



2025 HONOR CHOIR

SCREENING & ACCEPTANCE FAQ

How many applications were there this year?

This year, we received over 5,000 applications for the honor choirs. Comparatively, the 2023 National Honor Choirs had just about 4,000.

How many students are accepted to participate?

We typically accept 300 students per choir. For 2025 choirs, this would be 1,200 students across all choirs. We have accepted just over that number of applicants this year in an effort to create this opportunity for as many students as possible. Unfortunately, there is finite space in hotels and in the venues to accommodate these singers, which limits our ability to grow the choirs beyond what we have already tried to do.

Who are the screeners?

Screeners are ACDA members who volunteer to complete the screenings. Screeners teach in the age-range and voice part for which they are assigned. Screeners have a minimum of three years experience teaching choir. We acknowledge that the organization is service-based, and those who are willing to give their time to help with screening are greatly appreciated. We had over 70 screeners, each of whom adjudicated a voice part of an age group with which they teach and have experience.

What is the screening process?

The screening process is done completely blind. A screener only knows the choir and voice part they are judging. They do not know the region, applicant name, sponsor name, and no screener is assigned to adjudicate in their own region. Screeners are provided a [rubric](#) which they complete in order to score the applications.

Most of the time, a screener adjudicates an entire voice part for a choir in a particular region (e.g. Screener A adjudicates all Soprano II applications for the 8-10 Treble Honor Choir from Southwestern Region). This ensures that one set of ears is consistent in scoring the entire region.

The most important part of the screening process is that the screener is consistent within themselves as their scores are not compared or “lumped in” with other screeners. It does not matter if someone “scored high” or “scored low” as the results of top scoring students work out the same.



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How does the acceptance process work?

When accepting students there are several approaches that can be pursued. Our current model ensures that the top scores from each region are proportional to the number of applicants from each voice part, choir, and region. This ensures equity and representation from all regions in all choirs. e.g. If the 11-12 SATB choir received 25% of its Bass I applications from the Eastern Region, 25% of the Bass I's accepted for the 11-12 SATB choir would be from the Eastern Region.

This model works well since each region was adjudicated by one screener who was consistent with all of the scores in the voice part from that region. This also ensures that students who reside in Regions with many applications are not penalized.

Why is there a fee to apply?

The \$30 application fee covers a number of things, including costs of the application platform and credit card fees. Additionally, some of this revenue does go to offset the overall cost of the honor choir experience. While this may not be ideal, sharing a small cost for the applications over many students makes participation fees for those selected much more palatable to keep it accessible to the 1,200+ students who participate.

Honor choirs have their own set of expenses to meet outside of the other conference expenses which includes: conductor fees, accompanist fees, rehearsal space rental, AV, performance hall expenses and all the associated labor costs. These costs are dramatically escalated at the National level than in states where smaller and less expensive spaces can meet the needs. As part of our goal to continue to create excellent experiences for students, each choir commissions a work which is later published and available for purchase. These fees also help us continue to ensure new works are created that are age appropriate for these ensembles and adds them to the canon available for everyone moving forward. The baseline budget for the National Honor Choirs on average is typically \$510,000.00. The amount of income fluctuates based on the number of applicants every cycle and the costs in any particular area of the country where the conference is held. Additionally, \$25,000 is allocated for scholarship support from the regular National Conference budget. We have the ability to use revenue overage to supplement scholarship funding each cycle.



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Honor Choir Rubrics

The following rubrics are provided to screeners when listening to applications. Screeners use the evaluation criteria in the rubric to grade the application. The total score is then used to determine the student ranking for acceptance into the choir.

5-7 Treble

SCORING: Point values for each audio file are as follows:

- I. VOCALISES (**20 pts** MAXIMUM)
 - A. ASCENDING: Pitch - 5 pts Tone - 5 pts
 - B. DESCENDING: Pitch - 5 pts Tone - 5 pts
- II. EXCERPT (**45 pts** MAXIMUM)
 - A. Pitch - 15 pts
 - B. Tone - 15 pts
 - C. Musicality - 15 pts

7-10 Tenor-Bass

8-10 Treble

11-12 SATB

SCORING: Point values for each audio file are as follows:

- I. VOCALISES (**20 pts** MAXIMUM)
 - A. ASCENDING: Pitch - 5 pts Tone - 5 pts
 - B. DESCENDING: Pitch - 5 pts Tone - 5 pts
- II. EXCERPT (**45 pts** MAXIMUM)
 - A. Pitch - 15 pts
 - B. Tone - 15 pts
 - C. Musicality - 15 pts
- III. SOLO (**30 pts** MAXIMUM)
 - A. Pitch - 10 pts
 - B. Tone - 10 pts
 - C. Musicality - 10 pts



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Vocal Jazz

SCORING: Point values for each audio file are as follows:

- I. VOCALISES (**30 pts** MAXIMUM)
 - A. CHROMATIC SCALE: Pitch - 5 pts Tone - 5 pts
 - B. BLUES SCALE: Pitch - 5 pts Tone - 5 pts
 - C. BEBOP SCALE: Pitch - 5 pts Tone - 5 pts
- II. BLUES IMPROVISATION (**30 pts** MAXIMUM)
 - A. Pitch - 15 pts
 - B. Tone - 15 pts
 - C. Musicality - 15 pts
- III. EXCERPT - "I'm Old Fashioned" (**45 pts** MAXIMUM)
 - A. Pitch - 10 pts
 - B. Tone - 10 pts
 - C. Musicality - 10 pts
- IV. SOPRANO 1 / BASS 2 EXERCISE
 - A. Pitch - 5 pts
 - B. Tone - 5 pts



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Application & Acceptance Statistics

5-7 Treble Honor Choir

	Eastern		Midwestern		Northwestern		Southern		Southwestern		Western		TOTAL	
	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept
Soprano	54	22	35	15	8	3	171	72	102	42	24	8	394	162
Alto	35	14	41	16	6	2	229	85	93	36	23	9	427	162
Total	89	36	76	31	14	5	400	157	195	78	47	17	821	324

7-10 TTBB Honor Choir

	Eastern		Midwestern		Northwestern		Southern		Southwestern		Western		TOTAL	
	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept
Tenor I	13	8	21	15	4	2	39	27	37	25	4	3	118	80
Tenor II	18	14	16	7	1	1	54	29	50	25	5	5	144	81
Bass I	23	8	36	13	4	2	76	27	67	24	18	6	224	80
Bass II	17	12	25	14	4	4	35	21	52	29	1	1	134	81
Total	71	42	98	49	13	9	204	104	206	103	28	15	620	322



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8-10 Treble Honor Choir

	Eastern		Midwestern		Northwestern		Southern		Southwestern		Western		TOTAL	
	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept
Soprano I	56	12	68	13	17	4	131	25	118	22	30	6	420	82
Soprano II	50	11	76	15	4	1	125	26	109	23	20	5	384	81
Alto I	46	10	77	19	8	1	99	24	106	22	16	4	352	80
Alto II	40	14	30	12	6	0	65	23	64	22	9	6	214	77
Total	192	47	251	59	35	6	420	98	397	89	75	21	1370	320

11-12 SATB Honor Choir

	Eastern		Midwestern		Northwestern		Southern		Southwestern		Western		TOTAL	
	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept
Soprano I	83	6	59	5	18	2	120	14	77	7	26	5	383	39
Soprano II	77	7	55	7	17	2	103	19	78	19	25	3	355	39
Alto I	84	10	61	7	13	2	95	11	73	7	26	3	352	40
Alto II	70	9	49	4	13	2	89	12	72	9	19	3	312	39
Tenor I	23	6	27	6	11	4	43	13	31	8	11	3	146	40
Tenor II	37	7	30	6	7	1	53	13	49	11	6	2	182	40
Bass I	51	8	44	8	16	1	83	11	63	9	22	3	279	40
Bass II	46	11	35	7	12	3	48	7	49	11	7	1	197	40
Total	471	64	360	50	107	17	634	91	492	72	142	23	2206	317



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11-12 Vocal Jazz Honor Choir

	Eastern		Midwestern		Northwestern		Southern		Southwestern		Western		TOTAL	
	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept	Apply	Accept
Soprano I	8	0	7	2	2	0	4	0	2	0	2	0	25	2
Soprano II	9	0	12	2	0	0	3	0	3	0	5	0	32	2
Alto I	10	0	7	0	3	0	11	1	4	0	1	1	36	2
Alto II	3	0	5	0	1	1	7	0	7	0	4	1	27	2
Tenor I	0	0	7	2	0	0	4	0	0	0	2	0	13	2
Tenor II	2	0	3	1	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	7	2
Bass I	0	0	8	1	1	0	4	0	3	1	0	0	15	2
Bass II	0	0	7	2	0	0	0	0	2	0	0	0	10	2
Total	32	0	56	10	7	1	33	1	23	2	14	2	165	16

For questions, email nationalhonorchoir@acda.org