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Vocal Audition and Recording Instructions

AMIS International Honor Band and Women's Choir Festival and Senior Honor Orchestra and Mixed Choir Festival, 2012

BE SURE TO USE THE CORRECT SET OF AUDITION MATERIALS.

For the festivals in February and March of 2012 use Set C (sung in Italian)

Vocal Audition Instructions

AMIS welcomes interested, well-prepared singers to audition for the AMIS International Honor Choirs. This document has been written to help you to help your students prepare the best possible audition. The audition listening committee strives to select the best singers possible to participate in these Honor Festivals. Please help us in this process by carefully reading and following the instructions.

1. Only students in grades 9 through 13 may audition. Singers may audition for **only one vocal section**.
2. Record using the best equipment and conditions possible. Auditions should be submitted on CD.
3. Be sure you record as **audio** files.
4. Use a **separate** good quality CD for **each** voice part.
5. **Do not announce the name of the school on the recording.** At the beginning of the audition, each student should clearly state **voice part and the order number** in which he/she sings. This is the **only** way to identify who is performing. For example: "I am alto number 6." The **student**, not the teacher, should make the announcement since the audition committee may recognize a teacher's voice.
6. You will need to complete the "**Online Track List and Entry Form**" on the AMIS website. You should **print a copy of this form when you fill out the information. Make a copy of this form and submit it** with your auditions. This list will give the names of students in the order they appear on your recording, listing the tracks in which each individual audition is recorded. This printed list will serve as a double check with the online submission.
7. If a student is auditioning for **both** Honor Band and Women's Choir, or for both Honor Orchestra and the Mixed Choir, clearly **note this** and indicate **which organization** they will choose if admitted to both. You will be asked to clearly indicate which festival each female student is auditioning for. Check the dates and venues carefully before completing this choice!
8. Unchanged male voices will not be considered. Women's voices will not be considered for the tenor section.
9. Be sure that the **full** audition with items in the **correct order** is submitted. A student may be disqualified if the audition is incomplete.
10. Mark your CD with the **school number** listed on the AMIS website and the voice part recorded on that CD. Example: School 5, alto. **DO NOT LIST YOUR SCHOOL NAME.**
11. **The audition recordings and forms must reach the Church Farm House address NO LATER THAN the due date listed on the AMIS web site under "Latest Festival Information."** For the 2012 festivals this date is **October 25, 2011**. Do not assume that even DHL or Federal Express can always make a next day delivery; they can't. If your mail service is notoriously unreliable, it might be best to consider using an express or courier service.
12. Auditions from outside the EU should be clearly marked: educational material, no commercial value.

Send submissions to:

**Georgia Bassett, Executive Consultant
AMIS
Church Farm House
North Lopham, Diss
Norfolk IP22 2LP, England**

**Use Set C for the festivals in the spring of 2012.
You will find the music for set C on the AMIS web site.**

Guidelines to help you prepare a successful vocal audition

Please read carefully before you record:

1. **Carefully observe all metronome markings.** For both vocalises the metronome **must** be heard (without overpowering the singer) throughout the exercise, with the singer and accompanist following that tempo. The singer must also be heard easily.
2. For Vocalise 1: Only the written accompaniment should be played.
3. For Vocalise 2: Play only the **notes as written**, in the singer's octave. No accompaniment, chords, or doubling of the octave.
4. For the Song Excerpt: A tempo range is specified. The tempo of the performance **must** be within the given range. All breath marks and dynamic markings should be observed.
5. **Record Vocalise 1, Vocalise 2, then the song.**
6. Accompaniments can help or hinder your student. If your piano skills are inadequate, find a qualified accompanist or simplify the accompaniment, preferably using the bass line. The committee is listening for **vocal quality, pitch, rhythmic accuracy, and musicality**. It is important that the entire audition represents the student's **wellprepared** performance. The committee can judge only the recorded performance. Help your student to have every possible advantage by carefully following these guidelines. All singers will audition in the same way using the same material.
7. All portions of the audition should be **carefully** prepared. Tone quality, pitch, rhythmic accuracy and musicality (general musicianship) in **all** portions of the audition will be rated and numerical ratings given by all judges in all these categories will be averaged to obtain a final rating.
8. Judges do not know the identity of the auditionees and do not know which school the candidates come from until after all auditions are heard and rated.

Recommended Recording Techniques:

1. Please record in stereo.
2. Put each section of the singer's audition on its **own** track. That means you will use a total of **four** tracks for each audition:
 - introduction
 - vocalise 1
 - vocalise 2
 - song excerpt

You must provide a *track list* as part of the online forms you will submit.

3. The addition of electronic echo/reverb will disqualify the student.
4. Pay attention to *balance*. The metronome and piano must be audible but should not overpower the singer. The metronome should be audibly ticking during the vocalises.
5. Allow the metronome to set the speed for the song, but do not have it running during the song.
6. Make every effort to avoid recording in a room which has too much echo.
7. Avoid recording the voice and accompaniment on separate channels.
8. **Be sure you listen to each entire recording for distortion or editing mistakes.**

Before you send the auditions:

1. Do *not* send auditions which clearly indicate a lack of preparation or a level of performance that is not appropriate for a highly select choir. Screen your auditions.
2. Listen to your completed recordings on a *different* machine.
3. Listen to your recordings once more to insure that you have recorded *complete* auditions consisting of the student information, Vocalise 1, Vocalise 2, and the song. Remember incomplete auditions can disqualify a student. Also listen carefully for balance and clarity. Make sure the singer is *clearly audible*. *Make sure the student does NOT give his or her name or the name of your school.*
4. Make a back-up copy of your recordings. This may prove invaluable if a CD arrives in broken condition.
5. Label each recording with your school's number and the voice part on that disc.
6. Be sure to supply the necessary paperwork.