



VOCAL MUSIC GUIDELINES

May 8-10, 2008

www.myaf.org

PURPOSE

The statewide musical talent-screening program has three objectives. First, it attempts to discover highly gifted high school students through rigorous competition beginning in the local school and progressing through successive levels to the state. Second, it seeks to develop exceptional musical talent by presenting selected ensembles in an Invitational Ensemble Concert; soloists in an Outstanding Soloists Recital; two choirs chosen by a listening committee in concert; and a soloist selected as most outstanding in an Outstanding Soloists with Symphony Orchestra Concert. Finally, it works to promote cooperation among the many fine arts agencies and organizations of the state for the purpose of stimulating additional student interest in the arts and acquainting the citizens of Michigan with the high level of attainment of its youth.

ORGANIZATION

The statewide talent screening agency for vocal music students is the Michigan School Vocal Music Association and, in the case of soloists, the Interlochen Arts Academy.

CLASSIFICATION

- Soloists: Soprano, Mezzo-Soprano, Contralto, Tenor, Baritone, and Bass
- Ensembles: Groups of at least four and no more than 20 singers of any voice classifications
- Choirs: Groups of at least 25 singers of any voice classifications

ELIGIBILITY

Soloists must achieve a Division One rating in district and state MSVMA solo and ensemble festivals and be selected by adjudicators to compete in the Youth Arts Festival Soloists Audition on April 22, 2008 in Lansing. This audition is also available to soloists from the Interlochen Arts Academy who are deemed qualified by that institution. One singer will be selected at this audition to perform with orchestra and instrumental soloists on Friday evening, May 9, 2008. The chosen alternate will perform at the Festival Opening, Thursday evening, May 8, 2008. All participants in the audition will perform at one of the Solo & Ensemble Recitals to be held on Friday, May 9, 2008. Entrants will receive information and application forms online at www.msvma.org. A completed application along with an audition fee of \$20.00 per entry must be sent by the application deadline. Only students in grades 10, 11, and 12 are eligible. Festival participants must be legal residents of Michigan.

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RULES REGARDING THE SOLOISTS AUDITION

1. Participants must perform two selections, both from memory.
2. Total performance time should not exceed ten minutes.
3. All participants are required to appear at one of the MSVMA Youth Arts Festival Solo & Ensemble Recitals, and perform the same selections used in the audition.
4. While the audition winner has the opportunity to perform one or both selections with orchestra, it is not a requirement for vocalists. More important is using literature that is age appropriate and suitable for the singers' level of vocal maturity.
5. Participants must provide three copies of the music scores with measures numbered for use by the judges. Failure to do so will mean disqualification.

ENSEMBLES: All ensembles must achieve a Division One rating in district and state MSVMA solo and ensemble festivals, and be selected by adjudicators to participate in the one of the MSVMA Youth Arts Festival Solo & Ensemble Recitals which will be held on Friday afternoon, May 9, 2008. Entrants will receive information and application forms from Virginia Kerwin, MSVMA, PO Box 1131, Big Rapids, MI 49307.

CHOIRS: There will be two choirs chosen by blind audition to perform at the May 9, 2008 Gala Concert of the Michigan Youth Arts Festival. Any high school holding a current MSVMA membership may submit an audition recording for consideration according to the following criteria. Entrants will receive information and application forms from Virginia Kerwin, MSVMA, PO Box 1131, Big Rapids, MI 49307.

1. The recording must represent work from the current school year including three selections of contrasting styles. One selection must be a cappella.
2. The choir must have a minimum of 25 singers.
3. The audition recordings, along with the completed application form must be received no later than April 1, 2008 by Virginia Kerwin, Adjudication Supervisor, P.O. Box 1131, Big Rapids, MI 49307-1131.
4. The selected choirs will pay a group fee of \$300 or \$500 depending on the size of the choir. Additional information will be made available after adjudications have occurred.

AWARDS TO PARTICIPANTS

1. The most outstanding soloist will receive a plaque.
2. Each ensemble will receive a plaque.
3. Each soloist will receive a plaque.
4. Each choir will receive a plaque.
5. Each individual participant will receive a certificate of merit.

FOR FURTHER INFORMATION CONTACT:

Ms. Virginia Kerwin
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