



Instructions for All-State Second Tier

- I. Downloading Part Recordings
 - a. On a laptop/computer (not a phone or tablet) visit <https://www.partrecordings.com/tnas2023.php>
 - b. Download the Student Files for your choir (SATB, SSAA, TTBB) and your part only.
 - c. **Important – you may only download this file once!** Save the file in a location you'll be able to get to with ease later, like a folder on your desktop. Email schschoirs@gmail.com once you have successfully downloaded the file.
 - d. This will download a .zip file – you'll have to then 'extract' the contents of the zip file (right click, then 'extract all' on a PC).
 - e. Once downloaded, you can determine if there are ways to move the files to your phone or another device for ease of use later.

- II. Learn your music!
 - a. At Second Tier, you'll sing with an octet of other students, standing across a table from an octet of judges. One judge is listening to only you.
 - b. You are not being judged on beauty of sound, quality of voice, etc. Only on the accuracy of the notes and pitches. Typically a score of 85% or higher will give you a passing score at Second Tier.
 - c. However, it's been three years since Middle Tennessee has had a Second Tier. The last time we had a three-year hiatus (due to weather), many students failed Second Tier. Don't give the judge

the opportunity to fail you from this audition – know your music at 95% or better!

- d. You can use your music at the audition.
- e. You must sing anything in English or Latin on text. Any other language you can sing on 'nah.'
- f. You should learn each piece in its entirety, but you'll only sing a short cut of each piece at the audition.

III. The Day of the Auditions

- a. Saturday, January 28, 2022 at Siegel High School
- b. We don't have exact times yet, but plan on being available between 10:30am and 4:30pm. Arrive fed, hydrated, and warmed up. Bring a small snack, a bottle of water, two pencils, and (if you want) a device with earbuds to listen to your downloaded files.
- c. You'll check in first, then go to a holding room for your choir. You'll be seated in octets.
- d. At some point in the holding room, a director will announce the cuts (For example, "On Piece #1, the recording will begin in measure 14, voices will enter on beat four of measure 16. Everyone will end on the end of measure 44."). The director is allowed to say the cuts only once. You'll need to mark your music as the cuts are being announced (hence two pencils – one as a backup). Then the entire room will sing through the cuts once. After that, the first octet will go; others will remain in the holding room until your octet is called. You are not allowed to sing in the room or hear the cuts again, but you can put in earbuds and listen to your tracks.
- e. Once your octet sings, you'll leave the audition room and stand in the hallway. The door monitor will come out and either say "Everyone passed" or "We need to hear Soprano 2 and Tenor 1 again," which means that everyone passed except the Soprano 2 and Tenor 1 in that octet.
- f. If you passed, great! You are done and can go home (unless you are top two chairs on your part – see below).
- g. If you did not pass, never fear – there is the 'Second Chance' Room. You'll walk down to the second chance room and take your

place in an octet of the top chairs on your part (assuming they all passed). A second panel of judges will listen to you again, sometimes only on one or two pieces. This is your second opportunity to show your mastery of the music.

- h. If you are in the top two chairs on your part, plan on staying all day as, after you pass your audition, you'll sing in an octet in the Second Chance room.
 - i. Results – if you are an alternate to All-State and you pass, we'll let you know when/if you move up. That might be the Monday after the auditions, it might be two days before the event – who knows. If you are currently classified as All-State and you fail Second Tier, you have lost your spot in All-State. If you pass, you will be attending All-State in April.
- IV. Advice for learning music
- a. Rank the music from the easiest to the most difficult. When learning music, start by alternating between the most difficult and the easiest. When you have mastered the easiest, move to the second easiest. When you have mastered the most difficult, move to the second most difficult. In other words, you are always focusing on two pieces at once, one more difficult than the other, until you meet in the middle and you have all pieces learned.
 - b. **DO NOT CRAM THIS MUSIC IN THE TWO WEEKS PRIOR TO THE EVENT.** With the voice, the music needs to 'live' in your body for awhile. Muscle memory is real and a necessary asset to a successful audition. **You should plan on having all notes and rhythms learned by January 14 LATEST** so you can spend the last two weeks singing through the music daily.

This is a grueling process, but it is worth it! Hundreds of students (many of whom are at SCHS) would love to be in your position right now. By only accepting students who are proficient on the music, All-State Choirs are filled with students ready to make music – no note learning needed.

DO THE WORK – DON'T GIVE JUDGES THE OPPORTUNITY TO QUESTION YOUR PREPAREDNESS. Make us and yourself proud.