



WELCOME

ANKENY HIGH SCHOOL
VOCAL MUSIC AUDITIONS
2026-2027



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www.ankenychoralmusic.org

Dear Vocal Music Students & Families,

WELCOME to Ankeny High School's award-winning vocal music department! We are excited that you are interested in vocal music activities at AHS! This packet contains all of the information you will need to prepare for placement auditions for the 26-27 school year for both curricular choirs and show choirs. Please read the information in this packet carefully and prepare thoroughly for auditions; we want you to do your best! If you have questions about the audition or placement process, please contact us. Good luck to all!

Mr. Ben Walters
Director of Choral Activities

Mr. Riley Anderson
Assistant Director of Choral Activities

General Audition Information

Purpose:

We have many talented students at Ankeny High School, and as a result, the need for several choirs & show choirs. The purpose of auditions is to assess students for participation in both curricular choirs (meeting during the school day) and show choirs (that meet outside of the school day-typically Monday and Thursday nights). The audition packet is available online at www.ankenychoralmusic.org on the "Documents" page and on Canvas. A limited number of copies will be available at Ankeny High School and Southview Middle School. *Please print the entire packet for your reference!*

Important Audition Dates:

- Vocal auditions for students auditioning for show choirs only (Including all incoming 9th graders): Monday, April 27: 4:00PM-9:30PM
- Recorded vocal solo for students auditioning for show choirs only Due: Sunday, April 26 at 11:59pm
- Vocal Auditions for 10th-12th grade select curricular choirs: April 28, 29, 30, and May 1 (4:00PM-9:30PM each day)
- Choreography Clinics: May 12 & 14; 4:00-5:00pm
- Show Choir Recorded Dance Audition: Due May 15 at 11:59pm

PRIOR to your audition you MUST fill out the audition form (see below) which includes parent consent. Additionally, you must complete a contact & volunteer information form electronically. (See "How to prepare" below.) The electronic audition form and information form must be completed prior to the audition.

How to prepare:

- 1.) Spend time preparing the required vocal solo(s) (in this packet.) While it does not have to be memorized, the more comfortable you are with it, the better your chances are to show us what you are really capable of. Take a deep breath, do your best, and RELAX!
- 2.) Fill out the [AUDITION GOOGLE FORM](#). Recognition of parent/guardian consent of your audition is required on the form. You will not be permitted to audition without completing the audition form and the next step below.
- 3.) Complete the [CONTACT & VOLUNTEER FORM \(REQUIRED\)](#) prior to your audition.
- 4.) Show Choir *Only* Auditionees (Including all incoming 9th grade students): [Join the Show Only Audition Canvas page](#) (see below/links on final page.)
- 5.) Sign-up for an audition time using the following links:
 - [Current SV 8th Graders & 9th-11th graders auditioning for show choir ONLY](#)
 - [Current 9th-11th Graders auditioning for Concert Choir, or Cantorei/Chorale](#)
 - Plan to arrive approximately 15-20 minutes prior to your scheduled time in order to warm-up in a practice room. Enter door E26. Be prepared to go slightly earlier or later than your scheduled time depending on the progress of auditions.

Evaluation & Results:

Auditions are evaluated objectively using a rubric (the components of which are discussed later in this packet.) The high school vocal music directors as well as an outside "guest judge" score each audition.

Results of auditions will be posted on the vocal music website (www.ankenychoralmusic.org) on May 29, 2026 sometime after 4:00 p.m. Each student will be evaluated and placed in ensembles based on performance in the audition and where the directors/audition evaluators feel that the most personal growth can occur. ***We understand that not every student will be placed in the ensemble they desire.*** NOTE: *work ethic, teamwork, attitude, attendance, and rehearsal skills demonstrated on a daily basis during the previous school year is also a significant consideration in final results.*

It is our hope that students with a love of music will share their talents and passions with whichever ensemble(s) they are placed in!

Audition Components

Auditions for the 2026-2027 school year will consist of the following:

Component 1 (Required for Concert Choir, Cantorei, Chorale, and all show choirs)

- 1.) Prepared solo: Prepare the solo(s) (in this packet) for your voice part; students will sing the selection a cappella receiving the key (tonal center) and starting pitch before beginning. (You must sing in the printed key!) For this component, students will be evaluated on tone quality, intonation, rhythmic accuracy, and musicianship.
 - a. This component will be performed LIVE if you are auditioning for Concert Choir or Cantorei/Chorale & will be RECORDED and submitted via Canvas for students auditioning for show choir only.

Component 2 (Required for Concert Choir, Cantorei, Chorale, and all show choirs)

- 1.) Tonal Memory: Students will sing back 2-4 short melodic patterns played on the piano using a neutral syllable. Students may ask to hear each example up to three times. Students are evaluated on aural ability and pitch accuracy.
- 2.) Sing "Happy Birthday" a cappella. Starting pitches: High voices: E; Low voices: C. Students are evaluated on aural ability and pitch accuracy.
- 3.) Some students may be asked to sing general exercises/scales, etc. to help determine range.
 - a. This component will be performed LIVE.

Component 3 (Required for Concert Choir, Cantorei & Chorale)

- 1.) Sight-Reading: Students will sing 1-3 musical examples using solfege. The starting pitch and key (tonal center) will be played on the piano. Students will be evaluated on pitch and rhythm accuracy.
 - a. This component will be performed LIVE.

Component 4 (Required for Concert Choir)

- 1.) Written Essay: (Turn in at the time of your audition or sooner (to Mr. Walters)--500 words or less/1 page, typed, 12 point font, 1 inch margins) (Be sure to address all aspects of the question in your answer in a clear and concise manner.)
- 2.) *Concert Choir is the most select choral ensemble at Ankeny High School.*
 - a. First Time Auditionees: Why are you interested in being in Concert Choir? What qualities do you bring to Concert Choir and how do you see this benefitting the ensemble? What expectations do you have for the other members and your director? Consider your individual character, musical skill, leadership, as well as areas for growth in your answer. In other words, why is Concert Choir the "right place" for you?
 - b. Returning Members: What valuable lessons or skills have you learned in Concert Choir this year? How have you grown as a singer/musician from previous years? If selected again, how will you use this information for the betterment of the ensemble next year? How will you demonstrate leadership within the ensemble as a veteran of this select group? Finally, what have you appreciated most about the opportunity to sing in this ensemble?

Component 5- Dance (Required for all show choirs)

- 1.) Students interested in show choirs should make arrangements to learn the audition choreography IN ADVANCE by:
 - a. Attending a choreography clinic on May 12 & 14 from 4:00-5:00pm in the AHS Choir Room.
 - b. Learning the dance by viewing a YouTube link to be posted on the AHS Vocal Music website (www.ankenychoralmusic.org) and the Show Choir Audition Canvas on Friday, May 8.
 - c. Dance auditions will be RECORDED and submitted via a Google Form linked on Canvas.
 - i. Submissions are DUE by May 15 at 11:59PM.

AHS Choral Ensemble Descriptions & Audition Requirements

Concert Choir

Concert Choir is the most select ensemble at AHS open to all students in grades 10-12. This ensemble is intended for the serious singer who desires an intensive music-making experience. In depth study of music from each period of music history will be explored with focus on vocal production, independence, music literacy, musical precision, and advanced ensemble skills. Ensemble Requirements: Attend a retreat (scheduled for Sunday, August 17), attend all scheduled rehearsals and performances (including occasional outside of school commitments). Audition Requirements: Components 1, 2, 3, 4

Cantorei

Cantorei is an auditioned treble clef ensemble. All treble voices in grades 10-12 are eligible to audition. Study of vocal pedagogy related specifically to the treble voice will be explored. Integration of solfege and music literacy skills will also be implemented through a varied repertoire. Ensemble Requirements: Attend all events scheduled for the ensemble. Audition Requirements: Components 1, 2, 3

Chorale

Chorale is an audition-track mixed ensemble open to students in 10-12. The ensemble will work on vocal development and music literacy skills using a varied repertoire of quality SATB choral literature. Treble voices who go through the audition process who are not placed in Concert Choir or Cantorei, and bass clef voices who go through the audition process not placed in Concert Choir will be considered for this ensemble. Ensemble Requirements: Attend all events scheduled for the ensemble. Audition Requirements: Components 1, 2, 3

Ankeny Singers

Ankeny Singers is a mixed choir open to any 10th-12th grade student who enjoys singing and being a part of a musical team working towards common goals. Students not selected for Concert Choir, Cantorei, or Chorale, and those who chose not to audition for one of the auditioned curricular choirs will automatically be enrolled in this ensemble. Ensemble Requirements: Attend all events scheduled for the ensemble. Audition Requirements: No audition required.

Visual Adrenaline

Visual Adrenaline is the mixed varsity show choir open to all students in grades 9-12 by selective audition. Ensemble Requirements: Students must be enrolled and making regular progress in a curricular choir. **Those students who are placed in a show choir must be willing to commit to the performance and rehearsal schedules associated with each ensemble.** Audition Requirements: Components 1, 2, 5

Perpetual Motion

Perpetual Motion is an intermediate mixed prep show choir open to all students in grades 9-12 by audition. Ensemble Requirements: Students must be enrolled and making regular progress in a curricular choir. **Those students who are placed in a show choir must be willing to commit to the performance and rehearsal schedules associated with each ensemble.** Audition Requirements: Components 1, 2, 5

Intensity

Intensity will return to being a treble prep show choir for 2026-2027 and will be open to all treble voices in grades 9-12 by audition. Ensemble Requirements: Students must be enrolled and making regular progress in a curricular choir. **Those students who are placed in a show choir must be willing to commit to the performance and rehearsal schedules associated with each ensemble.** Audition Requirements: Components 1, 2, 5

Velocity

We believe a 4th show choir will be needed next year. **If** audition numbers meet our projections, that group will be called *Velocity* and will be our introductory mixed prep show choir open to all students in grades 9-12 by audition. Ensemble Requirements: Students must be enrolled and making regular progress in a curricular choir. **Those students who are placed in a show choir must be willing to commit to the performance and rehearsal schedules associated with each ensemble.** Audition Requirements: Components 1, 2, 5

Show Choirs: Additional Audition Information

All students (grades 9-12) *enrolled in a curricular choir* are eligible to participate in show choir. Those students who are placed in a show choir must be willing to commit to the performance and rehearsal schedules associated with each ensemble. In the past, the vocal music department has been successful in working with students who are active in other activities including drama, band, speech, athletics, dance, and other school activities. We make every effort to accommodate these activities if we know about potential conflicts in advance.

Show Choir Choreography Audition Canvas Page

- **ALL** students auditioning for show choir will need to [join this Canvas page](#) to submit their recorded dance audition.

Show Choir Financial Contributions*

Visual Adrenaline: \$450.00

Perpetual Motion: \$375.00

Intensity: \$300.00

Velocity (if needed): \$300.00

**Show Choir Contributions fund a sizable portion of the expenses for our show choirs. Contributions are used in the following way:*

	VA	PM	Intensity & Velocity	
Costume Rental:	\$200	\$155	\$100	(Depends on show design)
Choreography:	\$150	\$120	\$100	
Music:	\$50	\$50	\$50	
Competitions/Travel:	\$50	\$50	\$50	

Additional Anticipated Costuming Requirements (To include but not limited to):

Dress Wearers:

Corset

Spanx

Makeup

Shoes (ordered through AHS)

Suit Wearers:

Shoes (ordered through AHS)

Socks

Compression shorts

Show Choir Rehearsal Information:

- Summer Camps: (These are required rehearsals!)
 - Visual Adrenaline: August 13-17; additional dates in the fall.
 - Perpetual Motion: August 8-11
 - Intensity: Two dates in mid-August TBD (will be announced w/results); additional dates in the fall.
 - Velocity: Two dates in mid-August TDD (will be announced w/results); additional dates in the fall.
 - Specific time frames for all groups to be announced in the summer.
- Regular Monday rehearsals begin August 24
 - Visual Adrenaline: 6:00-9:00 PM @AHS or as announced*
 - Perpetual Motion: 7:00-9:00 PM @AHS or as announced*
 - Intensity: 7:30-9:00PM @ SV or as announced*
 - Velocity: 6:00-7:30PM @ SV or as announced.*
 - *Rehearsal times may vary depending on a variety of factors.
- Rehearsals on Thursdays will begin October 29.
- Winter Camp: (All show choirs) January 2-3, 2027. Clear the entire day; details TBA.
- Competition/Performance Schedule will be announced in the fall.

Submitting Recorded Audition Materials

The following audition materials will be RECORDED and submitted to Canvas (see links below.)

- Prepared vocal solo (for all incoming 9th grade students and students only auditioning for show choir.)
- Show Choir Dance Audition (ALL students auditioning for show choir.)

Recorded Vocal Audition Process (Incoming 9th Graders & those auditioning for show choir only.)

Utilize the following procedure to prepare and submit your vocal audition video.

IMPORTANT! Make sure you record your video in a quiet place free from distractions. Be sure you are completely visible in your video.

- 1.) At the beginning of the video, INTRODUCE yourself as follows:
 - a.) Name (first and last)
 - b.) Grade (next year)
 - c.) Voice Part you will be auditioning on.
- 2.) Using the “starting pitch links” located on the [Audition Canvas](#) page, have the starting pitches/tonality played for the prepared solo. (Note: ALL auditionees should use this recording to receive their starting pitches.) Press pause on the audio link, then sing the required audition solo.
- 3.) Stop and save your video; you can record your video as many times as you want to get the “best take,” then submit the video to Canvas under the “RECORDED AUDITION” assignment.
- 4.) Submit your video audition by 11:59pm on Sunday, April 26.

Show Choir Choreography Recorded Audition Process:

1. EVERYONE will submit their choreography audition via recorded video.
2. Record your video in a space that allows you to move and dance “full out.”
 - a. Wear loose-fitting clothes that are easy to dance in and be sure you are *fully visible in your video--including your feet!*
3. At the beginning of the video, INTRODUCE YOURSELF (first and last name), which show choirs you are auditioning for, and what grade you will be in NEXT YEAR.
4. Use either the YouTube choreography video, or the rehearsal track posted on the vocal music website or the Audition Canvas page and record yourself performing the choreography.
5. Submit your video via a Google Form on the [Show Choir Choreography Audition Canvas Page](#) by Friday, May 15 at 11:59pm.
6. A reminder that the audition choreography, music tracks, and additional resources will be released on the AHS Vocal Music Website (www.ankenychoralmusic.org) as well as the [Show Choir Choreography Audition Canvas](#) page on Friday, May 8.

Questions??

Mr. Walters (ben.walters@ankenyschools.org)

*Musical or procedural questions about the audition

*Questions about the AHS Vocal Music program

*Questions about Concert Choir, Cantorei, or Visual Adrenaline

Mr. Anderson (riley.anderson@ankenyschools.org)

*Technical questions about the audition (Canvas, video preparation, Sign-Up Genius)

* Questions about Ankeny Singers, Chorale, or Perpetual Motion

Ms. Feldhans (emma.feldhans@ankenyschools.org)

*Questions about Intensity or Velocity

Links All In One Place:

[Sign-up for AUDITION TIME \(Those auditioning for SHOW CHOIR ONLY--Including ALL Incoming 9th Graders\)](#)

[Sign-up for AUDITION TIME \(Incoming 10th-12th Graders Auditioning for Curricular Choirs\)](#)

[Audition Form](#)

[Parent Contact & Volunteer Form](#)

[Show Choir Choreography Canvas Page](#)

[Recorded Vocal Auditions Canvas Page \(Those auditioning for SHOW CHOIR ONLY--Including ALL Incoming 9th Graders\)](#)

[AHS Vocal Music Website](#)

SOPRANO

♩ = 76-80

START

a tempo

Rös-lein auf der Hei - den. Kna - be sprach: "ich
rose-bud in the mead - ow. Said the boy, "I'll

a tempo

bre - che dich, Rös - lein auf der Hei - den!" Rös - lein sprach: "ich
tram - ple you, Rose - bud in the mead - ow!" Said the rose, "My

ste - che dich, dass du e - wig denkst an mich, und ich will's nicht lei - den."
thorns are few, but their sting you'll sure - ly rue, and I - shall not suf - fer."

cresc.

rit. *rit.* *a-tempo* STOP

Rös-lein, Rös-lein, Rös - lein roth, Rös-lein auf der Hei - den.
Rose-bud, rose-bud, rose-bud red, rose-bud in the mead - ow.

pprit. *a tempo*

ALTO

$\text{♩} = 76-80$

Star *mp* *ri-i-i*

If you be a lass from the Low Coun-tree, Don't

mf *f*

love of no lord of high de gree; They hain't got a heart for

p *mp*

sym - pa - thy. Oh, sor - row, sing sor - row! Now she

sleeps in the val - ley where the wild - flow - ers nod, And

dim. *p* **STOP**

no one knows she loved him but her - self and God.

TENOR

$\text{♩} = 75-80$ *mf*

Start Black, black, black is the col-or of my

true love's hair, Her lips _____ are some-thing ro - sy fair, The_

pert - est_ face and the dain-ti - est_ hands- I love _____ the grass where-

rit on she stands. **STOP**

mf dim. *p* *pp*

I WONDER AS I WANDER

Bass / Baritone

Collected by
John Jacob Niles

Appalachian Carol
adapted and arranged
by John Jacob Niles

Start

Espressivo $\text{♩} = 80$

Voice

I won-der as I wan-der, out under the sky, How

Piano

p

mp

Je - sus the Sav - ior did come for to die For poor on - 'ry peo - ple like

you and like I... I won-der as I wan-der, out un-der the sky.

STOP

rit.

più lento