**OCDA ALL-STATE**

**A primer of basic information for new teachers in Oklahoma**

OCDA offers the following All-State Choir organizations: the All-State Junior High Mixed Chorus, the All-State Junior High Women’s Chorus and the All-State High School Jazz Choir. The two Junior High Choruses audition on the same material. Students are placed in either the Mixed Chorus or Women’s Chorus based on their audition score. The Jazz Choir has its own audition process.

There is a three-step audition process for the **Junior High All-State Choir.** The first audition will be on Saturday, October 29, 2016 at your OkMEA Quad Site (Quad Site assignments can be found on the OkMEA web-site). You will be notified by e-mail by Monday, October 31, 2016 which students qualified for the 2nd round auditions. The second audition for those students who qualified will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at Rose State College located in Midwest City. The third audition will be on the remaining selections that were **not** auditioned at the first and second auditions. The third audition will be done at the first rehearsal at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the Cox Business Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

There is a two-step audition process for the**All-State High School Jazz Choir.**The first audition will be on Tuesday, November 15, 2016 at Rose State College located in Midwest City. This audition consists of two parts.  Students will sing the prepared jazz piece in one audition room at their scheduled time, then immediately perform the scat portion of the audition in another audition room.  The final audition will be on the remaining music not used in the selection portion of the auditions.  The final audition will be done at the first rehearsal at 1:00 p.m. on Thursday, January 12, 2017 at the Cox Business Center in downtown Oklahoma City.

The All-State rehearsals and performances represent the finest work in the state, and provide excellent motivation for both the students and their teachers. The OCDA All-State organizations **perform** on January 14, 2017, (Saturday) afternoon at 1:30 p.m. at the First Church of the Nazarene in Bethany Oklahoma.

**The steps listed below will help you to prepare your students.**

**Step One:** Read the most current revision of the OCDA Rules, Policies, and Procedures found on the OCDA website.

**Step Two:** Make certain your membership in ACDA is current and that you have a copy of your ACDA membership card with you at auditions.

**Step Three:** Go to the OCDA website and read all the information about the group for which you would like your students to audition.

**Step Four:** Find the list of materials that will be used for the auditions. Some of these are in the fall issue of the OCDA **Tutti** publication, but all are on our website. You will be required to purchase the music needed for the auditions. Most Oklahoma major music stores carry this material (Saied’s, Tulsa and Penders Music, OKC).

**Step Five:** Double check the application deadlines and read the forms carefully. Deadlines are strictly observed. There are three levels of fees, those entered by the first deadline, those entered by the second deadline, and emergency entries. The fee rate is much higher for each student after the first deadline passes.

**Step Six:** Prepare your students for the audition, beginning NOW. The auditions are extremely competitive, but not beyond the reach of students from any size school provided they are willing to practice. Our choirs always include students from the smallest schools to the largest. Rehearsal CDs are available, and they are a wise investment. There are also sessions on how to better prepare your student during most of our OCDA summer conventions.

**Step Seven:** Mail and/or e-mail your entry forms and fees **before** the deadline day. All fees are mailed, and receipt of these fees must coincide with your audition entry form. **Any material mailed via USPS should be certified** with a return receipt card. Do this mailing yourself – do not allow anyone else to do it. There are no exceptions for emergencies caused by school secretaries, teacher aides, or students.

**Step Eight:** Prepare your students for the audition through mock auditions at your school. Be sure they know what to expect. Audition times must be observed strictly. Arrive at the audition site early. Teachers must be available to assist with the audition process. Teachers will **not** be able to stay only for the audition times of their students and then leave.

THROUGHOUT THE PROCESS – **IF YOU HAVE A QUESTION** – ASK!! Any experienced teacher, the Chair of the Mixed Chorus, Women’s Chorus, Jazz Chorus, or any OCDA board member will be happy to help you.

This can be one of the most exciting and inspirational experiences in the lives of your students. It can also change your teaching for the better. Get involved. There is always a place for you to help in this process.

Thank you and good luck as you prepare your students for All-State.