

OPUS HONOR CHOIR November 15, 2018

OPUS is the Junior High All-State Honor Choir held in conjunction with the All-State Music Festival weekend in November. Selection into the honor choir is based on audition recordings submitted from throughout the state. Over two thousand students audition for 5-6th grade treble clef choir, 7-8th treble choir, 7-8th bass clef (boys) choir, and 9th grade mixed choir, by students musicians who really like to sing.

This audition requires that a student can sing the **selected audition material in tune, and with attention to musicianship, with no accompaniment.** Opus auditions offer a challenge to *motivated* and/or *advanced musicians*.

How much of my time will this take?

Practices are mainly on your own, but Mrs. Gedler will help you perfect the music before/after school or during study halls if it works in the schedule. If the student is selected into Opus, they will **miss school November 15** to attend an all-day rehearsal at Iowa State University in Ames. The concert is held in the late afternoon.

Guidelines for practice:

- **PRACTICE on your own.** Links to practice tracks and audition cuts for ALL VOICE parts will be found at stjhchorus.weebly.com, on the opus tab.
- **Listen** while *following the printed music* BEFORE practicing. We'll have been working in large groups at school, but it is different when you have to sing **by yourself**, a cappella
- **Singers must sing the same voice part in each audition selection-(example, if you sing tenor 1 on the audition song excerpt, you must audition the tenor 1 pitches for the Scale and 'My Country Tis of Thee'**
- Mark the music –**circle dynamics**, *write in pronunciations* to unfamiliar or foreign language words. Practice saying the text to the correct rhythm. PRACTICE PRACTICE
- PRACTICE *without* the recording as soon as the notes are learned in order to get used to singing *a cappella* (singing without part being played or piano accompaniment). Record yourself singing to check for pitch accuracy, text clarity and musicianship. Fix your mistakes 😊 PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE
- Take care of your voice... Try not to get sick! Make sure you get lots of rest, with no yelling and screaming. PRACTICE PRACTICE PRACTICE
- We will make the recordings here at Stilwell, the week of September 10, 2018, and I will also have some time slots on Saturday September 15, here at Stilwell.

Strive for **perfection**. All recordings submitted for consideration are STRONG. The music **must** be **accurately learned** and performed with **musicality**. PRACTICE!!!!!!

After the recordings have been submitted... (how singers are selected):

*The recordings are uploaded to a website. Various music teachers serving as judges.

It is a **blind** audition – judges do not have names or schools of the singers.

- The judges listen to all the recordings, there are usually well over a thousand recordings submitted.
- The judges rate each recording using a ballot. The students with recordings that have earned the highest points are selected for opus honor choir.
- The lists of **accepted students** are mailed to Iowa schools in **EARLY to MID OCTOBER!!!**

*****On the back of this sheet is a RUBRIC of how the judges score the recordings of singers. The highest scoring recordings are selected for Opus Honor Choir.

If you are selected for OPUS:

- It means you worked hard, are talented, and you deserve it!!!!
- (note– SEVERAL students ☺ or ZERO students☹ could be accepted from STJH. The maximum accepted will be twelve students per teacher vocal teacher (just me). (The strongest 12 recordings will have been submitted)
- You will learn your vocal part to 5 songs, and again, PRACTICE!!!! Fun fun fun!!!!!! ☺ ☺ ☺ ☺
- You will miss school on Thursday, November 15, and travel to Ames by car or bus. Singers from all over the Iowa practice together during the day, and have a concert at CY Stephens Auditorium (ISU) that afternoon at 4pm.

Questions? Please do not hesitate to E-mail me at gedlerk@wdmcs.org Mrs. Gedler

PLEASE RETURN THIS SHEET only, WITH SIGNATURE when you come to make your recording, or before, and keep the other information sheet to refer to if you have questions.

We have read the Opus honor choir information sheet, and _____
(please print student name CLEARLY)

has my permission to **audition** for Opus Honor Choir, which is the first step.

*We understand that the audition recording must be made *starting* the week of **September 11 at Stilwell**. Sign up times will be made available before and after school all that week.

If accepted into this choir, we give our student permission to **miss school on November 15, 2018** and **attend opus honor choir festival** as a field trip in **Ames, Iowa**. We give our student permission to ride with Mrs. Gedler (or ride on a school bus) up to Ames the morning of November 15, 2018. **Parents will bring students home AFTER the concert unless previous arrangements have been made with Mrs. Gedler.**

Reminder: **Mrs. Gedler does not choose the opus honor choir members.**

***Audition recordings are submitted by mail to a panel of judges who make those decisions.**

(parent/guardian) _____
(student)

Contact info if NOT available/correct on Infinite campus:
e-mail _____ phone _____

Part sung: (circle choice)

S1 SII AI AII I am not sure yet... TI TII BI BII

Student Height _____ (this info is needed on the audition form for student performance order, if selected)