that sur-rounds us. Just

17 *f*

lis-ten my friend and hear it be-gin to rise once more. There is a song. —

mp *f*

ALTO

A SONG THAT SURROUNDS US

Words and Music by Mark Patterson

With confidence ♩. = 52

mp *mf*

A whis-per to wel-come the morn-ing, — a sound that sails on the breeze, a

mp *mf*

Detailed description: This system contains the first six measures of the piece. The vocal line begins with a whole rest, followed by a quarter rest, then a series of eighth and quarter notes. The piano accompaniment features a steady eighth-note pattern in the right hand and a bass line with chords and eighth notes in the left hand. Dynamic markings *mp* and *mf* are placed above and below the staves respectively.

7 *f*

rhy-thm that rip-ples and rush-es _____ and bids us all to sing; There is a song _____ that sur-

f

Detailed description: This system contains measures 7 through 11. The vocal line continues with eighth and quarter notes, ending with a half note. The piano accompaniment maintains its rhythmic pattern. A crescendo hairpin is shown above the vocal staff, and a dynamic marking *f* is placed above the staff. The piano accompaniment also has a dynamic marking *f* below the staff.

12 *mp*

rounds us, — with words my heart seems to know; There is a song _____ that sur - rounds us. Just

mp

Detailed description: This system contains measures 12 through 16. The vocal line features a half note followed by quarter notes. The piano accompaniment continues with its characteristic eighth-note accompaniment. A dynamic marking *mp* is placed above the staff.

17 *f*

lis-ten my friend and hear it be-gin to rise once more. There is a song. _____

mp *f*

Detailed description: This system contains measures 17 through 21. The vocal line concludes with a half note. The piano accompaniment features a final flourish in the right hand. Dynamic markings *mp* and *f* are placed below the piano staves.

TENOR

A SONG THAT SURROUNDS US

Words and Music by Mark Patterson

With confidence ♩. = 52

mp *mf*

A whis-per to wel-come the morn-ing, — a sound that sails on the breeze, a

7 *f*

rhy-thm that rip-ples and rush-es — and bids us all to sing; There is a song — that sur-

12 *mp*

rounds us, — with words my heart seems to know; There is a song — that sur - rounds us. Just

17 *f*

lis-ten my friend and hear it be-gin to rise once more. There is a song. —

BASS

A SONG THAT SURROUNDS US

Words and Music by Mark Patterson

With confidence ♩. = 52

The musical score is written for a Bass voice part and piano accompaniment. It consists of four systems of music, each with a vocal line and a piano accompaniment. The key signature has one flat (B-flat), and the time signature is 6/8. The tempo is marked 'With confidence' and the metronome marking is ♩. = 52. The dynamics range from *mp* (mezzo-piano) to *mf* (mezzo-forte) and *f* (forte). The lyrics are: 'A whis-per to wel-come the morn-ing, — a sound that sails on the breeze, a rhy-thm that rip-ples and rush-es — and bids us all to sing; There is a song — that sur-rounds us, — with words my heart seems to know; There is a song — that sur-rounds us. Just lis-ten my friend and hear it be-gin to rise once more. There is a song. —' The piano accompaniment features a steady bass line and chords that support the vocal melody. The score ends with a double bar line.