

2016 VMEA Honors Choir Auditions
October 8, 2016
Longwood University, Farmville VA

This letter contains all information you need for registering and preparing your students for VMEA Honors Choir Auditions. Please read everything carefully and follow all instructions accurately. The checklist should identify all steps, and assist you in making sure everything is included. **INCOMPLETE AND LATE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ACCEPTED.**

**THERE ARE TWO SEPARATE DEADLINES WHICH YOU MUST MEET FOR
 REGISTRATION**

- ◆ **Wednesday, SEPTEMBER 14th, 7:00 PM** – ONLINE REGISTRATION DUE!! All school registration forms must be submitted via the website (vmea.com). Confirm accuracy BEFORE submitting, as changes are not allowed after the deadline. *Please check with your technology department PRIOR to the registration deadline to be sure that information can be sent without the interference of firewalls. Submit as early as possible to prevent technical errors.*
- ◆ **FRIDAY, SEPTEMBER 16th** – The student registration form and SCHOOL checks must be postmarked by this date. A hard copy of the school registration, printed from online registration, should be included. ***There are only two forms to return by mail, School Registration and Student Registration.*

Please note: The Online Registration Form is THE registration form, and MUST match all paper submissions and financial paperwork. Registration fees are owed for any student submitted on the online registration.

REGISTRATION CHECKLIST

- ____ 1. **ONLINE School Registration form DEADLINE:** must be submitted via the link found on the Honors Choir website by **7:00 PM on Wednesday, September 14th**. A hard copy should be mailed in with the Audition Applications. No changes may be made to this form following the September 18th deadline. **PLEASE PRINT** a copy of the Online Registration Confirmation for your records and to mail with the paperwork as desired.
- ____ 2. **PAPERWORK DEADLINE** – School Registration forms (may be printed from online registration), Student Registration Form, and School Check must be postmarked by Friday, September 16th. Forms must match Online Registration, and payment is due for the number of students registered online. **NO CHANGES WILL BE MADE. PLEASE MAKE CERTAIN THAT EACH STUDENT AND YOUR PRINCIPAL SIGNS THE REGISTRATION FORM.**
- ____ 3. **School Check/Booster Check** made payable to: **Forest Middle School** \$17.00 per student and \$.25 per student VMEA Administrative Fee
- ____ 4. **Mail to:** Jeremy M. Craft
 Forest Middle School
 100 Ashwood Drive
 Forest, VA 24551
 FAX #: 434-525-1284
 Phone #: 434-525-6630 Cell #: 540-915-1321
- ____ 5. **WEB SITE:** www.vmea.com then follow links for Honors Choir

Audition Event Information

- DATE:** Saturday, October 8, 2016
- PLACE:** Longwood University, Farmville, VA, at Wygal Hall
- STUDENT ELIGIBILITY:** All 12th grade students (class of 2017) enrolled in their school choral programs are eligible to audition with the recommendation of their school choral director. Female tenors or basses and male altos and sopranos are not eligible to audition. No senior selected for Honors Choir in a previous year will be granted a second opportunity should he or she repeat the senior level in school.
- TEACHER ELIGIBILITY:** Teachers must present their up to date NAFME card or a cancelled check for current membership at registration even though their ID number is listed on the audition application. This event is sponsored by NAFME/VMEA: therefore, it is not open to non-members or their students. Non-member fees will not be accepted. If you are not currently a member of NAFME and would like to join, please see: <http://musiced.nafme.org/join> .
- TEACHER PREPARATION:** Arranging transportation to and from the audition location will be the responsibility of the choral director. If the choral director is unable to attend, students may be registered by a designated chaperone approved by the school principal. To allow a designated chaperone, a letter with signatures from the parent, choral director, and principal must be attached and returned with the Audition Application forms and a copy of the teachers NAFME card. Chaperone information may also be faxed to the audition host. If a last minute emergency arises, information may be presented at the registration table, but prior notice is preferred. Students will not be allowed to register themselves.
- PLEASE NOTE:** Teachers **must** pre-screen auditionees within their school. PLEASE do not register students that are unprepared for this opportunity!! **This is not the time to send everyone who wants to try out.** Students auditioning should be prepared completely for the audition process and performance piece.
- AUDITION FEE:** \$17.00 per student
- VMEA FEE:** \$0.25 per student; Adopted 2014 – Please see vmea.com if you have questions
- DEADLINES:** Online School Registration Forms received from the website by 6:00 PM, September 14th. Student Registration Forms, School Registration Form, and School Check postmarked by September 16th.
- CHECKS:** **School checks/ Booster Check only** made payable to Forest Middle School (Please see the School Registration form for specifics on how checks are to be written).
- AUDITION SELECTION:** “I Attempt from Love’s Sickness” by Henry Purcell.
The music is available on the Honors Choir website. The following keys will be used:

Soprano I and Tenor I Key of B- flat Major
Soprano II and Tenor II Key of A-flat Major
Alto I and Bass I Key of F Major
Alto II and Bass II Key of D Major

Hard copies of each key may be downloaded from vmea.com under Honors Choir.

The tempo will be quarter note = 120

AUDITION PROCEDURE:

1. Students may only audition once, and only on the part registered for on the school registration form and online form.
2. Students will perform audition selection with a live accompanist. Accompanists will start the piece at the stated metronome marking, and then follow the student's tempo when they begin singing.
3. Students should be advised to dress appropriately in business/interview attire. Screens are not used for Honors Choir auditions. See the link for further definitions:
<http://www.career.vt.edu/JobSearchGuide/BusinessCasualAttire.html>
4. Sight-Reading – The sight-reading selection may be sung before or after the prepared piece. When the student enters the room they must tell the judges which they wish to do first. The exercise will be 8 measures in length and sung unaccompanied. The exercise will be computer manuscript, with the women's selection written in treble clef, bass selection written in bass clef, and tenor written in both clefs for the student's choice. There will be no interval larger than a fifth. The range will be from ti to la. The exercise will begin on do. Students may sing using solfege, numbers, or neutral syllables. The sight-reading must be performed at a tempo no slower than quarter note = 60. Slower tempos will result in a deduction in score.

PLEASE NOTE: Sight-reading counts for 20% of the total score, therefore, the auditionee should be a skilled sight-reader to even audition for Honors Choir.

SPECIAL REQUESTS:

Please utilize the special request field on the Online Registration Form to request scheduling times, accommodations, schools traveling together, and preferences. Requests will be granted on a first come, first serve basis, but accommodations are not guaranteed. Please email Jeremy Craft, jcraft@bedford.k12.va.us/mr.jeremycraft@gmail.com for further information or questions. Coordinate requests to travel with others schools prior to requesting combined travel to avoid confusion with contradictory information on registration forms. Make communications clear and concise as we have several schools in Virginia with identical names. Note: this audition day will conflict with SATs, band competitions, and homecoming events. Please plan accordingly now, and encourage students to consider alternative testing dates, sites, and scheduling needs prior to registering for auditions.

RESULTS:

Results will be available on the Honors Choir website the week following the audition.

Score sheets and a copy of the results will be e-mailed out the week following the audition. No scores will be available the day of the audition.

TROUBLESHOOTING: If during the registration process or on the day of auditions you, as the director, have an unforeseen issue, please do not hesitate to contact Jeremy Craft via cell phone (540-915-1321). This number is NOT to be given to anyone other than directors or student chaperones.