

In an attempt to clarify and standardize auditions for the benefit of both the directors and the students, the following guidelines have been determined for auditions. Students desiring to join Angelo Voci honor ensemble for high school ladies or Cantanti Lirichi honor ensemble for high school young men and ladies for the first time or new students to the choir who desire membership in these ensembles must be in 9th grade or age 14 by September 1 to be eligible to audition for AV or CL. Eighth graders who are current members of the choir may be granted an exception if recommended by their director to audition.

Parents are welcome to attend their student's audition, but the instruction and audition time is closed to friends. In fairness to the students, parents are asked to remain quiet during the instruction and audition so that students are not distracted.

The audition will have 4 components:

1. **Singing.** Students choose and prepare to sing a 60-second segment of a song of their choice in their vocal range. This is to be sung without accompaniment. Directors will be looking for confidence and the ability to sing out, expression, clarity of tone, clear diction, appropriate facial expression and ability to communicate. A piano will be accessible for a student to ask for a beginning note.
2. **Dancing.** Students desiring to audition for CL will be instructed for 30 minutes to learn and perform a 1-minute dance. Both the instruction and dance will be done as a group. The panel of directors may observe the dance instruction time, and they will observe the performance to select students for membership in CL. The performance will also be videotaped so that directors can review the performance if necessary. Emphasis will not be on perfection, but rather on quickness of learning, ability to move to a rhythm, and eye contact/facial expression.
3. **Sight reading.** Students will sight read a line of music. This line will include material from both level 1 and level 2 of theory and examples will be similar to what was taught in sight singing. Flashcards for topics included in Levels 1-2 theory can be downloaded from the member page of our website.
4. **Interview.** Students will have a 3-minute interview with directors. This interview will allow the student to express why he/she desires to be an AV or CL member and to review and affirm commitments and rehearsal/performance dates. Students and parents must affirm by signature that they agree to make every effort to honor the rehearsal and performance dates and the HCCC code of conduct. [HCCC Calendar and Member Policies 2017-2018](#). This signed affirmation must be submitted by 4:00pm on August 21.

Hints for a successful audition:

1. Be early for the dance instruction. We will begin and end promptly; therefore, late arrival will result in a student not receiving the full instruction time.
2. When performing the dance, students should remember that this is a performance. If mistakes are made, students should not "advertise" the mistake by grimacing or stopping the dance. Instead, students should keep dancing and not allow their facial expression to show that a mistake has been made.

3. Songs should be sung in Bel Canto style (how we teach students to sing in choir.)
4. The best audition pieces are those that the student really likes: songs with a message the student appreciates and that highlight talent and personality.

Clearly, it is preferred that students attend a live audition. To accommodate students who are unable to be present on audition day (August 21):

1. Students must use the contact form on the HCCC website (hancockcountychildrenschoir.org) to request an absentee audition. Please enter "Absentee Audition Request" in the subject box. *You will then be contacted to arrange the absentee audition process which includes a videotaped dance, a vocal audition tape, and a Facetime sight reading and interview appointment.*
2. Students must submit a 1-minute videotape of the audition dance. After the absentee audition is requested, the student will be contacted to schedule an appointment for the dance audition. At the appointment time, the dance instruction and demonstration video will be sent as a link via Google Drive. The student will have 1 hour from the time the link is received to learn the dance and to make a video of him/herself performing the dance in its entirety. The video recording should then be sent to info@hancockcountychildrenschoir.org. **The video must be received by 9:00pm on August 14; therefore, the latest appointment available would be at 8:00pm on August 14.**
3. Students must also submit a 60-second audition tape of a vocal selection (note parameters listed above) by August 14. The audition tape must begin with the student saying his/her name, saying what ensemble the audition is for, and giving the name of the song. The video should allow the directors to clearly see the singer's face as well as his/her posture.
4. Sight reading will be completed via Facetime or Facebook Messenger at a prearranged appointment time. This appointment too must either be a live Facetime/Messenger call on August 21 or a recorded Facetime/Messenger call completed by August 14.
5. Students will be interviewed during the Facetime/Messenger sight reading appointment.
* Please contact us if Facetime or Messenger are not viable options for you.

If you have questions or concerns about the audition process or experience technical issues during the process, please don't hesitate to contact Lisa Hedy at: lhedy@hccchoir.org.