County and District Chorus Information

County Information

1. What is County Chorus? County chorus is an auditioned group of dedicated and enthusiastic choral musicians from Benton, Berwick, Bloomsburg, Central Columbia, Danville, Southern and Millville districts. The size of the group varies each year. Approximately 15 women per part for a total of 60 are selected through the audition process. The men’s numbers are not as specific due to the smaller number of guys auditioning. A male is by no means guaranteed a position in the ensemble; preparation is necessary for both genders.
2. What is the purpose of County Chorus? County Chorus was founded for five reasons: 1) We wanted to perform repertoire that is similar to a District Chorus program that otherwise may be impossible in our individual districts. 2) We wanted to give talented freshmen the opportunity to audition for a select choral group that performs repertoire similar to District Chorus. 3) We wanted to give our students the chance to receive some constructive criticism before auditioning for District Chorus. Hopefully, their chances of making District Chorus will be enhanced. 4) The audition process is a real challenge for students at Districts. Hopefully, they will learn to better handle their nerves at Counties. 5) Through in servicing at the festivals, the county directors will have the chance to exchange ideas and explore new musical concepts, which will further build our home choral programs.
3. Who is permitted to audition? Any student in grades nine through twelve that is a member in good standing in their district’s choral program is permitted to audition.
4. When are the auditions? This year, the auditions are on the first Monday of October at Central Columbia High School.   Always the first Monday after the Fair.
5. When is the festival? In November, consult the calendar for the date.
6. How do I prepare? Get the music from the web page.  Rehearsal recordings are on the Chorus web page as well.
7. When do I practice? Practice will be posted outside my office door. The preparation will be accomplished through group instruction at 7:10am in the auditorium and then some rehearsals after school as announced.
8. When do I practice after I make County Chorus? Practice times will be published at a later date. Normally, I will rehearse on a Monday morning at 7:10AM following the auditions. If you have a study hall, remember that I am available on Days 1 and 4 after third period. You MUST attend both scheduled Mandatory County Chorus rehearsals and all of the BHS rehearsals, which will be at our school.
9. How are the auditions run?
* All music will be sung unaccompanied.
* The starting pitch will be played on a pitch pipe and will be sung by someone of the same gender.
* One restart is permitted. The restart may be taken prior to the midpoint or the restart may be taken at the midpoint.
* An audition may not be spoken or chanted.
* All auditions must be live! No tapes may be used
* All auditions are blind. Judges will not face the students as they perform. Judges do not know the student’s names until the rankings are available.
* The official copy of the audition music MUST be used during the audition.
* ALL MUSIC FOR AUDITIONS will be the SAME as the audition music for District Chorus.
* The student should never address the judges. The student will communicate any questions with their door person in the room.
* If there is a problem with any of the auditions, please notify the county audition host.
* All students will be held in the auditorium prior to auditions. Students may not return to the auditorium for any reason following their audition. Following the audition, students will go to the gymnasium.
* Upon selection into County Chorus, attendance at all rehearsals is required!
* ATTENDANCE AT ALL FESTIVAL EVENTS IS REQUIRED! A STUDENT MAY NOT LEAVE THE FESTIVAL FOR ANY REASON. Circumstances deemed an “Act of God” would be discussed and evaluated by the County directors.

District Chorus Information

1. What is District Chorus? District 8 Chorus is an auditioned choir comprised of approximately 144-200 singers from the 43 districts in District 8. The variation of number is a reflection of the size of the choir that the festival host is able to accommodate on their stage. A minimum of 18 singers per part may be selected. A maximum of 25 singers per part may be selected. Students may audition on the following parts: Soprano I, Soprano II, Alto I, Alto II, Tenor I, Tenor II, Bass I, Bass II. The Pennsylvania Music Educator’s Association (PMEA) sponsors this festival.
2. Who may conduct the festival? A guest conductor is hired for the festival.
3. Who accompanies the festival? If possible, two students are selected as District Chorus accompanists through a separate audition process.
4. When is the festival? Consult the Chorus Calendar.
5. Where do I stay? The students stay with families of the host high school.
6. Who can audition? Only sophomores, juniors and seniors that have auditioned for County Chorus are permitted to audition for District Chorus.
7. When are the auditions? The audition are held on the fourth or fifth Sunday of October. We normally leave the high school at 10:30AM and return by 10PM. Transportation by bus is provided. Parents are permitted to pick-up their singers after they complete the audition with a written note. A parent chaperone is need for the day of auditions.
8. Where are the auditions? The auditions are held at Williamsport High School.
9. How do I audition? Get the County Audition Music. You must audition for Counties to be eligible to audition for Districts.
10. How many students may audition on a part? I am permitted to take 2 women on each part and 4 men on each part. The students that place the highest in County Chorus and are eligible to go will audition for District Chorus.
11. What is the audition process? The audition process is very similar, almost identical, to the process for counties. At Districts, your audition number is posted and you must listen for your number to be called.
12. Where is the festival held this year? Consult the Chorus Calendar.
13. Are there any other levels after District Chorus? Yes. Singers re-audition for chair placement on the Wednesday night of the District Festival using the festival music. The top ten chairs of each section progress to Regional Chorus. At Regionals, students audition again and the top four chairs advance to All-State Chorus.

Any other question, talk to Mr. Latsha