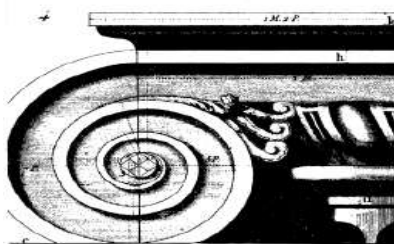


Stivers

School for the Arts



Choir

Audition

Middle School Choir Audition

Stivers School for the Arts



Selected Guidelines for Middle School

The Stivers School for the Arts Choir magnet is a classically-based choral program that emphasizes healthy vocal production. The “bel canto” technique is the foundation for all healthy singing, in all styles of singing.

Stivers offers four choral performance levels that are designed to meet the ability level and interest of the student. Membership in each group is determined on the basis of ability and achievement. The four levels are:

- 1. choir beginning**

- *introductory choir* for seventh grade voices

- 2. choir concert**

- *intermediate choir* for eighth-twelfth grade voices

- 3. choir women’s and choir symphonic**

- *advanced levels* for high school student voices

- 4. choir chorale and choir chamber**

- *honors choir* for advanced tenth-twelfth grade student voices by audition only

Each group meets for one class period every day; Chorale and Chamber meet for two periods each day.

Students may receive small group lessons for one period each week. Advanced students may receive a private lesson per week.

Audition Requirements:

Students will prepare a song from the attached options:

- “My Country! ‘Tis of Thee”
- “America the Beautiful”
- “Shenandoah”
- “The Ash Grove”

The audition candidate will be required to sing one verse memorized. The song may be sung as written or transposed to any other key as required. OR...

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Audition Requirements:

Audition candidates may sing a folk song, art song or patriotic song of their own choosing in place of those provided, **as long as they bring a copy of the selected sheet music.** Vocal music candidates will be provided piano accompaniment. **This is suggested for those students who study voice with a private voice teacher.**

Selections may come from these music anthologies:

- 24 Italian Art Songs / G. Schirmer or Alfred
- The Young Singer / Richard Row
- My First Book of [Soprano, Mezzo, Tenor, Bass] Solos / Boytim
- Anything from the Ohio Music Education solo or ensemble list

Students may not sing a “pop” song for their Stivers School for the Arts audition. Acappella singing or taped accompaniment will not be acceptable as the sole audition piece.

Evaluation of the Choir audition will be based upon:

presentation of the prepared song

vocally matching pitch to a short series of notes played on the piano

performing vocal exercises

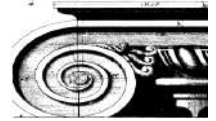
writing a short statement that explains goals in the field of choral music and reasons for choosing Stivers School for the Arts.

If the allotted number of students is not accepted in any department, additional students can be accepted in other magnet areas based on the number of applicants and meeting guidelines of instrumentation, voice, gender and race. The approximate number of each instrument in band and orchestra and voice types for choir is an important factor. For example we could not participate, nor offer a full range of choral literature if all the accepted audition candidates were sopranos.

The auditions will be adjudicated by the directors of each arts magnet area and professional artists and performers from the Dayton Arts community who serve as adjunct faculty members at Stivers. **Every student will be notified of their audition results by mail.**

Middle School Choir Audition

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Choir Magnet Expectations:

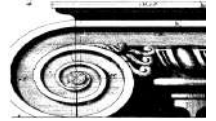
Stivers student artists will:

- receive a grade for their art magnet classes that is as important as any other grade on their report card and are part of the cumulative grade point average.
- have homework every night in their magnet area. Musicians must practice at home for 30 minutes every evening. Visual artists must invest 30 minutes every night on their sketchbook assignments. Other young artists will have similar homework assignments.
- take good care of their equipment, instruments, music and supplies.
- participate in every performance. There are evening and Saturday performances as well as some after school rehearsals or classes in every department. All students must attend these special events which are an important part of their grade.
- wear black and white for all concerts - white shirts, black pants or skirts, and black shoes - no colors. Special dress / costumes are required in dance and theatre.
- pay a magnet fee of \$175.00 per year for their magnet area they choose and an additional \$50.00 per year for a second magnet area. Fee waivers and some scholarships are available in cases of financial need.

Thank you for considering Stivers School for the Arts as your school of choice. We hope your audition experience is positive and rewarding.

Middle School Choir Audition

Stivers School for the Arts



Audition Requirements Continued:

Please use five sentences to tell us why you would like to be a part of the Stivers Shool for the Arts Choir Magnet.

1. _____

2. _____

3. _____

4. _____

5. _____

Student Name _____ Age _____

Address _____ Zip _____

Home Phone _____ Cell Phone _____

Current School _____

Current Grade _____ Birthday _____

Middle School Choir Audition

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Audition Rubric

Student Name _____ date _____

Song _____

E V A L U A T I O N

Evaluation of the audition is based on a five point scale with five points being the highest and one point being the lowest in the following areas:

pitch precision	1	2	3	4	5
[score of 1 / incorrect ambiguous pitch]					[score of 5 / accurate pitch / correct notes]
<hr/>					
tone	1	2	3	4	5
[score of 1 / forced, harsh or hushed tone]					[score of 5 / natural easy tone, devoid of stylistic elements]
<hr/>					
posture	1	2	3	4	5
[score of 1 / slouching, coat/purse on body]					[score of 5 / unencumbered body / aligned correctly for singing]
<hr/>					
demeanor	1	2	3	4	5
[score of 1 / disengaged, no facial expression]					[score of 5 / focused on music, engaged with meaning of song]
<hr/>					
breath support	1	2	3	4	5
[score of 1 / short, sporadic phrases /] breathing in middle of words & phrases]					[score of 5 / legato line, long appropriate phrases]
<hr/>					
diction	1	2	3	4	5
[score of 1 / words not clear, vowels] spread, lack of consonants]					[score of 5 / vowels lined up, clear crisp consonants; pure vowels on Italian song]

Pitch matching

Performance Example 1: **1** **2** **3** **4** **5**

Performance Example 2: **1** **2** **3** **4** **5**

Adjudicators: _____ , _____

_____ , _____

Middle School Choir Audition

Stivers School for the Arts



America My Country, 'Tis of Thee

Samuel Francis Smith, lyrics

British National Anthem, tune

Piano

The musical score is written for piano on a single staff in 3/4 time, with a key signature of one flat (Bb). The score is divided into four systems, each with a measure number (1, 4, 8, 11) at the beginning. Chord symbols (F, C7, Bb) are placed above the staff at various points. The lyrics are written below the staff, with some words hyphenated across measures. The score ends with a double bar line.

1 F C7 F Bb
My coun - try, 'tis coun - of Thee, Sweet Land of the
My na - tive coun - try, thee, Land of the

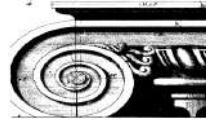
4 F C7 F
Li - ber - ty Of thee I sing; Land where my
no - ble free, Thy name I love; I love thy

8 C7
fa - thers died, Land of the pil - grims' pride,
rocks and rills, Thy woods and tem - pled hills,

11 F Bb F C7 F Bb F C7 F
From ev - 'ry moun - tain side Let Free - dom ring.
My heart with rap - ture thrills Like that a - bove.

Middle School Choir Audition

Stivers School for the Arts



America, the Beautiful

Katherine Lee Bates, lyrics

Samuel Ward



1. O beau - ti - ful for spac - ious skies, For am - ber waves of grain,
2. O beau - ti - ful for pil - grim feet, Whose stern im - pas - sioned stress
3. O beau - ti - ful for he - roes proved in lib - er - a - ting strife,
4. O beau - ti - ful for pat - riot dream That sees be - yond the years



For pur - ple moun - tain maj - es - ties A - bove the frui - ted plain!
A thor - ough - fare for free - dom beat A - cross the wil - der - ness!
Who more than self their coun - try loved, And mer - cy more than life!
Thine al - a - bas - ter cit - ies gleam, Un - dimmed by hu - man tears!



A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God mend thine ev - ery flaw,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! May God thy gold re - fine,
A - mer - i - ca! A - mer - i - ca! God shed His grace on thee,



And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea!
Con - firm thy soul in self - con - trol, Thy lib - er - ty in law!
Till all suc - cess be no - ble - ness, And ev - ery gain di - vine!
And crown thy good with broth - er - hood From sea to shin - ing sea!

Middle School Choir Audition

Stivers School for the Arts



Shenandoah

American folk tune

C

Oh Shen-an- doah, I long to hear you A -
'Tis sev'n long years since last I see you And
Oh Shen-an- doah, I love your daugh-ter, A -
Oh Shen-an- doah, she's bound to leave you, A -

6

way you rol - ling riv - er, Oh Shen-an - doah,
hear your rol - ling riv - er. 'Tis sev'n long year
way, you rol - ling riv - er. Oh Shen-an- doah,
way, you rol - ling riv - er. Oh Shen-an- doah,

11

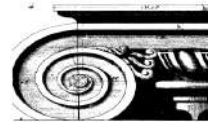
I long to see you. A - way, I'm bound a -
since last I see you. A - way, we're bound a -
I'll come to claim her.
I'll not de - ceive you.

16

way a - cross the wide Mis - sour-i.

Middle School Choir Audition

Stivers School for the Arts



The Ash Grove

Welsh traditional

Down yon - der the green val - ley where stream - lets me -
at the bright noon - tide in sol - i - tude

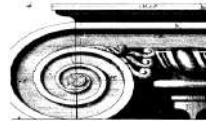
an - der, When twi - light is fad - ing, I pen - sive - ly
wan - der, A - mid the dark shades of the lone - ly ash

rove. Or grove. 'Twas there while the black - bird was

cheer - ful - ly sing - ing, I first met my dear one, the joy of my

Middle School Choir Audition

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2

The Ash Grove



heart; A - round us for glad - ness the blue - bells were ring - ing, Ah!



then lit - tle thought I how soon we should part.

Down yonder green valley where streamlets meander
When twilight is fading I pensively roam
Or at the bright noontide in solitude wander
Amid the dark shades of the lonely Ash Grove
'Twas there while the blackbird was cheerfully singing
I first met that dear one--the joy of my heart
Around us for gladness the bluebells were springing
Ah! then little thought I how soon we should part

Still glows the bright sunshine o'er valley and mountain
Still warbles the blackbird its note from the tree
Still trembles the moonbeam on streamlet and fountain
But what are the beauties of nature to me?
With sorrow, deep sorrow, my bosom is laden
All day I go mourning in search of my love
Ye echoes! Oh, tell me, where is the sweet maiden
'She sleeps 'neath the green turf down by the Ash Grove'