

Mississippi Baptist All-State Youth Choir & Orchestra Audition Requirements and Preparation Guide

AUDITION OVERVIEW

The audition process is designed to help identify students who will benefit from and contribute to the ministry of MBASYCO. All auditions will be video recorded for evaluation purposes.

Important Notes

- All students must complete the choral audition.
- Participation in the choir is required for all MBASYCO members.
- Students wishing to be considered for orchestra placement must complete the instrumental audition in addition to the required choral audition.



CHORAL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS

1. Prepared Piece

Requirements

- Sing one verse of a prepared hymn or worship song.
- Performance should be accompanied by piano only.

Preparation Tips

- Choose a selection that showcases your tone quality, musicianship, and vocal range.
- Memorization is encouraged but not required.
- If singing a worship song, it is required that you bring a copy of the music for the accompanist.

2. Sing Voice Part

Requirements

Students will sing their voice part on an excerpt from: "The Lord Bless You and Keep You" by John Rutter

Preparation Tips

- Learn your assigned voice part accurately and confidently.
- Pay attention to pitch, rhythm, diction, tone quality, and musical expression.
- Practice with a piano, rehearsal track, or practice recording whenever possible.
- A digital copy of "The Lord Bless You and Keep You", along with demonstration recordings and rehearsal tracks for each voice part, is available at: www.tinyurl.com/mbasycoaudition

Students are strongly encouraged to utilize these resources regularly in preparation for their audition. Familiarity with the music and confidence in singing the assigned voice part will help students present their best performance during the audition.

3. Tonal Memory and Aural Recognition

Aural Recognition

Students will hear a chord played and be asked to sing the requested note (top, middle, or bottom note) on the syllable "la."

Tonal Memory

Students will hear a short musical phrase and will be asked to sing the phrase back on "la."

Preparation Tips

- Practice matching pitch accurately.
- Work on listening skills and singing short melodic patterns by ear.
- Regular sight-singing and ear-training exercises can be helpful.

4. Vocalization

Requirements

Students will complete a series of vocal exercises to determine their singing range (highest comfortable note to lowest comfortable note).

Preparation Tips

- Arrive with your voice warmed up.
- Sing with healthy vocal technique.
- Do not strain to reach pitches beyond your comfortable range.

5. Spiritual Interview

Requirements

Students will be asked to share their personal testimony, including:

- How they came to know Jesus Christ as Savior
- How Christ is working in their life today
- Why they desire to participate in MBASYCO

Preparation Tips

- Be prepared to speak openly and honestly about your faith journey.
- No memorized speech is required.
- The interview is intended to help leaders understand your spiritual growth and commitment.

INSRUMENTAL AUDITION REQUIREMENTS (OPTIONAL)

1. Scales—Wind, Keyboard/Mallet, and Bowed Stringed Instruments Only

Requirements

- Perform two major scales of your choosing.

Preparation Tips

- Demonstrate accurate notes, rhythm, tone quality, and technique.
- Select scales that allow you to perform confidently and musically.

2. Prepared Piece—All Instruments

Requirements

- Perform a prepared musical selection.
- Selection should not exceed 24 measures in length.

Preparation Tips

- Choose a piece that demonstrates your technical ability and musical expression.
- Focus on tone quality, rhythmic accuracy, and musical interpretation.

3. Sight Reading—All Instruments

Requirements

- Students will be asked to perform a short sight-reading excerpt.

Preparation Tips

- Practice reading unfamiliar music regularly.
- Before playing, quickly examine the key signature, time signature, rhythms, and other musical markings.

AUDITION DAY EXPECTATIONS

Students should:

- Arrive on time and prepared.
- Bring all required music and materials.
- Demonstrate a positive attitude and Christ-like character.

- Dress appropriately and respectfully.
- Be ready to participate fully in all portions of the audition process.
- Remember that the audition seeks to evaluate both musical preparation and readiness to participate in the ministry of MBASYCO.

FINAL ENCOURAGEMENT

MBASYCO is more than a musical ensemble—it is a ministry. The audition is an opportunity to demonstrate your musical abilities, your willingness to learn and grow, and your commitment to using your gifts to serve Christ. We encourage every student to prepare diligently, pray earnestly, and approach the audition with confidence and humility as you seek God's direction for your involvement in this ministry.

CONTACT INFORMATION

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