

## 2026 Chorus Applicant Guide

### How to Apply:

To apply for the chorus program, applicants will upload a video audition consisting of the **three components** listed below. All sheet music and audio files are available in [this Dropbox folder](#).

1) Scale

2) Choral Selection

*Come to the Woods* by Jake Runestad, mm. 1–21

3) Unaccompanied Solo Piece

*America the Beautiful* **OR** *Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes* **OR** *O Danny Boy*

### Scale:

Sing the major scale appropriate to your voice part as written in the OAI Chorus Audition Scales sheet music found in [the Dropbox folder](#). Scales should be sung in solfege (using the syllables *do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do*). To help guide you, the sheet music shows the first letter of each syllable beneath the notes. Only the starting pitch may be played on your recording; the remainder must be sung unaccompanied.

### Choral Selection:

Perform the selection from *Come to the Woods* for your voice part with the provided piano accompaniment track. The music and words do not have to be memorized.

Please begin at the start of the sheet music and sing through page 5, measure 21. At the beginning of the recording, you will hear your starting pitch followed by two measures of 7/8 to count you in. If your part divides at any point, you may sing either Part 1 or Part 2, but please stay consistent throughout your audition (e.g., don't sing Part 1 on one page and switch to Part 2 on the next).

In [the Dropbox folder](#), you will find two different MP3 files:

- Practice Track (Melody + Accompaniment): This track includes your melody played using a synthesized vocal sound to help you learn your part. Use this only for practice.
- Audition Track (Accompaniment Only): This is the track you must use for your official audition recording.

Unaccompanied Solo Piece:

Sing your choice of one of the songs listed below. You must sing your selected piece exactly as written on the sheet music provided in [the Dropbox folder](#). The music and words do not need to be memorized.

You are encouraged to practice with a metronome beforehand, but do NOT use a metronome in your audition video.

You may play the beginning pitch audio recording at the start of your audition, but the piece itself must be sung unaccompanied.

Vocal embellishments, inaccurate tempos, or otherwise not singing the music as written will result in a lower score.

**OPTION A: *America the Beautiful***

TEMPO: Quarter note = 75–90 bpm

(Set your metronome between 75 and 90; each click represents one quarter note.)

**OPTION B: *Drink to Me Only with Thine Eyes***

TEMPO: Quarter note = 60–72 bpm

(Set your metronome between 60 and 72; each click represents one quarter note.)

**OPTION C: *O Danny Boy***

TEMPO: Quarter note = 50–65 bpm

(Set your metronome between 50 and 65; each click represents one quarter note.)

Choosing a Location:

- Choose a neat, neutral background for your video.
- Eliminate any moving/noisy elements in the room that might distract from your audition (e.g., circulating fan).
- Face the primary light source in the room (e.g., a window) to ensure you are well lit from the front. The darkest part of the room should be behind you.
- Position your camera at eye level.

### Recording Guidelines:

- Audition videos should include at least the applicant's torso and face within frame.
- Do NOT introduce yourself or give any other identifying information in your video recording.
- Wear clothing appropriate for an audition:
  - **DO** wear comfortable, neutral attire. A simple, solid-colored shirt, jeans, pants, or a long skirt are recommended.
  - **DON'T** wear garments that distract from your performance. Examples of inappropriate audition attire include garments that are graphic, shredded, torn, too revealing, or too tight (e.g., pajamas, crop tops, ripped jeans, shirts with characters/logos/words, or short shorts/skirts).

### Video Upload Tips:

You may upload each element separately, but each video should be unedited. Please label each file with the component name (e.g., Scale).

Some phones—especially iPhones—save videos in formats that our application platform can't read, which can cause your file to upload backwards, upside down, or not at all. If your file won't upload, it is almost always because of the file type.

For videos, MP4 or MOV files are best.

If you took your audition videos on an iPhone, your phone may save it as HEVC (video) file, and these often won't upload correctly on our application platform. We recommend first converting it to MP4/MOV file, then uploading. See tips for converting your file/s below.

Option 1: Use a converter website

- Search for "HEVC to MP4" (videos).
- Upload → convert → download → then upload to your application.

Option 2: Use a computer

- Move the file to a computer; videos usually convert automatically when moved to a computer.

### Evaluation Criteria:

#### **Scale – 20%**

Does the applicant display an age-appropriate range and management of register while presenting an even and beautiful tone?



### **Choral Selection – 40%**

Does the applicant demonstrate the ability to adhere to correct pitches, rhythms, musical notation, and style of a traditional choral score? Does the applicant display proper breathing technique for a choral work?

### **Unaccompanied Solo – 40%**

Does the applicant demonstrate a high level of artistry and musicality? Is the applicant's tone full and rich in all ranges? Does the applicant display accurate intonation throughout all ranges and registers? Does the applicant demonstrate the musical markings accurately? (Ignoring musical markings should diminish the applicant's score.)

Read general information about our evaluation process here:

<https://oaiquartz.org/application-selection-process>