



Alabama Vocal Association

Honor Choir is a venue at the AMEA Conference during even-numbered years (i.e., January 2012, 2014, etc.). Choral directors choose one or two quartets (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) from their best students in grades 10-12. Candidates are screened in each district on the Honor Choir music and, if selected for Honor Choir, rehearse and perform during the AMEA Conference.

Parent Information for **Honor Choir Festival**

1 Eligibility

1. Directors may nominate up to eight students in balanced quartets to be screened for admission into Honor Choir. Directors may combine with other schools to create balanced quartets.
2. 9th-12th graders are eligible for Honor Choir.
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. Students who were selected for the previous year's Honor Choir and did not attend, or who were dismissed from the previous year's Honor Choir, are not eligible to audition for the subsequent Honor Choir. All absences are reviewed by the AVA Board. Documentation must be submitted by the choral director to the AVA Executive Secretary within ten days of that year's festival (doctor's excuse, funeral program, etc.)

2 Ordering Music and Preparing Students for the Screening

1. 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.
2. 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 Chairmen report pass/ fail results to the Honor Choir Coordinator and the Executive Secretary.
3. Music does not have to be memorized. Students will use their music in the screening.
4. 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.
5. Female students will sing either soprano or alto. Male students will sing tenor or bass.

3 The Screening

1. Directors will receive notification of the screening time from the District Chairman.
2. Directors must accompany students to the screening and will assist in the screening process following instructions from the District Chairman.
3. Each student must bring the following to auditions:
 - c. **Honor Choir Screening Adjudication Form F7.2**, signed by parent and student, after reading *Parent Information for Honor Choir*.
 - d. Complete set of Honor Choir music with measures numbered (no photocopies).

Honor Choir Screening Procedure:

- 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).
 - For each piece, pitches will be given, or the accompaniment will begin.
 - All students will sing the piece as a choir, using their music, conducted by the District Chairman or another director.
 - 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.
4. After each piece has been sung, directors will mark "pass" or "fail" for each student.
 5. The District Chairman will consult with directors in the cases of students marked "fail" by any directors before the students are dismissed.
 6. The District Chairman will compile a list of all the students who have passed the screening and send to the Honor Choir Coordinator.

4 Honor Choir Festival

1. Directors must accompany students to Honor Choir and must register for the AMEA Conference.
2. Directors must only bring students who passed the Honor Choir screening and were originally registered. No substitutions will be allowed.
3. 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.
4. Students must bring a black folder for the Honor Choir concert.
5. Students must wear nametags 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, he/she will be removed from the choir. Absence from a rehearsal or performance or removal due to disciplinary actions will result in disqualification from this and the subsequent Honor Choir.
6. Students are required to participate in the Honor Choir festival and concert in its entirety.
7. 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 the minimum dress code (knee length or floor length dress for girls with appropriate dress shoes, and a shirt, tie, and dress slacks with dress shoes for boys). Show choir uniforms or prom-style dresses (sequins, spaghetti straps, etc.) are not acceptable. Any revealing attire is inappropriate for this occasion.