

ARCHDIOCESAN CHORAL AUDITION POLICY

Revised 9/15/2025

1. Students must participate in their own school choral organization in order to audition for All Catholic Chorus. If this organization is not offered at the student's school, a director from another Philadelphia archdiocesan or private Catholic high school may sponsor him/her to audition with the understanding that the sponsoring director will attend and take part in all required auditions.
2. Students must attend a Catholic school in the archdiocese of Philadelphia.
3. **Before students audition they must be aware that, if chosen, they must attend the entire festival. They may not leave for SAT's, mid-terms, sports contests, or any other personal or school activity. The host director may not excuse any student from any part of the festival. Any extremely extenuating circumstances must be handled by the host director and the curriculum committee chairperson.**
4. Directors must serve on the audition committee. If the director is not in attendance, his/her students will not be allowed to audition or to participate in the festival. In case of a serious emergency (a school event that conflicts with auditions, death in the family), the director must send a qualified music teacher to substitute for him/her and serve on the audition committee.
5. An audition fee of _____ will be assessed for each student auditioning. The director must submit a check payable to the Office of Catholic Education on or before the day of auditions. The check must cover the audition fee of all their students. This financial obligation must be met by the date of auditions.
6. **It is the director's responsibility to procure the audition music, in correct editions, in plenty of time for his/her students to prepare. It is also the responsibility of the director to hear students and to assess if they are prepared for the audition.**
7. Registration for auditions will end on the day assigned by the audition host, thus giving him/her time to process the information from each school and organize the auditions. **No "late" registrations will be permitted on the day of auditions.**
8. Auditions will be "blind." Judges will have no visual contact with the students. Student problems or questions should be communicated through a third party, i.e., a student guide or a director who is not judging.
9. No student may try out for two parts. No student may switch his/her part on the day of auditions.

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10. Student conduct at auditions and the festival should be exemplary. Students disciplined at an All Catholic festival shall be subject to punishment including, but not limited to: expulsion from the concert, dismissal from the festival, ineligibility to participate in future festivals, withholding of awards, and a letter of reprimand/concert to parents and school administrators. Consultation with the host director, the student's director and the Curriculum Committee chairperson will precede disciplinary action.
11. Students who need to audition as soon as possible should request that their directors inform the audition host of their need at least a week before the audition. Every effort will be made to schedule these students for the beginning of the audition period. These students must be prepared to commit to attending the audition for its first hour.
12. In auditions, the student will be directed to the passage to be sung and given the starting pitch sung by one of the judges or by pitch pipe or by a pitch on a smartphone or another device. The student will sing the passage a cappella. If necessary the student may be given a second start.
13. No student will be "placed" into a festival because of being distraught at doing an uncharacteristically poor audition, or having had the wrong edition of the piece, or any other reason.
14. If a student is selected and subsequently discovers that he/she cannot attend the festival, the student's director must contact the host immediately. The director of the next eligible student on that voice part will be contacted so that a substitute can be made. Substitutions will be made up until a week before the festival, and are made with the agreement that the director prepare the substitute student.
15. At the festival any student judged to be unprepared may be dismissed from the festival.. A consultation among the host director, the student's director and the curriculum committee chairperson may result in the student being asked to sing passages again before these three persons, in order to determine whether the student is prepared at all to take part in the festival. Following that, a grace period may be stipulated within which that student may use any break time to prepare for another final hearing, at which time it would be determined whether the student is prepared enough to participate in the festival or not.