

JAZZ CHOIR PROCEDURES

1. ELIGIBILITY AND PARTICIPATION POLICIES:

The membership of the District Jazz Choir will be determined by auditions referred to as "Acceptance Auditions." These will normally be scheduled at District 9 Band Festival. Only 9th, 10th, 11th and 12th grade students, who are members of their school chorus, band, or orchestra may audition for a place in the Jazz Choir.

The student's music director must be a current member of the PMEA and participate in the work of the festival. Proof of membership will be required both at the registration for acceptance auditions and at the festival.

The student's own director has three areas of responsibility:

- * He/She must serve on an assigned audition committee at the acceptance auditions.
- * He/She should be available as the representative of his/her school and the student's parents in case of a medical emergency or disciplinary problem. If held in conjunction with the elementary Band Music Fest, the school representative at the music festival may serve in this capacity.
- * He/She should be a representative of his students and school at the festival business meeting should one be necessary.

The individual school remains responsible for its participating students for the duration of the festival. Should it be necessary to send a student home, the home school district must be responsible.

The district president and the festival host may jointly approve a qualified substitute for the director when unique circumstances occur. Requests for substitute approval must be made prior to the auditions and must be prompted by extreme circumstances, not personal convenience or preference.

Each student who auditions will receive a copy of his/her scores and any judges comments. Students will be rated solely on the basis of their performances on the tape. Directors will be asked to certify the authenticity of the tape on the student application form.

2. AUDITION MUSIC:

A. The student will sing two different major scales in swing eighth note using jazz syllables (ascending and descending; tempo-quarter note =100; one octave including the ninth on top).

B. The students will be required to improvise using Jamey Aebersold's Volume 54 - Maiden Voyage, using Bb blues. Student must sing the head two times using scat syllables and improvise two solo choruses.

C. Students will perform a standard chosen from Jamey Aebersold volumes 22, 23, or 25. This may be performed using the Jamey Aebersold accompaniment or other accompaniment of the student's choosing (i.e. piano or rhythm section). Computer generated accompaniments (i.e. Band-in-a-Box) are also acceptable. If using accompaniment other than Aebersold, tempo and key are up to the performer. A maximum of 2 choruses will be judged.

3. GROUP SIZE AND INSTRUMENTATION

A. The Jazz Choir will consist of :

- * 6 sopranos
- * 6 altos
- * 6 tenors
- * 6 basses

*sopranos and tenors will be divided into 4 firsts and 2 seconds.

altos and basses will be divided into 4 seconds and 2 firsts.

In the case of music using 3 part male or female- 2nd tenors and 1st basses sing baritone, 2nd sopranos and 1st altos sing middle part.

Other divisions are up to the discretion of the director.

- * 1 Bass (Electric, Keyboard, or String Bass)
- * 1 Trap Drums (Percussionist)
- * 1 Piano (Synthesizer)
- * 1 Guitar and/or mallets

4. AUDITIONS - GENERAL PROCEDURES

Students will be chosen for membership and placed in a section as a result of their scores in the acceptance auditions. These auditions will also function as part auditions.

5. AUDITION MATERIALS

Rating forms: The audition chairman or festival host will obtain an adequate supply of the official rating forms from district officers on advance of the audition date.

6. JUDGING PROCESS

Applications will be rated on the basis of adjudication of all judges assigned to that instrument. Rating of all students will be determined by the total of the judges' scores. Judges are strongly urged to include constructive comment that they feel will be helpful to the student. All sheets should include the judge's signature. The white copy of the individual score sheets and composites of the score sheets will go to the president. The individual score sheets are considered the official scores. Highest and lowest judge's score for any one student must not exceed the ten-point range.

7. COMPUTATION OF SCORES AND RANKING

Due to the size of this festival, there will be no separate tally committee. The audition judges will tally the scores and report the ranking to the respective students and their directors. In the case of TIES, the students involved will all be accepted into the festival.

8. ASSIGNMENT OF PARTS

The assignment of parts will generally follow the formula of the highest scores receiving the lead part in the section, and audition committee recommendation shall be considered. Due to the nature of the Jazz band part assignments, all students will receive parts, which contain solos. These may consist of a variety of parts.

9. ALTERNATES

If an alternate is needed, the next student in the ranking will be notified. In the event that no other available/qualified student has auditioned for a position in the festival, a substitute singer may be appointed to assist the group at the director's discretion.

10. HOST SCHOOL REPRESENTATION

The school hosting the festival will be assured of one participant in the district Jazz festival. The audition committee and host director will decide on which student from that school would be the most beneficial to the ensemble and add that person. Representatives will be selected only from those who submit tapes.

11. REGISTRATION FEE REFUND

In the event an eligible student cannot come to the festival, the registration fee will be refunded in a qualified substitute can be obtained to take the place of a student. If the substitute cannot be obtained, the host will endeavor to the best of his/her ability to refund as much of the fee as possible.

12. HOST REQUIREMENTS

All schools which participate in District 9 Jazz Festival, must host the festival on a rotating basis. Hosting the District 9 Jazz Festival does not qualify the school in the rotation for hosting District Band, Chorus, or Orchestra.

13. REVIEW OF PROCEDURES

These rules and audition procedures may be reviewed yearly at the festival business meeting. This copy of the by-laws should be saved from year to year. Minor changes will be published by means of a memo to be added as an additional appendix to the outstanding copies. Complete republication will take place if major and extensive changes are voted into practice.

New members will receive a current copy from their music department chairman when they join the school staff.