



Missouri Music Educators Association

A Federated State Association of the National Association for Music Education

Missouri Fourth and Fifth Grade Parents/Guardians,

Each year the Missouri Music Educators Association holds a nationally recognized professional development event at the Tan-Tar-A Conference Center that features numerous performing ensembles, clinics, sessions, and workshops. In 2020, to add a superlative musical experience for Missouri's fourth and fifth-grade students just like yours, MMEA held its inaugural MMEA All-State Children's Choir. The sixth annual MASCC will take place on Tuesday, January 26th, 2027.

Any fourth or fifth grade Missouri student is eligible. The audition window will open on August 17th, 2026, and close on September 30th. The audition piece is "Ah, Poor Bird" sung without accompaniment (voice only) and in the key of their choice. The student, parent, or music teacher may register the student by uploading the recording to our online audition form at mmea.net along with some basic information, including student height and t-shirt size (for reference if selected). A \$10 audition fee will be due by credit card at the time of submission. Students will be notified of selection on November 1st. For those selected, a participation fee of \$60 will be due, which will include all performance music mailed directly to the student or teacher, t-shirt, lunch, snack, as well as conductor, accompanist, and conference expenses.

The choir will begin rehearsal at 9:30am, Tuesday, January 26th, in the Parasol Room of the Tan-Tar-A Conference Center. The conductor will be the renowned Sandy Knutson. Sandy Knudson is the Administrative Director of Oklahoma Youth Sing! (formerly Norman Children's Chorus) and has successfully taught K-5 classroom music for 30 years. She holds a M.M.E. and Kodály certification from The University of Oklahoma. Since 1990, Sandy has served on the faculty of The University of Oklahoma Kodály certification program where she teaches solfege, conducting, and choir. She holds National Board certification in Early and Middle Childhood Music. Well-known as a clinician, master teacher and guest conductor, Sandy has presented workshops at numerous state and national conferences. She has been guest conductor for honor choirs in Louisiana, Kentucky, Mississippi, Missouri and Texas and has served as conductor of Circle the State with Song festivals throughout Oklahoma. In 2015, she conducted the OAKE National Children's Choir. Sandy has earned an Artist-Teacher Diploma under the mentorship of Doreen Rao in the Choral Music Experience Institute. Recognized by OkMEA as an Exemplary Teacher in 2010, Sandy was inducted into the OkMEA Hall of Fame in 2013. In the spring of 2014, Sandy was awarded the Pam Golden Honor Award by the Oklahoma Kodály Educators chapter for contribution to Kodály music education and the children and teachers of Oklahoma. In 2018, Sandy was awarded Outstanding Educator by OAKE.

The MMEA All-State Children's Choir will perform at 4:30pm, the same day, in the Paradise C Ballroom. The performance is FREE and open to the public as is parking throughout the resort. Audio and/or video recordings will be available for purchase outside of the performance area.

For 89 years, MMEA has been the gold standard for Missouri music students. We would love to see your student audition for this one-of-a-kind opportunity! Should you have any questions, please contact the MASCC Chair, Karen Stafford, at childrens.choir@mmea.net.

Sincerely,

Chelsea Silvermintz
MMEA President