

Salem Jr. High

Choral Audition Packet

AUDITIONS ARE APRIL 18th, 19th and 20th!

Thank you for auditioning for the Salem Jr. High advanced choirs! Included in this packet are the materials that you will need for your audition with Mr. Guthrie. Below is a list of commitments that are expected of those who make the final list. Please read carefully and consider each of the commitments before signing up for your audition time.

COMMITMENTS: (please initial)

I recognize that this is a year long class. I will make myself available for the entire year. _____

If I do not make it into my preferred auditioned ensemble (Chamber Singers/Bella Voce) I will enlist in concert choir for the following school year.(No diva attitudes in Salem Jr. High!). _____

If you are admitted into a choir, that means that someone else was not. If admitted, I commit to not changing my mind regarding participation over the summer or during the school year. _____

Advanced Choirs often will perform music of greater difficulty. I commit to daily practice and finishing assignments given before the next rehearsal. I agree to be completely prepared for rehearsal. _____

Chamber Singers/Bella Voce often will have extra performances throughout the school year. If accepted, I will make myself available for each performance. _____

Chamber Singers/Bella Voce work at a quick and productive pace. I am willing to behave in an appropriate, respectful manner for the entire rehearsal, each rehearsal. _____

I will be proactive in singing out and being productive with my voice. I will lead when necessary. I will follow when necessary. I will not hide my voice from the choir. _____

If I have any disagreements or bad feelings with anyone in the choir, including Mr. Guthrie, I will speak with that person and resolve my issues with them so that it does not affect the choir. _____

My voice is extremely important to the choir. I recognize that my absence is greatly missed. I will communicate any conflicts with concert dates or important rehearsals well ahead of time. _____

I will not only be an outstanding singer, but commit to being an outstanding person, friend, student (in all subjects) and family member. _____

SIGNATURE

I understand the commitments above and am willing to abide by what is written _____

Student Audition information

Name _____ Grade Level Next Year? (circle) 7th 8th 9th

What choir are you in now?(circle) None Women's Chorus Men's Chorus Concert Choir Bella Voce Chamber Singers

If coming from a different school, did you sing in choir there? What groups? _____

Which Choir are you Auditioning for? (Circle ALL that apply) Chamber Singers Bella Voce

Do you have a preference if considered for both ensembles? _____

Occasionally students have been allowed to sing in BOTH choirs simultaneously. This would be a serious commitment that would take up 2 class periods and would require the demands of both choirs. This can be extremely challenging but very rewarding. Is this something you would want to do? (circle one) Yes No

Do you play piano? _____ If so, How Long? _____

What kind of Piano music can you play? (Circle) 1-Part 2-Part 4-Part hymns Classical Literature

Have you taken, or are you currently taking private voice lessons? _____ If So, How long? _____

Do you play any other instruments in a way that could help the choir? _____

Would you want to be someone I chose to be a section leader? Yes No

For Parents

Frequently, the success of any choral program lies in the support of the parents! I am actively trying to build a support group to help support various choir activities in rehearsals and concerts and other planned events. If you are would like to be a part of that, would you indicate your willingness to be selected for any of the following?

Chaperone for Field Trips: YES NO

Rehearsal Pianist (during school): YES NO

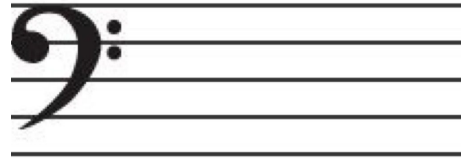
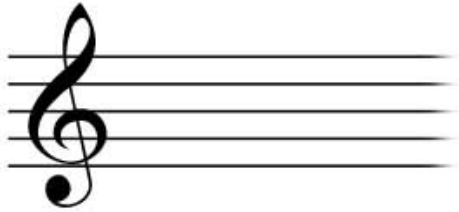
Concert Usher: YES NO

Concert Holding Room Chaperone: YES NO

Sectional leading: YES NO

Parent Name _____ Parent Phone _____

Information for Mr. Guthrie (DO NOT FILL THIS OUT)



Tone Quality	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Intonation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Dynamics	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Confidence	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Behavior	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	Unknown
Sight Singing	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Preparation	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	
Gut Feeling	1	2	3	4	5	6	7	8	9	10	

Initial Impression _____

Special Considerations? _____

Other Factors? _____

Audition Preparation Instructions

1. Learn the opening line to “Homeward Bound” (included in packet). It does not need to be memorized, but you will do better and feel better about your audition if it is!
2. Learn your HARMONY part to the Star Spangled Banner (included in packet). Men will choose Tenor or Bass and ALL sopranos and alto auditioners will sing the ALTO part. This is to test your ability to teach yourself an unfamiliar voice part. Do not prepare the main melody!
3. Relax! I try to make the audition process as easy as possible for you!
4. On the day of your audition. Show up 20 minutes early. You never want to be late to an audition! Give yourself time!

How Does An Audition Usually Go Down?

The audition process is really quick and simple! It is just you and me in the choir room for about 5 minutes. In that time, I will have you start by singing Homeward Bound. I may give you a small coaching session to get your very best sound and to see how you respond to vocal tips.

After that, I will have you do some vocal exercises (warm-ups) to find how high and low you can sing. I usually expect the singer to go until they crack or can't sing anymore, so expect that that will eventually happen both high AND low.

I will then have you do a small sight-reading example. If you are unfamiliar with sight-singing, see what you can learn before your audition, but don't sweat it too much. I expect people to be familiar with music, but not perfect. Just do your best! Most people do fine here.

We will then sing through the Star-Spangled Banner. I play all 4 parts on the piano, and you sing your prepared voice part (NOT THE MELODY). This is something you should have prepared on your own. I won't help you through this one. This is for me to see your independence as a musician. After that, we shake hands and we are done! Easy!

Frequently Asked Questions

Q: If I don't get into the choir that I auditioned for, does that mean I have a bad voice or that I don't sing well?

A: ABSOLUTELY NOT!!! This is one of the hardest times of year for me. I have about 120 auditions but only 80 spots between BOTH auditioned groups. That means I have to make very hard calls about who gets to be in which choir. Sometimes, there are singers with 'better' voices or great technique that don't make it in because it is hard to fit them with the rest of the selected section. It's a very difficult process that I don't enjoy at all. This does not mean you are a bad singer. Every year, there are singers in the other choirs that could easily jump in and be just as successful. Please do not take it personally if you are not selected.

Q: Is there a “top choir?”

A: A choir is only as good as the people that are in it. Every year, ANY choir could be the “top” choir. Wherever you end up, make sure you work hard to make that true for your group!

Q: I want to audition but I don't know if I'm good enough. Should I audition if I think I won't make it?

A: YES!! Every year I hear this multiple times. Many have said this, auditioned anyway, and got it. You never know! The only thing that is certain is that if you DON'T audition, you definitely won't make it! Auditioning only helps your chances! ;) If it doesn't work out in your favor anyway, the audition can give you great feedback on how to improve for a future audition

The Star-Spangled Banner

Vigorously ♩ = 88-104

1. Oh say, can you see, by the dawn's ear - ly light,
 2. On the shore, dim - ly seen thru the mists of the deep,
 3. Oh, thus be it ev - er, when free men shall stand

What so proud - ly we hailed at the twi - light's last gleam - ing,
 Where the foe's haugh - ty host in dread si - lence re - pos - es,
 Be - tween their loved homes and the war's des - o - la - tion!

Whose broad stripes and bright stars, through the per - il - ous fight,
 What is that which the breeze, o'er the tow - er - ing steep,
 Blest with vic - t'ry and peace, may the heav'n - res - cued land

O'er the ram - parts we watched, were so gal - lant - ly stream - ing?
 As it fit - ful - ly blows, half con - ceals, half dis - clos - es?
 Praise the Pow'r that hath made and pre - served us a na - tion!

And the rock - ets' red glare, the bombs burst - ing in air,
 Now it catch - es the gleam of the morn - ing's first beam,
 Then con - quer we must, when our cause it is just,

Gave proof thru the night that our flag was still there.
 In full glo - ry re - flect - ed now shines on the stream;
 And this be our mot - to: "In God is our trust!"

Oh say, does that star - span - gled ban - ner yet wave
 'Tis the star - span - gled ban - ner! Oh, long may it wave
 And the star - span - gled ban - ner in tri - umph shall wave

O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave?
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!
 O'er the land of the free and the home of the brave!

HOMeward BOUND

Arranged by
JAY ALTHOUSE

Words and Music by
MARTA KEEN

Tenderly (♩ = 69-76)

mp

In the qui - et mist - y

mp (bell-like)

if this is too low here, sing your
best and sing what you have!

4

morn - ing when the moon has gone to bed, when the spar - rows stop their

8

sing - ing and the sky is clear and red. When the