

2023 TCDA Elementary Honor Choir



We are pleased to announce the 2023 All-State MS/JH Choir, under the direction of Elizabeth Shepley. Elizabeth Shepley enjoyed 16 years as a conductor, teacher, and artistic director of the Northfield Youth Choirs, and 26 years as director of children's and youth

music at the House of Hope Presbyterian Church Choir School in St. Paul and at Bethel Lutheran Church in Northfield. Elizabeth holds a MA in Music Education with a Kodály emphasis (University of St. Thomas), a BA in Music Education (Concordia College, Moorhead, MN), and certifications in both Kodály and Orff-Schulwerk. Further music study has taken her to the Institut Jaques-Dalcroze in Switzerland, the Orff Institute in Austria, The Kodály Institute in Hungary, and the Royal School of Church Music in England. She has taught music education in public and private schools. Elizabeth has chaired inner city music programs in Minneapolis and St. Paul, has served as President of the Twin Cities Chapter of Choristers Guild, as a board member of MN-ACDA and as adjunct professor at Luther Seminary. She has led conferences and festival choirs nationwide, and choirs under her direction have performed across the United States, Canada and Europe.

COST/EXPENSES

Choir members will be responsible for all expenses associated with the Elementary Honor Choir. This includes the **audition fee (\$20), and if selected, registration fee (\$100),** transportation, hotel & meals while in San Antonio. The \$20 audition fee is **non-refundable, no exceptions.** If selected, it is understood the student is expected to commit to the event. In addition, chaperones will be expected to be near the rehearsal site at all times and are expected to meet their children for lunch and at the end of the final rehearsal each day. Chaperones are welcome to observe; however, they should not supervise other children during rehearsals. **The non-refundable registration fee of \$100 is due on or before February 15, 2023.** This fee covers organizational expenses, an official TCDA Elementary Honor Choir t-shirt, water bottle, music packet, a backpack and rehearsal recordings.

NOTIFICATION

The primary form of communication will be email. The names of the students selected for the choir will be

announced by February 1, 2023 on the TCDA website. www.tcda.net. More information regarding deadlines will be sent via email. Music packets, rehearsal tracks and a more detailed schedule will be sent in late February/early March.

SCHEDULE

Thursday, July 20, 2023- Registration & section rehearsals

Friday, July 21, 2023- Morning/afternoon rehearsals

Saturday, July 22, 2023- Morning rehearsals & early afternoon concert performance. Registration and rehearsals will be held in or near the Henry B. Gonzalez Convention Center. Students will be released to parents and chaperones immediately following the concert on Saturday.

AUDITION & APPLICATION

Current TCDA members may submit as many students as they'd like into this process. Each singer, **through their teacher,** must submit an audio audition and payment through our website. **Online auditions will open on October 1.** All auditions will be mp3 files and submitted on-line. If you wish to pay by check or money order, you may separately submit the non-refundable \$20 application fee, per student, to the address below. **Checks should be made payable to TCDA with the student's full name in the memo line.**

Texas Choral Directors Association
Elementary Honor Choir 2023
PO Box 50250 | Austin, Texas 78763

AUDITION MATERIAL & NEW INFO

Students will sing "My Country tis of Thee." This is located in the audition material portion of this packet. There is no limit to the number of students a director may submit to the Honor Choir. This choir is for students who are currently enrolled in 4th, 5th or 6th grade.

******* N E W *******

- The Elementary Honor Choir will be auditioned in **two parts**, Soprano and Alto.
- **6th graders tenors/basses, whose voices have changed, will be able to audition for the MS/JH All-State Choir. They can only audition for one choir; either the MS/JH All-State Choir or the Elementary Honor Choir. 6th grade boys whose voices have not changed can audition for the Elementary Honor Choir.**

IMPORTANT DATES

Online Auditions Open.....October 1, 2022

All forms of payment MUST BE RECEIVED by
.....January 8, 2023

Online Auditions Close.....January 8, 2023

Notification of Acceptance February 1, 2023

Participation/Registration Fee DueFebruary 15, 2023

Music Sent..... late February/early March

Check-in in San Antonio/ Rehearsals Begin

.....July 20, 2023

Elementary Honor Choir Concert July 22, 2023

For questions: 512-474-2801 honorchoir@tcda.net

ELEMENTARY HONOR CHOIR AUDITION PROCEDURE

READ AUDITION DIRECTIONS CAREFULLY

*Part A and Part B below will be recorded and uploaded into the audition website as **three** separate audio files.

PART A

1. The student will sing "My Country 'Tis of Thee" without accompaniment.
2. The student will **NOT** state their name, age, school, or any identifying factor at the beginning or at any time during the recording. Stating this information will result in a disqualification of scoring.
3. The starting pitch must be played in the recording, but once it has been played the student will sing the song unaccompanied.
4. Students will sing "My Country, 'Tis of Thee" in the key of G, as seen below.

Samuel F. Smith

My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Voice

My coun - try, 'tis of thee, Sweet land of lib - er - ty,

5

Voice

Of thee I sing: Land where my fa - thers died, Land of the

10

Voice

pil - grims' pride, From ev - 'ry moun - tain-side Let free - dom ring!

PART B (recorded as **two separate** audio files from Part A)

1. The student will sing the following ascending and descending patterns.
2. The ascending pattern will be recorded as one file, and the descending pattern will be recorded as a separate, second file.
3. Students must sing the correct ascending and descending scales. They cannot choose which they sing. Sopranos must sing the ones assigned to Sopranos, etc... Scoring will be based on tone, phrasing and intonation.
4. The student will sing the following unaccompanied vocalise alone. The teacher must play only the starting pitch at the beginning of each vocalise. The pitch must be heard in the audio recording, but once it has been played the student should sing the vocalise pattern unaccompanied.
5. Observe tempo as indicated. They should sing on either solfege or a neutral syllable.

Alto Ascending Vocalise



Alto Descending Vocalise



Soprano Ascending Vocalise



Soprano Descending Vocalise



File Uploading Order:

1. File one - "My Country 'tis of Thee."
2. File two - "Ascending vocalise."
3. File three - "Descending vocalise."

All singing is acapella. Any audition that is accompanied will be disqualified from the scoring process. Any audition that indicated who the student is or where they're from will also be disqualified from scoring

To submit auditions, you will need an account established with OpusEvent using an email address and password. You may already have an account if you submitted auditions for TCDA last year or if you submit auditions for ACDA or NfAME.

Submit the audio files online through the TCDA website, <https://audition.opusevent.com/Default.aspx?n=2938> with the **\$20 audition fee** by the deadline **(January 8, 2023)**. You will have the option to pay with a credit card online at the time of your audition submission or send a check/cash to the TCDA office. **All forms of payment must be received in the TCDA office by January 8, 2023** and checks must include the student(s) name in the memo line.

Texas Choral Directors Association
PO Box 50250
Austin, TX 78763
honorchoir@tcda.net
512-474-2801

Audition Application Form:

- Below is an audition application form that you can print off to help you collect information you'll need from your student to submit their audition.

TCDA Elementary Honor Choir Audition Application Form

(this form is for teachers to collect information needed for each audition they wish to enter)

Student First & Last Name

Height in inches

Current Grade

Voice Part: Soprano

Alto

Student's School Name

School Name

School District Name

Student Home Mailing Address

City, Zip Code

Name of Chaperone

Chaperone Cell Phone Number

Name of Sponsoring TCDA Member

If selected to participate in the TCDA Elementary Honor Choir, my child will attend all rehearsals and perform in San Antonio, TX, July 20-22, 2023. I understand I am responsible for all expenses associated with this event. I also understand that the **audition fee (\$20, enclosed) and Participation/Registration Fee (if selected, \$100, due February 15) are non-refundable, no exceptions.**

Parent/Guardian Name (please print)

Parent/Guardian Signature

Date

Parent/Guardian Primary E-mail

Parent/Guardian Secondary E-mail