

Dear Music Teachers and Choral Directors,

It's Cantaremos time! The AzACDA's annual Cantaremos Honor Choir Festival is a great way to start off the season with an exciting opportunity for your students.

Background: Cantaremos was initially the vision of Ashley Ricks and Dr. Bruce Chamberlain. They envisioned a festival specifically for middle school students that would give them a positive singing experience and allow them to take that positive energy back to their school programs. Since its inception in 2005, Cantaremos has done just that, serving over 2,200 young musicians in Arizona.

Audition Requirements: The teacher is responsible for preparing and recording the students doing the three following tasks: **Singing "My Country 'Tis of Thee", singing a major scale on Solfege, and singing the appropriate excerpt from the repertoire.**

Voice Part	Excerpt	Scale	My Country
Treble 1	Hope is a Hidden Star m.39-52	E Major	F Major
Treble 2	Hope is a Hidden Star m.39-52	C Major	C Major
Tenor 1	Can't Help Falling In Love m.8-23	Any Key	D Major
Tenor 2	Can't Help Falling In Love m.8-23	Any Key	A Major
Bass	Can't Help Falling In Love m.8-23	Any Key	E Major
Soprano 1	Ombra Mai Fu m.34-46	F Major	Bb Major
Soprano 2	Ombra Mai Fu m.34-46	E Major	G Major
Alto	Ombra Mai Fu m.34-46	D Major	E Major

Audition Submission Process: Recordings will need to be in MP3 format and then submitted through Opus Events, an online submission website. You will need your ACDA membership number and password (Your user name is usually in this format: 'Aimee_Stewart' and your membership (account) number can be found on the mailing label of your Choral Journal above your name).

- Step 1: Go to www.opusevent.com Select AzACDA Cantaremos Honor Choir Festival.
- Step 2: Input your ACDA Username and Password.
- Step 3: You will need to pay the \$25/school Audition Fee FIRST before you are able to upload auditions.
- Step 4: Ensure your email address is correct - this is how we will communicate with you throughout the festival process. Input all required information.
- Step 4: Upload the .mp3 files of audition recordings - *Make sure to record each item separately.* Click "Save Changes" button in the top right corner frequently.
- **Auditions Close at midnight on Sept. 24th.**

Please remember that those singers who audition are expected to attend the festival if accepted. Do not allow singers to audition if they have a conflict the day of the festival.

Registration: Accepted singers will be announced by October 2nd. Once a student is accepted, there is a \$45 per student registration fee that must be submitted by October 18th, 2019. *This fee is due from every singer who is accepted, regardless of if they can no longer attend the festival.* The fee will include the cost of the sheet music, a t-shirt, and lunch for each student. After payment is received, the sheet music will be mailed directly to you to distribute to your accepted singers. We will email copies of the music immediately after acceptance so that students can begin learning the music right away.

Payment Process: All payments this year are through OpusEvents via credit card. If you must use a check or a PO, it can be done. Please contact me for details. **Cost is: \$25 Audition Fee per School/Organization, \$45 Registration Fee/accepted singer.**

Preparation Teachers will be responsible for preparing their students to sing the specified pieces for the November 9th festival. Pieces should be note and rhythm perfect by the festival. This will give clinicians the opportunity to truly make music with the students rather than just go over parts. The number of before or after school rehearsals is at the discretion of each teacher. Students should be prepared to practice on their own time.

Day of the Festival: Teachers will need to be present at the festival all day on Saturday, November 9th. Registration begins at 8:30 am, rehearsals will start promptly at 9:00 am. Teachers are needed to assist with registration, supervising, solo auditions, sectionals, etc.

Singers should come in comfortable clothes and shoes. Each singer should bring:

- Music in a black folder
- 2 pencils
- Water bottle
- *Correct* concert attire

Concert: The concert is open to the public. Tickets to the 4:00 pm concert can be purchased at registration or at the door for \$5 each. There will be a recording available for purchase on site.

Concert Attire: 5-6 Treble: Cantaremos t-shirt (received during Registration), tan pants, dress shoes. 7-9 Women: Black and/or white modest concert dress or blouse/skirt, dress shoes 7-9 Men: White dress shirt, black dress pants, black belt, socks, and dress shoes.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Cantaremos Festival. Feel free to contact me with any questions!

Sincerely,

Your Cantaremos Chairs

Melanie Openshaw and Allesha Whitwood

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