



North Carolina Music Educators Association
Associated with the State Department of Public Instruction and
A Federated State Association of NAfME: The National Association for Music Education

September 24, 2018

Dear Colleagues and Friends:

North Carolina has endured a lion's start to this school year. During the past week Hurricane Florence has brought damaging winds and historic amounts of rain to our state. We have seen flooding impact so much property this week and we have watched in anguish and sadness as our families, friends, and colleagues have suffered devastating losses—many for the second time in two years.

For those of us who were not impacted significantly by this storm, life is returning to somewhat of a normal routine after most of the state was on high alert during the weekend, but for those in Eastern North Carolina this week is quite a different story. We can only imagine what our friends are enduring. The lives of so many music students and teachers have been changed dramatically in less than one week.

Today, we uplift our colleagues all across the state, but particularly in Eastern North Carolina, who have been impacted by this storm. We want each of you to know that our thoughts are with you all. Music teachers are some of the most networked and family-like people in the entire education profession. With this strong network, we will all work together to move forward through this challenge.

While it is too soon to know the true needs that are to come for all of our music family following this crisis, we know there is an immediate need to try to do what is best for our students and teachers with regard to two upcoming NCMEA student events impacting middle and high school choral students. Responding to the ongoing effects of this natural disaster and wanting to meet the needs of the students and teachers in the impacted area, we have altered the NCMEA middle and high school honors choir auditions. We have worked with some of our regional school leaders and teachers to provide a flexible opportunity for these impacted students to audition for these upcoming ensembles.

ADDITIONAL HONORS AUDITION DATE IN THE EAST REGION OF NC

In an effort to provide a consistent audition process for this year's middle and high school honor choirs across the state and to provide flexibility and equity for those impacted by Hurricane Florence **we are offering an additional audition date on Saturday, October 6 from 10:00am - 2:00pm** for those students in Disaster Declared Counties/Areas as declared by the Federal Emergency Management Agency (FEMA) 9/14/18. These counties are: Beaufort, Bladen, Brunswick, Carteret, Columbus, Craven, Cumberland, Duplin, Harnett, Jones, Lenoir, New Hanover, Onslow, Pamlico, Pender, Robeson, Sampson, and Wayne. As of this writing, we are still working on confirming a location for October 6th. The location will be confirmed once we know more about what will help these students and teachers best.

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For those students who were not impacted as severely by Hurricane Florence and are able to safely attend, we will continue to hold **Middle School Honors Chorus East Auditions** this **Wednesday, September 26th**. Please refer to the modified audition policies on the following page.

NOTE: The relocated **MIDDLE SCHOOL LOCATION** for **Wednesday, September 26** will be in **BUIES CREEK** at **MEMORIAL BAPTIST CHURCH 271 Leslie Campbell Ave, Buies Creek, NC 27506**. We are very grateful to choral director, Susan Morrow, and members of her church to accommodate us with the last minute venue change.

High School Honors Choir Auditions will be held as planned on **Saturday, September 29** at **Meredith College** in Raleigh for those students that can attend. High School students in hurricane impacted areas that are unable to safely attend the audition on Saturday, September 29th may attend the audition on October 6th. **Please refer to the modified audition policies on the following page.**

In response to this natural disaster, NCMEA urges all auditioning students, teachers and parents to be safe when traveling to the audition locations. We will work with teachers and students to ensure the opportunity to audition for these ensembles, but the safety of everyone involved is paramount. As the effects of Hurricane Florence continue to send ripples throughout our state, we will keep you updated on any pertinent information.

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in cursive script that reads "Pat Hall". The signature is written in black ink and is positioned above the printed name and title.

Pat Hall
Executive Director

Middle School Honors Choir Accomodations for Hurricane Emergency

West Audition Site	Central Audition Site	East Audition Site
<p>No changes to established and published policies and expectations</p>	<p>No changes to established and published policies and expectations</p>	<p>Students who registered for Middle School Honors Chorus by the September 15 deadline in the disaster declared counties will be able to audition at a yet to be determined location in the eastern part of NC on Saturday, October 6 from 10:00am-2:00pm. Parents may accompany their child in place of their normally required teacher. Depending on the judges availability for the newly scheduled date, the students will sing live for a judge or the students will be videoed on site and the judge for that voice part will score the student from the video. Students auditioning on Oct. 6 will need to pay the \$15 audition fee <u>in cash</u>. Personal checks will not be accepted.</p> <p>All the other counties in the eastern region will still audition on Wednesday, September 26 at Memorial Baptist Church in Buies Creek. If a school or student(s) from a school in one of the disaster declared counties is able to safely travel to the originally scheduled audition, that is fine, but those students will need to their \$15 audition fee on site in cash just as students on Oct. 6.</p> <p>Middle School Directors: Please fill out the following google form to help us plan for your needs. https://bit.ly/2QU6twi</p>

High School Honors Choir Accomodations for Hurricane Emergency

West Audition Site	Central Audition Site	East Audition Site
<p>No changes to established and published policies and expectations</p>	<p>No changes to established and published policies and expectations</p>	<p>Students who registered for High School Honors Chorus and are located in the disaster declared counties will be able to audition at a yet to be determined location in the eastern part of NC on Saturday, October 6 from 10:00am-2:00pm. All the other counties in the eastern region will still audition on Saturday, September 29 according to their scheduled auditions.</p> <p>If the students in these counties are able to come to safely travel the originally scheduled audition, that is fine. Parents may accompany their child in place of their normally required teacher. Depending on the judges' availability for the newly scheduled date, the students will sing live for a judge or the students will be videoed on site and the judge for that voice part will score the student from the video.</p> <p>High School Directors: Please fill out the following google form to help us plan for your needs. https://tinyurl.com/y9y7tjtd</p>