



Alabama Vocal Association

Honor Choir is an event at the AMEA Conference during even-numbered years (i.e., January 2014, 2016, etc.) Choral directors choose one or two quartets (SATB) from their best students in grades 9-12. Candidates are screened in each district on the Honor Choir music and, if selected for Honor Choir, rehearse and perform during the AMEA Conference.

Standing Rules for Honor Choir

A. Eligibility

1. Directors will nominate up to eight of their best students in balanced quartets to be screened for admission into Honor Choir. Directors may combine with other schools to create balanced quartets.
2. Students in grades 9-12 are eligible to be screened. All Honor Choir candidates must be enrolled in a high school choral program, and the choral director must be a current member of AVA/NAfME.
3. Because All-State Show Choir and Honor Choir are concurrent festivals, students who are in All-State Show Choir cannot also participate in Honor Choir. However, All-State Show Choir results will be sent soon enough for directors to be able to nominate students not accepted into ASSC as Honor Choir candidates.
4. If a school is on the block system, students who are enrolled for one semester will be eligible for all AVA events during that entire school year.
5. Homeschool choirs must meet at least weekly for students to be eligible to participate in AVA events. Homeschool choirs must be covered under an umbrella school with a governing administrator and a choral director who is a member of AVA/NAfME.
6. Students who were selected for the previous Honor Choir and did not attend, or who were dismissed from the previous Honor Choir are not eligible to audition for the subsequent Honor Choir. All absences are reviewed by the AVA Board. Documentation, either a doctor's excuse or funeral program, must be submitted to the AVA Executive Secretary within 10 days of that year's festival.

B. Ordering Music and Preparing Students for Screening

1. Honor Choir music is chosen by the Honor Choir clinician and approved by the AVA Board at the Summer Board Meeting. As soon as the list is finalized it is posted on the website. It can be ordered through any music supplier. The Honor Choir typically sings six pieces.
2. Music should be ordered eight weeks before screening so that students have ample time to prepare the music.
3. Each student must have an original copy of each piece of music with measures numbered for the screening. Photocopied music may not be used during auditions and will disqualify a student from participating in Honor Choir. If Honor Choir music ordered is still on backorder from the publisher three

weeks before the screening date, the director should contact the District Chair for copies of the music. Photocopied music will be accepted at an Honor Choir screening only if the director offers proper proof, in the form of written communication, from the supplier that the music in question has been ordered eight weeks prior to the screening date.

4. Students are responsible for knowing their entire voice part in all of the selections. Students will sing every piece in its entirety during the screening. Directors will assess whether students know their music using the screening evaluation sheet. District Chairs report pass/fail results to the Honor Choir Coordinator.
5. Music does not have to be memorized. Students will use their music in the screening. Honor Choir practice recordings are available for students to learn their Honor Choir music. They are optional, and are not officially endorsed by AVA, but can serve as a rehearsal aid to supplement the time the director spends teaching the music.
6. Treble students will sing soprano or alto. Students with changed voices will sing tenor or bass.

C. Screening Application (no cost)

1. A complete Honor Choir registration includes:
 - a. Submitting **Honor Choir Screening Adjudication Form F7.2** signed by parent and student, after reading *Parent Information for Honor Choir*
 - b. There is no charge for Honor Choir screening
2. Applications will not be accepted later than two weeks prior to screening.
3. Directors must have current NAfME membership in order to register for any AVA event.

D. The Screening

1. Directors will receive notification of the screening from the District Chair.
2. Directors must accompany students to the screening and will assist in the screening process following instructions from the District Chair.
3. Each student must bring the following to auditions:
 - a. The **Honor Choir Screening Adjudication Form F7.2** signed by a parent and student (after reading *Parent Information for Honor Choir*)
 - b. Complete set of Honor Choir music with measures numbered (no photocopies)
4. Honor Choir Screening procedure:
 - a. Each student will sit or stand where assigned and will be given a tag with a voice part and number (for example, A35 means the 35th alto).
 - b. For each piece of Honor Choir music, pitches will be given, or the accompaniment will begin.
 - c. All students will sing the piece as a choir, using their music, conducted by the District Chair or another director.
 - d. All of the other directors will move through the choir, listening to students sing, and checking for deficiencies in music preparation, tone quality, and rehearsal etiquette.
 - e. After each piece has been sung, directors will mark “pass” or “fail” for each student.

5. The District Chair will consult with directors in the cases of students marked “fail” by any directors before the choir is dismissed.
6. The District Chair will compile a list of all the students who have passed the screening and send to the Honor Choir Coordinator and Executive Secretary.

E. Festival Registration

1. Honor Choir results will be given to directors within two weeks of the screening.
2. A complete registration includes:
 - a. Submitting **Honor Choir Registration Form F7.3** online via www.alabamavocalassociation.org.
 - b. Providing any changes or corrections to student information
 - c. Total fees, which include:
 - \$50 school fee for ME, which also covers the school fee for OCS and OA
 - \$10 fee for each student
 - Late fee (if applicable): 2 weeks at \$50, 3rd week at \$100, 4th week at \$150
3. Pay or postmark fees by the deadline on the website to:

John Kincaid
AVA Executive Secretary
4921 Twin Pine Circle
Hoover, AL 35226
4. No applications will be accepted more than twenty business days late.
5. Directors must have current NAfME membership in order to register students for any AVA event.

F. Honor Choir Festival

1. Directors must accompany students to Honor Choir and must register for the AMEA conference.
2. Students in Honor Choir whose school choir is also performing at AMEA conference may not miss Honor Choir rehearsals to rehearse with the school choir.
3. Directors must only bring students who passed the Honor Choir screening and were originally registered. No substitutions will be allowed.
4. Each student must bring a complete original set of music with measures numbered and a pencil to each rehearsal. Photocopied music in rehearsals is not allowed.
5. Students must bring a black folder for the Honor Choir concert.
6. Directors will be given rehearsal assignments to take attendance and to monitor behavior in each rehearsal.
7. Students must wear name tags to each rehearsal. Attendance is taken at each rehearsal and names of students who are absent are reported to the AVA Board. If a student is late for two rehearsals, they will be removed from the choir. Absence from a rehearsal or performance or removal due to disciplinary actions will result in disqualification from the current and the subsequent Honor Choir festival.
8. Students are required to participate in the Honor Choir festival and concert in its entirety.

9. Students should wear their school choral uniform (formal attire or choir robe) for the Honor Choir concert. If the school choral uniform is not formal, students must dress in formal concert attire that meets minimum dress code (knee length or floor length dresses with appropriate dress shoes; or and a shirt, tie, and dress slacks). Show choir uniforms or prom-style dresses (sequins, spaghetti straps, etc.) are not acceptable. Any revealing attire is inappropriate for this occasion.