

## **International Honor Choir Testing Procedure:**

The AMIS IHBC guidelines require that each performer participating be tested the first day of the festival. To that end, the following information is given to better prepare both directors and students. Our goal is to assess each singer in an environment conducive to success AND to complete the assessment in a succinct and manageable time frame.

### **#1**

***DIRECTORS:*** You are ultimately responsible for the level of preparedness of your singers. If they are not prepared (for whatever reason), they should not attend. Therefore, please discuss with your students the information below. Advance knowledge of the testing procedure not only expedites the process, but allows each student to feel in control of the situation.

### **#2**

#### ***PLEASE READ THE FOLLOWING TO YOUR IHC SINGERS BEFORE ARRIVAL IN LUXEMBOURG:***

Testing Procedure.....(during Thursday afternoon the first day of the festival.)  
If space permits, a section of singers, i.e. Alto I, will be tested all together. Otherwise we will test as many singers at a time as the space will accommodate. Students will stand in a comfortable circle, backs to the inside of the circle. The testing team will be to the outside of the circle. The listening team will freely walk around the circle as the testing begins, stopping to listen to individual singers at will, making notes if they choose. It is *imperative* the singer make him/herself heard. Only **TWO** excerpts will be evaluated, those excerpts having been pre-selected by the team leader....AND...you can rest assured those are the TWO passages you have had the most difficulty singing! This allows the choir to avoid sectionals later on in the weekend.

At the conclusion of the testing (usually 3 or 4 minutes), any team member can request a second testing for any singer about whose preparation they have doubts. The rest of the singers will be dismissed. If the team decides to “flag” a student, a form will be given to the student’s music director detailing the problem. It is expected that each director will work through the problems with the singer that afternoon/evening. During the first rehearsal break on the second day, the music director of any “flagged” student is required to meet with the testing chairperson to report on the student’s progress, and to share the procedures used in correcting the problems. A second listening session may be requested by the tester.

### **#3**

#### ***TESTING COMMITTEE WILL READ THE FOLLOWING TO EACH GROUP OF SINGERS AS THEY ARE TESTED:***

**“It is our wish that every singer is prepared and most often this is the case. However, philosophically the testing keeps everyone honest and insures the quality, integrity and caliber of the choir...AND...(in an odd, but true way) is a common experience which serves to bond the ensembles together. If you know the music and have put in your time, you will do fine.**

**Sing out with confidence to eliminate any doubt in the minds of the listening team!  
You will be evaluated on the following:**

- Correct pitches and rhythms (“First-time” performance ready)
- Entrances and cut-offs
- Reasonable Command of texts

**If we cannot hear you, or if you sound as though you are unprepared,  
you will be asked to remain behind for additional testing.”**