OKLAHOMA ARTS INSTITUTE QUARTZ MOUNTAIN

2027 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

   Nisi Dominus, mm. 73–end
3) Unaccompanied Solo Piece

   America the Beautiful **OR** *O Danny Boy*

All audition performances must be the applicant's own original work. Applicants may not use artificial intelligence (AI) or other software tools to generate, alter, or enhance their audition performances. This includes pitch correction, vocal tuning, digitally modified voices, AI-generated vocals, and other software-based enhancements. Because students will not have access to these tools during the Oklahoma Summer Arts Institute at Quartz Mountain, it is important the audition process accurately reflects each applicant's natural singing voice, musical abilities, and individual artistry.

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. **Please do NOT use solfege hand signs during your audition.** Only the starting pitch may be played on your recording; the remainder must be sung unaccompanied.

Choral Selection:

Perform the selection from *Nisi Dominus* for your voice part using the provided accompaniment track. You may use your music; memorization is not required.

The accompaniment track begins on the downbeat of measure 73. Begin singing at the measure indicated for your voice part:

- Soprano: Measure 80
- Alto: Measure 82
- Tenor: Measure 88
- Bass: Measure 88

All voice parts should continue singing through the end of the piece.

Make sure your voice is clearly audible above the accompaniment track. Your voice should be the predominant sound in the recording.

In the Dropbox folder, you will find three different MP3 files:

- Latin Pronunciation Guide: A spoken recording of the Latin text to help you learn the correct pronunciation.
- Practice Track (Melody + Accompaniment): Includes your vocal part played using a synthesized voice, along with the accompaniment, to help you learn the music. This track is for practice only.
- Audition Track (Accompaniment Only): Contains the accompaniment without your vocal part. You must use this track for your official audition recording, beginning at measure 73 and continuing through the end of the piece.

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.

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

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.

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: *O Danny Boy*

TEMPO: Quarter note = 50–65 bpm

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

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Audition Attire:

- Comfortable, neutral attire. A simple, solid-colored shirt with jeans, pants, or a long skirt, and flats or sneakers are recommended.
- Don't wear garments that distract from your performance. High heels or other clothing that inhibit your movement are strongly discouraged. Examples of inappropriate audition attire include garments that are bulky, graphic, shredded, torn, too revealing, or too tight (e.g., crop tops, ripped jeans, shirts with characters/logos/words, or short shorts/skirts).

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.
- Audition recordings must accurately represent the applicant's natural, unaltered singing voice. Artificial intelligence (AI), pitch correction, vocal tuning, filters, audio effects, and other software-based enhancements are not permitted. Applicants may use only the accompaniment or starting pitch recordings specifically authorized in this guide.

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