



the association for music in international schools • church farm house • north loham • diss • norfolk • ip22 2lp • england  
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# Vocal Recording Instructions

## AMIS International Honor Band and Choir Festival

### **BE SURE TO USE THE CORRECT SET OF AUDITION MATERIALS.**

#### **Vocal Audition Instructions**

AMIS welcomes interested, well-prepared young people to audition for the AMIS International Honor Band and Choir Festival. This document has been written to help you to help your students prepare the best possible audition. The audition listening committee strives to select the best singers possible to participate in this Honor Festival. Please help us in this process by carefully reading and following the instructions.

1. Only students in grades 9 through 13 may audition. Singers may audition for **only one vocal section.**
2. Record using the best equipment and conditions possible. Auditions may be submitted on good quality cassettes, CD, or MiniDisc. **Applicants are encouraged to use CD's** as these frequently produce the best quality auditions.
3. Use a **separate** good quality cassette tape, CD or minidisc for **each** voice part.
4. **Do not announce the name of the school on the recording.** At the beginning of the audition, each student should clearly state **voice part and the order number** in which he/she sings. This is the **only** way to identify who is performing. For example: "I am alto number 6." The **student**, not the teacher, should make the announcement.
5. You will need to complete the "**Online Track List and Entry Form**" on the AMIS website. You will receive an email copy of this form. Print a copy of this form and submit it with your auditions. This list will give the names of students in the order they appear on your disc, listing the tracks in which each individual audition is recorded. This printed list will serve as a doublecheck with the online submission.
6. If a student is auditioning for **both** Honor Band and Honor Choir, clearly **note this** and indicate **which organization** they will choose if admitted to both.
7. Unchanged male voices will not be considered. Women's voices will not be considered for the tenor section.
8. Only students who submit **complete** auditions will be considered. It is important to listen to each audition completely before submitting the master. If a portion of the audition is cut off that student cannot be considered.
9. Mark your CD with the school number listed on the AMIS website and the voice part recorded on that CD. **DO NOT LIST YOUR SCHOOL NAME.** Example: School 5, alto.
10. **The auditioning recordings and forms must reach the Church Farm House address NO LATER THAN the due date listed on the AMIS web site under "Latest Festival Information."** Do not assume that even DHL or Federal Express can always make a next day delivery; they can't. If your mail service is notoriously unreliable, it might be best to consider using an express or courier service.
11. Auditions from outside the EU should be clearly marked: educational material, no commercial value.

Send submissions to: **Georgia Bassett, Executive Consultant**  
**AMIS**  
**Church Farm House**  
**North Lopham, Diss**  
**Norfolk IP22 2LP, England**

**Use Set C for the festival in the spring of 2008.**  
**Use Set D for the festival in the spring of 2009.**  
**Use Set A for the festival in the spring of 2010.**  
**Use Set B for the festival in the spring of 2011.**

## Guidelines to help you prepare a successful vocal audition

### Please read carefully before you record:

1. **Carefully observe all metronome markings.**  
For both vocalises the metronome **must** be heard (without overpowering the singer) throughout the exercise, with the singer and accompanist following that tempo. The singer must also be heard easily.
2. For Vocalise 1: **Only** the written chords should accompany the voice where indicated. The singer will be disqualified if the accompaniment doubles the vocal line.
3. For Vocalise 2: Play only the **notes as written**, in the singer's octave. No accompaniment, chords, or doubling of the octave.
4. For the Song Excerpt: A tempo range is specified. The tempo of the performance **must** be within the given range.
5. **Record Vocalise 1, Vocalise 2, then the song.**
6. Accompaniments can help or hinder your student. If your piano skills are inadequate, find a qualified accompanist or simplify the accompaniment, preferably using the bass line. The committee is listening for **vocal quality, pitch, rhythmic accuracy, and musicality**. It is important that the entire audition represents the student's **well-prepared** performance. The committee can judge only the recorded performance. Help your student to have every possible advantage by carefully following these guidelines. All singers will audition in the same way using the same material.
7. All portions of the audition should be **carefully** prepared. Tone quality, pitch, rhythmic accuracy and musicality (general musicianship) in **all** portions of the audition will be rated and numerical ratings given by all judges in all these categories will be averaged to obtain a final rating.
8. Judges do not know the identity of the auditionees and do not know which school the candidates come from.

### Recommended Recording Techniques:

1. Please record in stereo.
2. If submitting a CD or MiniDisc put each singer's audition on its **own** track. You must provide a **track list** as part of the online forms you will submit.
3. The addition of electronic echo/reverb will disqualify the student.
4. Use Dolby B setting, not Dolby C for cassette recordings.
5. Pay attention to **balance**. The metronome and piano must be audible but should not overpower the singer. The metronome should be audibly ticking during the vocalises. Allow the metronome to set the speed for the song, but do not have it running during the song.
6. Make every effort to avoid recording in a room which has too much echo.
7. Avoid recording the voice and accompaniment on separate channels.
8. **Be sure you listen to each entire recording for distortion or editing mistakes.**

### Before you send the auditions:

1. Do **not** send auditions for students which clearly indicate a lack of preparation or a level of performance that is not appropriate for a highly select choir. Screen your auditions.
2. Listen to your completed cassette recordings on a **different** machine. The speed varies drastically on some machines causing distortion of pitch, tempo, and timbre.
3. Listen to your recordings once more to insure that you have recorded **complete** auditions consisting of the student information, Vocalise 1, Vocalise 2, and the song. Remember incomplete auditions will not be considered. Also listen carefully for balance and clarity. Make sure the singer is **clearly audible**. **Make sure the student does NOT give his or her name or the name of your school.**
4. Make a back-up copy of your recordings.
5. Label each recording with your school's number and the voice part on that disc..
6. Be sure to supply the necessary paperwork.