

## **OPUS HONOR CHOIR November 21, 2019**

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 5-6<sup>th</sup> grade treble clef choir, 7-8<sup>th</sup> treble choir, 7-8<sup>th</sup> bass clef (boys) choir, and 9<sup>th</sup> 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. The audition itself can be as short as 90 seconds if the student is prepared and makes a recording to his/her satisfaction. If the student is selected into Opus, they will learn more music (practices with Mrs. Gedler scheduled when convenient, student self-practice), and then **miss school November 21** 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](http://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
- There is a short opus workshop on Saturday September 7, 2019, held at Windsor Heights Lutheran Church. Details to be announced. Please plan on attending if you want to audition for opus. Cost-\$10?

## RECORDINGS!

- We will make the recordings here at Stilwell, beginning the week of September 9, 2019, or when students are ready and prepared. I may also have some time slots on Saturday September 14, here at Stilwell.

Strive for **perfection**. All student recordings submitted from around the state 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!!!**

\*\*\*\*\*Please see the OPUS 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 21, 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](mailto:gedlerk@wdmcs.org) Mrs. Gedler

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**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 9 at Stilwell, and must be completed by Wednesday September 25.** 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 21, 2019 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 bus) up to Ames the morning of November 21, 2019.  
**\*\*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)