



WELCOME

ANKENY HIGH SCHOOL
VOCAL MUSIC AUDITIONS
2020-2021



@ahs_vocal_music

www.ankenychoralmusic.org

Dear Vocal Music Students & Families,

WELCOME to Ankeny High School's Vocal Music Department! We are excited that you are interested in vocal music activities at AHS! This packet contains all of the information you will need to prepare for placement auditions for the 2020-2021 school year for both curricular choirs and show choirs. Please read the information in this packet carefully and prepare thoroughly for auditions; we want you to do your best! If you have questions about the audition or placement process, please contact us--see contact information on page 10. Good luck to all!

Mr. Ben Walters
Director of Choral Activities

Mr. Adam Brown
Assistant Director of Choirs

General Audition Information

Purpose:

We have many talented students at Ankeny High School, and as a result, the need for several choirs & show choirs. The purpose of auditions is to assess students for participation in both curricular choirs (meeting during the school day) and show choirs (that meet outside of the school day-typically Monday and Thursday nights). *Please print/review the entire packet CAREFULLY for your reference!*

Statement about COVID-19 Closure:

With the unprecedented school closure due to the COVID-19 pandemic, auditions for the 2020-2021 school year will be conducted electronically. We are making every attempt to collect the same audition data as we always do, but in alternative formats. If circumstances related to COVID-19 necessitate changes in summer or fall schedules we will communicate that accordingly. If anyone encounters technology difficulties navigating the audition process, please contact us (see contact info on page 10.) Thank you for your flexibility as we all work through new challenges.

Audition Timeline:

Vocal auditions (for students interested in auditioned curricular ensembles and all show choirs) will include two separate components. (SEE FULL LISTING OF AUDITION COMPONENTS & ENSEMBLE DESCRIPTIONS ON PAGE 4-5 OF THIS PACKET) The "live" components will take place May 4-6. The live audition component is required for *auditioned curricular ensembles*. Recorded components (required for all auditioned ensembles, including show choirs) will be due by 11:59PM on May 8. ***Dance auditions*** (for show choirs) will also be virtual; video submissions will be due by 11:59PM on May 22.

Audition Sign-Ups for the "live" audition components will again be electronic this year (see "How to prepare" below.) NOTE: **PRIOR to your audition you MUST fill out the audition google form which includes parent consent. Additionally, you must complete a contact & volunteer information form electronically. (See "How to prepare" below.) All electronic information must be completed prior to the final submission deadlines.**

How to prepare:

- 1.) Join the appropriate AUDITION GOOGLE CLASSROOM(S). (Use your grade for NEXT YEAR)
 - a. 9th Grade: ayhimx6
 - b. 10th Grade: 2dmkkgs
 - c. 11th Grade: s3yelpn
 - d. 12th Grade: 53uba64
 - e. Show Choir Choreography (9-12): mxlztjy
- 2.) Spend time preparing the required vocal solo(s) (Posted in Google Classroom.) While it does not have to be memorized, the more comfortable you are with the solo, the better your chances are to show us what you are really capable of. Take a deep breath, do your best, and RELAX!
- 3.) Fill out the GOOGLE AUDITION FORM at the following link:
<https://forms.gle/ad59oG3u5G5YsGwRA> **before** submitting recordings or completing the live audition. Final submission deadline (11:59 on May 8) Recognition of parent/guardian consent of your audition is required on the form. Your audition will not be considered without completing this step as well as completing step 4 below.
- 4.) Complete the contact & volunteer information form by the final submission deadline at the following link: <https://goo.gl/forms/gpWeqS54qa75geHk2>
- 5.) For *live component auditions* (see requirements for each ensemble on pages 4 & 5) sign-up for an audition time (5 minute time slots) using this link: <https://www.signupgenius.com/go/9040f4fa5ad2ba6f49-tonal> pay close attention to dates, times, and group/meeting information. **Please note that auditions will be recorded and all directors/audition judges will evaluate ALL auditions; it does not matter which director you sign-up with.**

Evaluation & Results:

Auditions are evaluated objectively using a rubric (the components of which are discussed on page 4.) The high school vocal music directors as well as an outside "guest judge" score each component of each audition.

Results of auditions will be posted on the vocal music website (www.ankenychoralmusic.org) on May 29, 2020 sometime after 4:00 p.m. Each student will be evaluated and placed in ensembles based on performance in the audition and where the directors/audition evaluators feel that the most personal growth can occur. We understand that not every student will be placed in the ensemble they desire. **NOTE: work ethic, teamwork, attitude, rehearsal skills demonstrated on a daily basis during the previous school year is also a significant audition component.**

It is our hope that students with a love of music will share their talents and passions with whichever ensemble(s) they are placed in.

Audition Components

Auditions for the 2020-2021 school year will consist of the following:

Component 1 (RECORDED) *(Required for Concert Choir, Cantorei, and all show choirs)*

- 1.) Prepared solo: Prepare the solo(s) (posted in Google Classroom) for your voice part; students will sing the selection a cappella. Starting pitches and tonal center will be provided with an audio link posted on the Audtion Google Classroom Page. For this component, students will be evaluated on tone quality, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, and musicianship.
- 2.) Sing "Happy Birthday" a cappella. Starting pitches provided with an audio link posted on the Audition Google Classroom Page. (High voices: E; Low voices: C.) Students are evaluated on aural ability and pitch accuracy.

Component 2 (LIVE ZOOM AUDITION) *(Required for Concert Choir & Cantorei)*

- 1.) Tonal Memory: Students will sing back 2-4 short melodic patterns played on the piano using a neutral syllable. Students may ask to hear each example up to three times. Students are evaluated on aural ability and pitch accuracy.
- 2.) Sight-Reading: Students will sing 1-3 musical examples using solfege or a neutral syllable. The starting pitch and key (tonal center) will be played on the piano. Students will be evaluated on pitch and rhythm accuracy.
- 3.) Some students may be asked to sing general exercises/scales, etc. to help determine range.

Component 3 (SUBMITTED TO AUDITION GOOGLE CLASSROOM) *(Required for Concert Choir)*

- 1.) Written Essay: 500 words or less/1 page, typed, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) (Be sure to address all aspects of the question in your answer in a clear and concise manner.)
- 2.) *Concert Choir is the most select choral ensemble at Ankeny High School with a history of success which has included invitations to perform and state and regional conventions of the American Choral Directors Association.*
 - a. Potential New Members: Why do you want being a member of Concert Choir to be part of your high school experience? What qualities would you bring to Concert Choir and how do you see these qualities benefitting the ensemble? What expectations do you have for the other members and your director? Be sure to include individual character, musical skill, leadership, as well as areas for growth in your answer. In other words, why is Concert Choir the "right place" for you?
 - b. Returning Members: Describe your experience singing in this ensemble and what you have learned and appreciated about the experience this year; how has the school closure effected your perspective? If selected again, how will you use your past experience for the betterment of the ensemble next year? How will you demonstrate leadership within the ensemble as a veteran of this select group?

Component 4-Dance (RECORDED) *(Required for all show choirs)*

- 1.) Students interested in show choirs should make arrangements to learn the audition choreography by viewing a YouTube link to be posted on the AHS Vocal Music website (www.ankenychoralmusic.org) and the Show Choir Choreography Audition Google Classroom on Friday, May 15.
- 2.) Video submissions of auditions will be due by Friday, May 22 at 11:59PM. Students will be evaluated on: execution/precision, memory, and performance ability (facial expression, energy, etc.)

AHS Choral Ensemble Descriptions & Audition Requirements

Concert Choir

Concert Choir is the most select ensemble at AHS open to all students in grades 10-12. This ensemble is intended for the serious singer who desires an intensive music-making experience. In depth study of music from each period of music history will be explored with focus on vocal production, independence, music literacy, musical precision, and advanced ensemble skills. Ensemble Requirements: Attend a retreat (scheduled for August 23, 2020), attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances (including occasional outside of school commitments). All students enrolled in choir will be assessed a \$30 apparel fee to cover the costs of cleaning and repairing the concert formal wear. Audition Requirements: Components 1, 2, 3

Cantorei

Cantorei is an auditioned treble clef ensemble. All treble voices in grades 10-12 are eligible to audition. Study of vocal pedagogy related specifically to the treble voice will be explored. Integration of solfege and music literacy skills will also be implemented through a varied repertoire. Ensemble Requirements: Attend all events scheduled for the ensemble. All students enrolled in choir will be assessed a \$30 apparel fee to cover the costs of cleaning and repairing the concert formal wear. Audition Requirements: Components 1, 2

Ankeny Singers

Ankeny Singers is a mixed choir open to any 10th-12th grade student who enjoys singing and being a part of a musical team working towards common goals. Any student choosing not to go through the audition process will be placed in this ensemble as well as men not placed in Concert Choir and women not placed in Concert Choir or Cantorei. Ensemble Requirements: Attend all events scheduled for the ensemble. All students enrolled in choir will be assessed a \$30 apparel fee to cover the costs of cleaning and repairing the concert formal wear. Audition Requirements: No audition required.

Visual Adrenaline

Visual Adrenaline is the mixed varsity show choir open to all students in grades 9-12 by selective audition. Ensemble Requirements: Students must be enrolled and making regular progress in a curricular choir. **Those students who are placed in a show choir must be willing to commit to the performance schedule, rehearsal schedule and participation fees associated with each ensemble.** Audition Requirements: Components 1, 4

Perpetual Motion

Perpetual Motion is the mixed junior-varsity show choir open to all students in grades 9-12 by audition. Ensemble Requirements: Students must be enrolled and making regular progress in a curricular choir. **Those students who are placed in a show choir must be willing to commit to the performance schedule, rehearsal schedule and participation fees associated with each ensemble.** Audition Requirements: Components 1, 4

Intensity

Intensity is an all-women's junior-varsity show choir open to all females in grades 9-12 by audition. Ensemble Requirements: Students must be enrolled and making regular progress in a curricular choir. **Those students who are placed in a show choir must be willing to commit to the performance schedule, rehearsal schedule and participation fees associated with each ensemble.** Audition Requirements: Components 1, 4

Submitting Recorded Audition Materials

- The following audition materials will be RECORDED and submitted to Google Classroom: Prepared vocal solo, performance of “Happy Birthday” and show choir audition choreography.
- Utilize the following procedure to prepare and submit your vocal audition video.
- Make sure you record your video in a quiet place free from distractions.. Be sure you are completely visible in your video. You will submit the required solo AND Happy Birthday in ONE video--see process below.

- 1.) At the beginning of the video, INTRODUCE yourself as follows: Name (first and last), Grade (next year), and Voice Part you will be auditioning on.
- 2.) Using the “starting pitch links” located on the Audition Google Classroom page, have the starting pitches/tonality played for the prepared solo. (Note: ALL auditionees should use this recording to receive their starting pitches.) Press pause on the audio link, then sing the required audition solo.
- 3.) Re-start the “starting pitch audio link” to play the starting pitch for “Happy Birthday” and then sing “Happy Birthday.”
- 4.) Stop and save your video; you can record the video as many times as you want to get the “best take,” then submit the video to your assigned Google Classroom under the “RECORDED AUDITION” assignment.
 - Audition Google Classroom Codes:
 - 9th Grade: ayhimx6
 - 10th Grade: 2dmkkg
 - 11th Grade: s3yelpn
 - 12th Grade: 53uba64
 - Join the Google Classroom for your grade NEXT YEAR!!

Vocal Audition Resources:

Starting pitches and a demo audition video are posted on GOOGLE CLASSROOM--see codes above.

Show Choir Choreography Recorded Audition Process:

1. Record your video in a space that allows you to move and dance “full out.” Wear loose fitting clothes that are easy to dance in and be sure you are *fully visible in your video--including your feet!*
2. At the beginning of the video, INTRODUCE YOURSELF (first and last name) and what grade you will be in NEXT YEAR.
3. Use either the YouTube choreography video, or the rehearsal track posted on the vocal music website or the Audition Google Classroom and record yourself performing the choreography.
4. Submit your video to the Show Choir Audition Google Classroom.
 - a. Show Choir Audition Google Classroom Code: mxlzirjy
5. A reminder that the audition choreography, music tracks, and additional resources will be released on the AHS Vocal Music Website (www.ankenychoralmusic.org) as well as the Show Choir Choreography Audition Google Classroom on Friday, May 15.

Live Zoom Audition Information

- Please note that ALL AUDITIONS WILL BE RECORDED & every director and audition judge will view and evaluate each audition.
- The following audition components will be completed LIVE in a Zoom meeting: Tonal memory & Sight Reading. The following procedure will be utilized:
 1. Sign-up for a scheduled time using the link on page 3 of this packet under “How to Prepare” (Know which director you’ll be meeting with, your group letter, and your group letter’s meeting time.)
 2. Join the meeting at your group’s scheduled start time. You will be placed in the “waiting room” until your scheduled time. Please wait patiently for your turn.
 - a. The Zoom meeting information (including the password) will be shared on the Google Classroom on the day of your audition.
 3. One at a time, in the order you appear on the sign-up page, you will be “admitted” to the meeting where you will complete the tonal memory and sight-reading portions of the audition.
 4. When you have completed your audition, you can hang-up/leave the meeting.

CONTINUE SCROLLING

Show Choirs: Additional Audition Information

All students (currently in grades 8-11) enrolled in choir are eligible to participate in show choir. **Those students who are placed in a show choir must be willing to commit to the performance schedule, rehearsal schedule and fees associated with each ensemble.** In the past, the vocal music department has been successful in working with students who are active in other activities including drama, band, speech, athletics, dance, and other school activities. We make every effort to accommodate these activities if we know about potential conflicts in advance. *Also note that no student is turned away from participation in show choir due to financial concerns. Directors will work with families on a case by case basis.*

Show Choir Financial Contributions*

Visual Adrenaline: \$400.00

Perpetual Motion: \$350.00

Intensity: \$250.00

**Show Choir Contributions fund a portion of the expenses for our show choirs. Contributions are used in the following way:*

	VA	PM	Intensity
Costume Rental:	\$200	\$160	\$85 (Depends on show design)
Choreography:	\$100	\$90	\$65
Music:	\$50	\$50	\$50
Competitions/Travel:	\$50	\$50	\$50

Additional Anticipated Costuming Requirements (To include but not limited to:)

Ladies:

Nylons/Body tights

Bloomers

Makeup

Shoes (ordered through AHS)

Men:

Shoes (ordered through AHS)

Black socks

Compression shorts

Show Choir Rehearsal Information:

- Summer Camps: (These are required rehearsals!)
 - Visual Adrenaline: July 23-July 26 AND August 15-18
 - Perpetual Motion: July 30-August 2
 - Intensity: July 27-July 30
- Regular Monday rehearsals begin August 24
 - Visual Adrenaline: 6:00-9:00 or as announced
 - Perpetual Motion: 7:00-9:00 or as announced
 - Intensity: 5:30-7:00 or as announced
- Rehearsals on Thursdays will begin October 29
- Competition/Performance Schedule will be announced in the fall.

Ankeny High School

Tentative Vocal Music Calendar 2020-2021

Dates as of 4/17/20; Subject to change*

Date	Time	Event	Who/Ensemble
July 23-26	All Day/TBA	VA Retreat/Choreography 1	VA
July 27-30	All Day/TBA	Intensity Retreat/Choreography	Intensity
July 30-Aug 2	All Day/TBA	PM Retreat/Choreography	PM
Aug 1-3	All Day	Wartburg All-State Camp 1	All-State Auditionees
Aug 5-6	All Day	ISU All-State Camp	All-State Auditionees
Aug 3-4	All Day	Central College All-State Camp	All-State Auditionees
Aug 6-8	All Day	Wartburg All-State Camp 2	All-State Auditionees
Aug 15-18	All Day/TBA	VA Choreography 2	VA
Aug 23	All Day/TBA	Concert Choir Retreat	CC
Aug 24	6pm-9pm/TBA	Monday Show Choir Begins	VA/PM/Intensity
Sep 14	7:30 p.m.	Vocal Music Potluck	All Choir Members
Oct 7	4:00-7:00PM	Grandview All-State Clinic	All-State Auditionees
Oct 11/4	3:00 pm	Fall Debut Concert	CC/Cantorei/AS
Oct 24	All Day	All-State Auditions (Indianola)	All-State Ensembles
Oct 29	6-9pm/TBA	Thurs Show Choir Begins	VA/PM/Intensity
Oct 28	4:00p.m.	ISU Honor Choir Auditions	Interested Students
Nov 14	Afternoon/PM Concert	Show Choir 101	VA
Nov 14	7:00PM	Show Choir Preview	VA/PM/Intensity
Nov 20-21	All Day	All-State Music Festival	Selected Students
Dec 8 & 10	6-9pm	Julefest Rehearsals	CC/Cantorei/AS
Dec 11	4-7pm	Julefest Set-Up	CC/Cantorei/AS
Dec 12-13	7pm-Sat;2pm-Sun	Julefest	CC/Cantorei/AS
Jan 2-3	All Day/TBA	Winter Show Choir Camp	VA/PM/Intensity
Jan 9	TBA/All Day	Show Choir Comp @TBA	VA/PM/Intensity
Jan 16	TBA	Show Choir Comp @TBA	VA/PM/Intensity
Feb 13	All Day	Show Choir Comp @ TBA	VA/PM/Intensity
Feb 21	3:00 p.m.	Winter Choral Concert	CC/Cantorei/AS
Feb 27	All Day	Show Choir Comp @ SE Polk	VA/PM/Intensity
Mar 5	7:00 p.m.	Spring Show-SV Night	Show Choirs
Mar 6& 7	7pm-Sat; 3pm-Sun	Spring Show Choir Spectacular	Show Choirs & solos
Apr TBA	TBA	Musical	Interested Students
May 1	TBA	Solo Contest	Interested Students
May 2	3:00p.m.	Spring Awards Concert	CC/Cantorei/AS
May 2	4:00p.m.	Senior Vocal Music Reception	Seniors & Families
May 8	TBA	State Large Group Contest	CC/Cantorei/AS
May TBA	TBA	CD Recording	CC/Cantorei/AS
May TBA	TBA	Baccalaureate	CC
May TBA	TBA	Graduation @ ISU	CC/Cantorei/AS

Notes:

1. CC=Concert Choir; VA=Visual Adrenaline; PM=Perpetual Motion; AS=Ankeny Singers
2. Show Choir Regular Rehearsals=VA Mondays 6:00-9:00 p.m.; PM 7:00-9:00; Intensity 5:30-7:00. (Or as announced by directors); Thursdays (beginning 10/29) at same times or as announced/listed on Google Calendar
3. **Bold** events involve ALL VOCAL MUSIC STUDENTS.
4. *Additional dates may be added; check/subscribe to the calendar on the vocal music website for the latest information: www.ankenychoralmusic.org

QUESTIONS?

If you have questions about the audition process we are happy to help. Use the information below to determine who to contact with your type of question. Best of luck to all!

Mr. Walters

ben.walters@ankenyschools.org

- Musical questions about the audition
 - General audition procedures (components, scoring criteria, etc)
 - General information about the AHS Choral Music Program
- Ensemble specific questions (including schedules, requirements) for Concert Choir, Cantorei, or Visual Adrenaline

Mr. Brown

adam.brown@ankenyschools.org

- Technical questions about the audition (Zoom, Google Classroom, etc.)
- Questions about Sign-Up Genius (Scheduling sight reading/tonal memory)
- Ensemble specific questions (including schedules, requirements) for Ankeny Singers or Perpetual Motion

Mr. Oswald

nick.oswald@ankenyschools.org

- Ensemble specific questions (including schedules, requirements) for Intensity