

Greetings Music Teachers and Choral Directors,

It is our pleasure to welcome you to be part of the AzACDA's annual Cantaremos Honor Choir Festival! This is a great way to start the season with a motivating musical opportunity for your students.

**Background:** Cantaremos was initially the vision of Ashley Ricks and Dr. Bruce Chamberlain. They envisioned a festival specifically for middle school students that would give them a positive singing experience and allow them to take that positive energy back to their school programs. Since its inception in 2005, Cantaremos has done just that, serving over 2,500 young musicians in Arizona.

**Audition Requirements:** The teacher is responsible for preparing and recording the students doing the following tasks: 1. Singing a major scale (A Cappella) on Solfege (Ascending & Descending) 2. Singing the appropriate excerpt from the repertoire. Accompaniment and sheet music of the excerpt is to be provided by the teacher. Please see rubric scales to observe all the judging criteria for the audition.

Voice Part	Solfege Scale	Excerpt
Treble 1	E Major	<i>Whisper</i> mm. 43-58
Treble 2	C Major	
Tenor 1	Any Key	Wild Mountain Thyme Pick up to mm. 25-39
Tenor 2	Any Key	
Bass	Any Key	
Soprano 1	F Major	Flight mm. 99-118 S1 - Sing highest notes at m. 105 S2 - Sing notes with stems down at m. 104 All 3 parts unison from mm. 111-118
Soprano 2	E Major	
Alto	D Major	

**Audition Submission Process:** Recordings need to be in MP3 format and submitted through Opus Events, an online submission website. You will need your ACDA membership # and password. Your user name is usually in this format: "Firstname\_Lastname". Your membership # can be found on the mailing label of your Choral Journal above your name.

- Step 1: Go to [www.opusevent.com](http://www.opusevent.com). Select AzACDA Cantaremos Honor Choir Festival.
- Step 2: If this is your first time using opus events, create a new login. As you create a new login, you will be asked to provide your ACDA membership # and email. The email you provide MUST BE the same one that is tied to your ACDA account.
- Step 3: You will need to pay the school audition fee FIRST before you are able to upload auditions.  
Under "Category", select the option "Schools-DO THIS FIRST!" to complete the payment.
- Step 4: Ensure your email address is correct - this is how we will communicate with you throughout the festival process. Input all required information.
- Step 5: Complete the recordings for the scale and the excerpt.
- Step 6: Upload the .mp3 files of audition recordings - *Make sure to record each item separately.* Click "Save Changes" button in the top right corner frequently.

**Auditions will be open from August 19th and close September 21st at 12:00am.**

*Please remember that those singers who audition are expected to attend the festival if accepted. Do not allow singers to audition if they have a conflict the day of the festival.*

**Registration:** Accepted singers will be announced by September 27th. Each accepted singer needs to pay a \$35 registration fee that must be submitted by October 18th, 2024. *This fee is due from every singer who is accepted, regardless of if they can no longer attend the festival.* The fee will include the cost of the sheet music, black folder and lunch for each student. We will email copies of the music immediately after acceptance so that students can begin learning the music right away.

**Please note:** The t-shirt will now be an optional purchase that your students can purchase separately. The link will be emailed to directors to forward to parents after audition results are posted. Please have your students email their receipts to you as the purchase reports will only be accessible by co-chairs for privacy reasons.

**Payment Process:** All payments this year are through OpusEvents via credit card. If you must use a check or a PO, it can be done. Please contact us for details. **Cost is: \$35 per School/Organization for ACDA Members or \$50 for Non-ACDA members. The participation fee is \$35/accepted chorister.**

**Preparation:** Teachers will be responsible for preparing their students to sing the specified pieces for the November 23rd festival. Pieces should be note and rhythm perfect by the festival. This will give clinicians the opportunity to truly make music with the students rather than just go over parts. The number of before or after school rehearsals is at the discretion of each teacher. Students should be prepared to practice on their own time.

**Day of the Festival:** Teachers will need to be present at the festival all day on Saturday, November 23rd. Registration begins at 8:30 am, rehearsals will start promptly at 9:00 am. Teachers are needed to assist with registration, supervising, solo auditions, sectionals, etc. Singers should come in comfortable clothes and shoes. Each singer should bring:

- 2 pencils
- Water bottle
- *Correct* concert attire

**Concert:** The concert is open to the public. Tickets to the 4:00 pm concert can be purchased at registration or at the door for \$5 each. This year's concert location is at Camelback High School (4612 N 28th St, Phoenix, AZ 85016)

**Concert Attire:**

5-6 Treble: White dress shirt, black dress pants, black socks and black dress shoes or white blouse, black skirt, and black dress shoes.

7-9 Treble: Black modest concert dress or black blouse/skirt, black dress shoes.

7-9 Tenor-Bass: Black dress shirt, black dress pants, black belt, black socks, and black dress shoes.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Cantaremos Festival. Feel free to contact us with any questions!

Sincerely,

Your Cantaremos Chairs  
Benny Dominguez & Janel Huyett