

COLORADO ALL STATE CHOIR AUDITION GUIDELINES
A PHILOSOPHY OF JUDGING FOR ALL STATE CHOIR

While the nurturing and encouraging attributes that are essential as a teacher and certainly desirable in our judging, the primary job of a judge is not to teach. We agreed that the judge's primary job involves evaluation and discernment to select the very best of the best and do so in a pleasant and caring manner.

This judging guideline is based on that philosophy and a sincere desire to have a wider spread than 11.4 points between the average and the best of those who audition.

The average score would most likely fall between 65 and 74. The above average score should fall between 75 and 89. The cream of the crop would fall between 90 and 100. It is our hope that the results of these judging guidelines will give students and teachers a clearer picture of where they rank in the best of the best. We hope it will give each student a clearer understanding of what he/she can work on to improve and we hope it will be helpful in gearing the selections performed at the concert to the achievement level of the singers.

AUDITION PROCEDURES

Solo (50%)

Sing a prepared solo of quality literature (not pop or show tunes) to be judged to demonstrate: tone quality, range, diction, style, intonation and general musicality. (Singing in a foreign language can be a detriment if your diction and pronunciation are not correct). Guidelines for appropriate literature are the same as all CHSAA sponsored music festivals. Broadway and popular literature are not considered appropriate for this audition.

Please limit solos to three minutes or less. Judges reserve the right to stop students if their solo exceeds three minutes.

Students must provide their own piano accompanist and furnish an original printed (not duplicated) score for the judge. Students may not accompany themselves. No tape or CD accompaniments will be allowed. Students without an original musical score for the judge will not be allowed to audition.



Memorization is required. Students who look at their musical score or copies of the words will not be allowed to audition.

In each of the five 10 point categories:

- A score of 10 would indicate the highest level of achievement
- A score of 5 would indicate average level of achievement
- A total score of 25 would indicate an average solo score.

The student will be given only one opportunity to perform each of the following skills:

Sense of Tonality (10%)

Sing one each of the following, ascending and descending, on a neutral syllable, solfege syllables or numbers: major triad, minor triad, augmented triad, diminished triad, major scale, harmonic minor scale, and melodic minor scale. Various beginning pitches will be given by the judge.

Triads are worth one point each. To receive the point for each triad, the singer must start and end on the given pitch.

Scales are worth two points each which indicates accuracy ascending and descending, starting and ending on the given pitch.

One point is subtracted if the scale is sung from a different pitch than given or the pattern is wrong ascending or descending (both errors would result in a score of 0 for that scale).

Aural Recall (10%)

The judge will play the recall example only once and there will be only one opportunity for the student to sing the example melody as accurately as possible. Sing the example on a neutral syllable. There will be two examples valued at five points each.

- 5 points – perfect repetition
- 4 points – 1 to 3 errors
- 3 points – 4 to 6 errors
- 2 points – got the basic shape of the line
- 1 point – minimum score given
- 0 points – did not attempt exercise

Melodic Sightreading (20%)

There will be two melodies valued at ten points each. The student will be given a maximum of 30 seconds to look over the exercise before beginning. The judge will set the tempo at 60mm for the beat note. Sing the melody using a neutral syllable, solfege syllables or numbers.

- 10 points – perfect reading including accurate rhythms at an even, steady tempo no slower than the tempo given
- Two points will be subtracted for each measure in which an error occurs.
- 0 points – did not attempt exercise

Rhythmic Sightreading

There will be one rhythm exercise. The student will be given a maximum of 30 seconds to look over the exercise before beginning. The judge will set the tempo at 60mm for the beat note. Sightread the given combination of rhythmic patterns (notes and rests) with a voiced syllable, which may be supported by clapping or tapping.

A WORD OF CAUTION: if you choose to use numbers, the judge must hear the pattern of sound and silence. For example, if you have a pattern of two eighth notes, a dotted quarter, and eighth note and a quarter note, the judge should hear one-and-two (held for 1 and $\frac{1}{2}$ beats)-and four. NOT one and two and three and four and. This would indicate 8 eighth notes to the judge. The judge needs to hear the correct sounds and silences of the rhythm written, not the division of the beat.

If there are two lines, continue reading until you come to the double bar line.

10 points – accurate reading including an even steady beat no slower than the tempo given

Two additional points will be subtracted for each measure in which errors occur.

0 points – did not attempt exercise