



Before you read this packet, go to your computer and send an email to michael.rozell@bvasd.net. I need to build a D1 database of teachers attending auditions. If you do not email me, you will likely not get any further information. All other info will be sent via email.

Thank you.

Wednesday, October 10, 2018

Dear Choral Directors,

I hope this letter finds you off to a great start to the school year! I am pleased to be hosting the PMEA District 1 Chorus auditions here at Belle Vernon Area High School. Please note the following audition information:

DATE: Monday, November 19, 2018
LOCATION: Belle Vernon Area High School
425Crest Ave.
Belle Vernon, PA 15012
AUDITION HOST: Michael Rozell. michael.rozell@bvasd.net. 724-808-2500. Ext 2171
TIMES: 3:00-4:15 Registration for students and directors
4:15 Directors' Meeting in the music room
5:00 Auditions begin
COST: \$5.00 to audition
SONGS: 1. *Antiphon*. Randall Thompson. E.C. Schirmer Music Company, No. 2915
2. *I Love My Love*. Gustav Holst. CPDL

All information in this packet PLUS other forms can be found on my schoolwires website. To visit my site, go to www.bellevernonarea.net. At the top of the page click on *select a school*. Choose *Belle Vernon Area High School*. Under *teachers* select *Michael Rozell*. That will take you to my webpage.

Directors will meet in the media center for the director meeting. Student guides will be available to direct you. Food and drink will be provided there for the directors. I am asking that you make a donation of \$5 to contribute toward the cost of the food. We will start the directors' meeting promptly at 4:15 so auditions can begin at 5:00. Students should report to the auditorium lobby to register for an audition. Once students have registered, they should wait in the cafeteria where food will be available for purchase from 4:00-7:00.

The address for BVAHS is: 425 Crest Ave. Belle Vernon, PA 15012. Also, I have enclosed the **NEW AUDITION RULES AND PROCEDURES**. **Please take a few minutes to review them.** Directors new to District 1 should especially familiarize themselves with audition procedures. We are hoping to limit lengthy procedure discussion so auditions can begin on time.

A few quick reminders about the auditions:

-A starting pitch ***only*** will be given by the pitch pipe and like voice. We do not give the students a count-off for them to begin.

-Restart: if a student stops before the midpoint, they may restart once from the beginning. Once the student passes the midpoint, they restart from the midpoint with a new pitch sounded for them.

-In order to be considered for representation should none of your students be chosen for the choir, you must bring at least two students **of different voice parts**. Also, remember representation is optional. Numerous directors choose not to have students selected by representation if none make it by audition.

-We are planning to post the results of auditions on the District 1 website (<http://district1.pmea.net>). Directors can check them at their convenience. The website address and password will be given out at the directors' meeting.

I am happy to inform you that Ethan LaPlaca from Mt. Lebanon High School will host the District 1 Chorus Festival February 6-8, 2019. The guest conductor will be Dr. Caron Daley from Duquesne University. He will contact you with all necessary information for the festival. For more information, please contact Ethan at elaplaca@mtlsd.net.

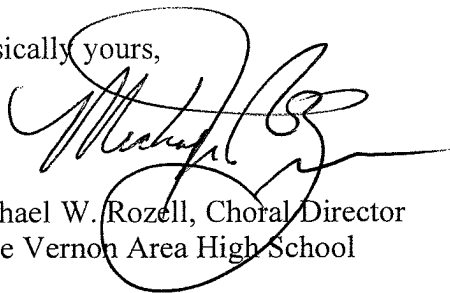
IMPORTANT!!

- Please email me at michael.rozell@bvasd.net ASAP so that I can start to build a D1 Audition Database. This will be the one and only thing sent through the mail. I will email you all other forms, etc once the database is established. **PLEASE DO NOT DELAY IN EMAILING ME!**
- All Directors must have a current membership for their students to participate. Since all memberships now run July-July, I will pass along this information directly to the district chorus host, thus eliminating the need for you to send another copy. Please email me a scanned copy of your PMEA/NAfME CARD.
- All directors must be present for the entire evening of auditions. If you are unable to attend, a CURRENT PMEA member **MUST** accompany your students. However, it cannot be a current member who would already be in attendance. It must be a teacher not normally at auditions. Regarding audition assignments, please keep in mind that everyone is busy and has somewhere to go after the auditions.
- Practice recordings of the audition music ("I Love My Love" and "Antiphon") for the upcoming District Chorus Auditions have been posted to the PMEA District 1 website Members-Only section for your use. You may download them and burn CD's or post them to your own sites for your students to use. **DO NOT GIVE STUDENTS THE PASSWORD TO THE DISTRICT 1 WEBSITE MEMBERS ONLY SECTION!** Please note that there is an incorrect pitch in the Tenor 1 line of "I Love My Love" - mm. 60, the Db should be a D-natural. An updated copy has been posted to the D1 website.
- The updated password for the members-only section of the website is: pmeadistrict1music - **PLEASE DO NOT SHARE THIS PASSWORD WITH STUDENTS!**
- If you have students interested in auditioning as a piano accompanist for this year's District Chorus festival, please refer to Ethan LaPlaca, the audition host's letter which can be found on the District 1 website. Don't forget to complete the director registration form if you have a student auditioning by Friday, October 19th.

If you should need further information or have any questions regarding auditions, please call or email me at 724-808-2500 ext. 2171 or michael.rozell@bvasd.net.

I look forward to seeing you at the auditions!

Musically yours,



Michael W. Rozell, Choral Director
Belle Vernon Area High School

AUDITION PROCEDURES TO QUALIFY FOR PMEA DISTRICT 1 CHORUS

1. General Information

- a. Audition host school site should be centrally located in PMEA District 1.
- b. Photocopied music is not permissible by law.
- c. The auditions will be held the Monday before Thanksgiving.
- d. The auditions will include two selections each year in a cyclical order as stated in the PMEA District 1 Newsletter and on the PMEA District 1 Website and sight-reading.
- e. Audition pieces will be included in the concert program for District Chorus.
- f. Every school must bring a minimum of two different voice parts to be eligible for representation. The district president may grant an exemption to this policy.
- g. Each school represented at the auditions will be guaranteed one student in the district chorus if they choose.
 - i. Once rankings are determined, the executive committee, consisting of the officers and host will readjust the choir to guarantee representation of each school and also achieve choir section balance.
 - ii. The size of the choir will be predetermined by the host. The host can receive student representation of 10% of the total choir. The students of the host school are not required to audition. It is recommended that this 10% be distributed evenly by section.
 - iii. The audition excerpt should be of adequate duration to allow for fair evaluation and long periods of rest should be avoided.

2. Director Information

- a. Each director will be asked to rank their auditioning students in order of their preference.
- b. Every effort will be made to adhere to these rankings; however, the integrity of the choir must be maintained as determined by the executive committee.
- c. Each director must attend the audition or provide an approved PMEA member as a substitute. This substitute will not be responsible for representing any other school at the audition.
- d. All directors are responsible for providing their own copy of the music for judging purposes.

3. Student Information

Students will:

- a. audition in random order - determined by their assigned audition number given at registration
- b. write their name and school on their audition music.
- c. not be permitted to rehearse or use audio devices while awaiting their audition, including cell phones.
- d. communicate only to the Sergeant at Arms.

4. Audition Process:

- a. Three rooms will be utilized for the audition for each section (S1, S2, A1, A2, T, B)
- b. The three rooms will be organized in the following way:
 - i. Repertoire Piece #1 (at least 2 Judges)
 - ii. Repertoire Piece #2 (at least 2 Judges)
 - iii. Sight-Reading (at least 2 Judges)
- c. Sergeant at Arms will escort students from one room to the next after all students in each group have completed that part of the audition
- d. Students will rotate between the three audition rooms and **SIGN IN AT EACH ROOM.**
- e. Repertoire will be scored from one (low) to fifteen (high) utilizing the judging rubric approved by the PMEA Student Events Council.
- f. Sight-Reading will be scored from one (low) to five (high) in the categories of melodic accuracy and rhythmic accuracy.

5. Procedures for the Audition Committees:

- a. Judges should get score sheets at the conclusion of the director meeting.
- b. Each audition room must consist of one Chairman (Judge #1) and at least one other judge.
- c. The judges in each audition room will choose an appropriate audition excerpt. When the Sergeant at Arms of each group arrives to that audition room, the Chairman (Judge #1) should inform them of the audition excerpt.

- d. Before auditions begin in each audition room, all students will be brought into the audition room and the following procedure will be implemented:
 - i. The Chairman (Judge #1) will define the audition excerpt to the students including the starting point, midpoint and endpoint.
 - ii. **The Chairman will read the following statement to the students auditioning:**

"When you are called to the audition room, you will be asked to initial next to your name to verify yourself. A pitch will be sounded by a pitch-pipe and a like voice. A tempo will not be provided. You are required to begin on your own. If you want to restart the excerpt, you must ask for a restart. Once you have passed the midpoint of the excerpt, the restart will occur at the midpoint. If you have not reached the midpoint, the restart will occur at the beginning. You are allowed only one restart. The pitch will be re-sounded for the correct restart point by a pitch-pipe and a like voice. You should take your music with you at the conclusion of the audition. Are there any questions?"

For the Sight-Reading Room only:

"When you are called to the audition room, the Sergeant at Arms will give you the sight-reading excerpt. A pitch will be sounded by a pitch-pipe and a like voice. A tempo will not be provided. You will not be permitted to use a restart with the sight-reading excerpt."

- iii. The Chairman will have the pitch sounded in a like voice in the correct octave and lead the students to sing through the excerpt one time only. The selected excerpt must be sung unaccompanied at the run through and the audition.

6. Sergeant at Arms Procedures:

- a. Remind students they are not permitted to rehearse or use audio devices in the holding space. Cell phones must remain turned off.
- b. Accompany the student in the audition room and announce the audition number to the judges as student enters audition room.
- c. Keep students orderly and quiet outside the audition room.
- d. Make sure students take their music with them at the conclusion of the audition.

7. A Few Reminders:

- a. Sergeant at Arms will not judge.
- b. Sergeant at Arms will get the list of students auditioning from the PMEA Officer overseeing auditions.
- c. The audition must be blind.
- d. The pitch will be sounded by a pitch-pipe followed by a like voice in the correct octave. A tempo will not be given.
- e. The Chairman (Judge #1) from each sight-reading audition room should get the sight-reading audition excerpt from the PMEA Officer overseeing auditions.
- f. The approved judging rubrics will be used.
- g. Judges may use your cell phone calculator. Please make sure that all cell phones are on silent for the entirety of the auditions.
- h. If a student wishes to take their one restart after they have finished singing through the entire excerpt, they may restart at the midpoint.
- i. Make sure that the correct audition number is written for each student.

