

# MARCH 15<sup>TH</sup> - CLARKSTON H.S.



## A FAMILY GUIDE TO MSVMA CHOIR FESTIVAL

### **WHAT IS CHOIR FESTIVAL?**

Choir Festival is an opportunity for ensembles from member schools to perform a program of two pieces for adjudication, one of which must be from MSVMA's required list. District-level festivals are held at the end of February through the beginning of March. Each group is evaluated by three performance judges and one sight-reading judge.

### **HOW ARE THE GROUPS RATED?**

Ensembles are rated on a scale from 1 to 5 with 1 being the highest rating possible. The overall score is computed using a formula which combines the ratings of each judge. Ensembles that earn an overall 1 rating (or "Superior") are qualified for State Choir Festival which is held in late April or early May. The basic structure of State Choir Festival is similar to District, but the ensembles are held to a higher standard and there is no sight-reading. Participating ensembles that earn a rating of 1 or 2 at District or State Festivals receive a certificate and are eligible to purchase plaques for display at their school.

### **WHAT ARE THE CRITERIA FOR RATINGS?**

Ensembles are judged in five categories: TONE, PITCH, RHYTHM, DICTION, PRESENTATION, and INTERPRETATION. Tone refers to the quality and beauty of the sound the ensemble produces; pitch refers to how well in tune the ensemble performs and how accurate the sung notes are; rhythm refers to the accuracy with which rhythms are performed as an ensemble; diction refers to how each ensemble performs the text of their music; presentation refers to how the ensemble appears on and off stage; interpretation refers to the musical elements such as dynamics, phrasing, style, tempo and expression. After the performance, each ensemble will be given feedback from one of the judges in the form of a clinic.

Each of the above categories receives a letter grade similar to students' grades in school. A predominance of grades determines the final rating. The final ratings of each performance judge and the sight-reading are combined to determine the final rating.

## **WHAT IS SIGHT-READING?**

After each ensemble's performance of their prepared music, they will go to the sight reading room. The ensemble will have a limited amount of time to rehearse and perform small pieces of music that they have not seen before. The students must prepare these "snippets" on their own and with their peers; the instructor is not able to assist the musicians in any way. The students will perform the pieces of music and the judge will give the ensemble feedback based on the performance.

## **WHAT DOES EACH DIVISION RATING MEAN?**

**Division I** represents an excellent level of performance and musicianship for the event.

**Division II** represents a good performance, but not worthy of the highest rating due to minor defects in performance or ineffective interpretation. Shows much accomplishment and promise.

**Division III** represents a fair performance, but not outstanding. Shows accomplishment and promise, but is lacking in some essential qualities.

**Division IV** represents a poor performance lacking in many essential qualities.

**Division V** represents an unsatisfactory performance.

## **SHOULD PARENTS ATTEND CHOIR FESTIVAL?**

YES! We need your applause! We need your faces in that audience listening to how hard your kids have worked! Parents are highly encouraged to attend and support their student's ensemble. Please wear your MUSTANG APPAREL! Parents are allowed in both the performance and sight-reading rooms. Performances may be recorded by parents, however the **sight-reading portion is not allowed to be recorded.** An audio recording of the ensemble's performance should be available for purchase at the festival site for a nominal fee.

- ***CLAWSON MIDDLE SCHOOL GOLD CHOIR PERFORMANCE: 5:30PM***

Address to Clarkston H.S.  
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