

# NORTH CAROLINA ELEMENTARY HONORS CHORUS 2023 INFORMATION

MaryAnn Foltz, Chair  
Sarah Gray, Co Chair  
Christy White, Past Chair



# HONORS CHORUS DATES AND VENUES

Audition Submission Deadline:

Friday, September 22, 2023

Rehearsals

Marriott Hotel or UNCSA Stevens Center  
Winston Salem, NC

Saturday, November 4 – Sunday, November 5, 2023

Performance

UNCSA Stevens Center  
Winston Salem, NC  
Sunday, November 5, 2023

TICKETED EVENT – LIMITED SEATING to 2 guests per singer



# AUDITION PIECE 2023



Et Exultavit Vivaldi/ arr. Henry Leck

<https://tinyurl.com/EtExultavitPepper>

JW Pepper # 10048532

Audition Section – measures 8–17

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For future planning:

Audition piece 2024 Sing for Joy! Handel/arr. Spevacek

Audition piece 2025 Ombra Mai Fu Handel/arr. Leck

# DEADLINE: Friday, September 22, 2023

(No exceptions!)



✓ Upload Auditions to [Festival Scores](#)

AND

✓ Complete the online Elementary Honors Chorus Application Google Form <https://tinyurl.com/ElemHCAApplication2023>

AND

✓ Mail *printed email confirmation* form (one per school) along with your audition fee of **\$15.00 per student** to:

Tonya Allison  
NCEHC Treasurer  
3616 Price Rd  
Hamptonville NC 27020


Checks should be made payable to [NCEHC](#)

# AUDITION GUIDELINES

- 6 students per school
- There is a \$15.00 fee per student to cover the cost of adjudicators and use of the Festival Scores audition program.
- If you teach at more than one school, make a separate Festival Scores entry for each school
- K-5 schools may audition 4th and 5th graders.
- K-6 & K-8 schools may audition 4th, 5th, and 6th graders.



# RECORDING INFO

- Rehearsal tracks will be available on the NCMEA website.
  - The unaltered accompaniment track is to be used for the audition.
  - Teachers may NOT play the students pitches when making the recording for the audition.
  - Make sure each student voice is heard over the recording track.
  - Do not alter the recording in any way.
- 
- Do not use effects on the track such as extra reverb.
  - Students should NOT say their name, school name or teacher's name.
  - Double check to make sure there is no teacher voice or hiss in the background.

# CAUTION!



*When guidelines are not followed it becomes difficult for the judges to equitably make decisions on the students' ability to perform.*

*The Honors Chorus Committee often has to make the difficult decision to disqualify an audition when tracks appear to be sound edited, have key or tempo changes, contain additional voices in the background, or have special effects such as reverb.*

*Please help out the judges, the committee, and YOUR STUDENTS by adhering to the recording information provided on the previous slide.*

*Be sure to REVIEW your audio clip and check for any inadvertent problems before you submit the audition to Festival Scores.*


# CAUTION!

- Certified mail will NOT be accepted!
- Envelopes must be postmarked by the September 22, 2023 due date.
- Late envelopes will be returned to sender.
- Please WEIGH your envelope to ensure correct postage amount!
- TRIPLE CHECK your envelope – it should only include the email confirmation and check or money order.





# HOW TO SUBMIT AUDITIONS

Audition submissions will be open from   
September 1 - September 22, 2023

Go to Festival Scores

- <http://system.festivalscores.com/directors/>
- Event Tag: **K948MNH**
- Audition Event is 2023 NC Elementary Honors Chorus Auditions



If you have not used Festival Scores before:

- Set up a new account, following link to create a new password
- Create your profile and include your NAFME #
- Add your school information

# HOW TO SUBMIT AUDITIONS

- Add each student's info: Name, T-shirt Size and indicate 2nd or 3rd Year Participant.
  - ✓ *Please enter a t-shirt for size for every student even though they have not yet been selected. This allows the committee to get to work immediately on the shirts once auditions are completed.*
- Under the Tab Audition Event, click Activate New Event
- Enter the Event Tag: **K948MNH**
- To upload each MP3 file:
  - Click on the Entries Tab
  - Click Manage Entries
- Select School
- Select Student
- Click Assign Student: Soprano
- You will see the MP3 upload files button



# SCORING



Students are scored by a blind audition process.

Each student entered into Festival Scores is assigned a number. Judges see only the assigned number when assessing each recording. Student, school, or teachers' names are not visible to adjudicators.

Auditions are judged using a 5 category rubric, with a 10 point scale for each category (with 10 being the highest score for a total of 50 possible points.)

- Tone Quality
- Pitch Accuracy/Intonation
- Rhythmic Accuracy
- Diction (Vowel Purity, Consonant Clarity)
- Musicality/interpretation

Scores are not returned to you until after the event.

# WHAT NEXT?



- Each teacher will be notified by email announcing the selection of students for the 2023 NC Elementary Honors Chorus.
- After participant notification, teachers will need to send one (1) check per school (\$40.00 per accepted student) to Tonya Allison. This fee includes the Honors Chorus T-shirt.
- The Elementary Honors Chorus Website page will be your friend: Deadlines, procedures, repertoire, practice recordings, fees, and Conference information will be on the NCMEA Honors Chorus webpage after students have been selected.

# WHAT NEXT?



- The 2023 Honors Chorus sheet music will include six song selections plus an arrangement of the National Anthem. The audition piece will NOT be one of the six pieces we are performing.
- The cost of the sheet music is separate from the fee to participate. You are responsible for paying the bill directly.
- Six of the pieces will be sent to you from J.W. Pepper. The National Anthem will be sent to you as a PDF.

# WHAT NEXT?



- You will receive a separate email telling you what part your student(s) will be singing.
- Practice recordings for each voice part will be available to assist you and your students to learn the selections.
- Please give your students access to these recordings but only use them as a tool to help learn the selections.
- You will need to practice with your students as well, to ensure that your singers fully know the music!
- All songs must be memorized.

# WHAT NEXT?



- Book a hotel room **AS QUICKLY AS POSSIBLE!**
- Hotels such as Embassy Suites and Marriott on Cherry Street offer reduced rates for Honors Chorus participants on a first come, first served basis. Rooms go fast!
- Each school is responsible for booking their own hotel accommodations.



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I'M BRAND NEW TO THIS!  
HOW DO I START??



# 1. TELL YOUR STUDENTS ABOUT THIS OPPORTUNITY.



Talk it up to your classes! Make a big deal about it! Share that this is an exciting opportunity for only the top singers in the state, and you get to go all the way to Winston-Salem to practice with a really great director and then give a big concert!

# 2. COMMUNICATE TO PARENTS/GUARDIANS

Write an email/letter to the parents of students interested in auditioning sharing the details of the audition process, your endorsement, the cost responsibilities, and their permission to proceed.

See sample letter on the next slide.

**Big announcement  
to draw attention!**

Your child has indicated a desire to audition for the  
North Carolina State Elementary Honors Chorus!

### **Give an explanation of HC and convey its prestige**

**North Carolina Elementary Honors Chorus** is an auditioned choir comprising of 4<sup>th</sup>-6<sup>th</sup> grade students from across the state, chosen specifically to perform at the NCMEA Conference each year. The typical number of students selected are 175.

### **Give basic perimeters of event – audition limit, dates, location of concert**

Each school is allowed to send in auditions for six (6) students. If accepted into the choir, singers will have to learn six (6) pieces of music and come to Winston-Salem the weekend of November 4-5, 2023. Singers will spend that Saturday working with a nationally renowned choral clinician to refine their music and will then present a concert on Sunday, Nov. 5.

### **Give your personal experience and/or endorsement**

I've been a part of Honors Chorus for years and am a huge proponent of the event in all three levels: Elementary, Middle and High School. In my opinion, participating in the North Carolina Honors Chorus is the pinnacle choral experience for any singer.

### **Give clear communication of expectations/acceptance/cost responsibilities**

Before I begin the process of in-house auditions, I need to know if this is something you would like to have your child participate in. While there is no guaranteed acceptance into the ensemble, performers must go into the audition ready to commit to the concert. HERE IS WHERE YOU STATE WHO WILL PAY WHAT. Ex: Our school will cover all audition and registrations costs, while housing and meals for the weekend event will be the responsibility of each family.

### **Get permission to proceed**

I would love to talk to you further about this via phone or in person if you have any questions at all. If you have no questions, please let me know if I have your permission to begin working with your child on the audition piece.

### 3. TEACH THE AUDITION SELECTION



Purchase: The music! Eprint is conveniently available.

Teach: Recess, before/after school, lunch time.

Resource:

Download the link for audio track on the NCMEA  
Elementary webpage.

Send the link home with the kids, put on Google  
Classroom/etc. for them to work on it at home.

## 4. SELECTING THE STUDENTS



- Pre-Audition using the Honors Chorus rubric
- Choose students who:
  - \*are able to commit to the event
  - \*will work hard to learn their music
  - \*are mature enough to handle a long day of rehearsal

## 5. FUNDING THE FEES

- Dependent upon school policy
- Some options:

- \*Parents could pay for all

- \* School could pay for all –

- Budget, PTO or Booster Group, Go Fund Me;  
when in doubt, ASK YOUR ADMIN! There might be  
money set aside for something just like this!

- \*Split the difference – school pays for audition and  
registration fees and parents cover transportation,  
hotel and food.





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6. GO TO THE EARLIER SLIDES AND FOLLOW THE  
INSTRUCTIONS FOR UP-LOADING AUDITIONS

# NEED HELP?



- Check the website first: [NC Elementary Honors Chorus](#)
- Check the links on the right for more pages.
- Then contact MaryAnn Foltz, Chair, at [ncelemhonorschorus@gmail.com](mailto:ncelemhonorschorus@gmail.com)

