

Attachment

East Tennessee Vocal Association, 304 Battle Front Trail, Knoxville, TN 37934
EIN: 62-1296895

Part IV

The East Tennessee Vocal Association (ETVA) is an organization that supports the advancement and enrichment of vocal/choral music education in the public and private schools of east Tennessee. The geographic area supported by ETVA is defined on three sides by the state's, eastern, northern and southern boundary lines and to the west by a line formed by US Highway 127. To help achieve the organization's support of vocal/choral music education, ETVA each school year conducts the activities listed and described below.

All-East Tennessee Honor Choirs On the third Thursday, Friday, and Saturday of November each of the All-East Honor Choirs rehearses and presents a concert with a noted guest conductor. This activity began in 1971 and over the years has grown from one high school mixed choir to the current three auditioned All-East Choirs: All-East SATB Chorus, All-East Women's Chorale, and All-East Men's Chorus. In addition there are also two other choirs, the All-East Middle School Honor Choir and the All-East Freshman Honor Choir. Student participation in these latter two choirs is by the selection and recommendation by the student's respective school's choral teacher. In 2008, Seven Hundred Eighty students participated in the five All-East Choirs. The rehearsals for the SATB Chorus, the Women's Chorale, Men's Chorus, and Freshman Honor Choir begin on Thursday night, continue during the day on Friday, and finish on Saturday morning.

The rehearsals for the Middle School Honor Choir begin on Friday night and continue on Saturday morning. On Saturday afternoon, as the culminating event of the three days, each choir is presented in public concert. This activity rotates on a three-year cycle between the Chattanooga area, the Knoxville area, and the Greenville area of east Tennessee. During the three days of this event ETVA members serve as chaperons for their students, monitor students during rehearsals, observe rehearsal techniques of the guest conductors, attend general meetings of the organization, and participate in interest sessions related to choral singing. This event has several purposes. First, is to afford students in east Tennessee the opportunity to experience the expertise of noted guest conductors from throughout the United States. Secondly, is to recognize the achievements and abilities of those students who have been selected through the All-East audition process. Thirdly, is to encourage the middle school students and high school freshman to continue to develop their vocal abilities by experiencing the rewards of singing with a balanced voice part choir. Something that is not always possible in their respective schools. Finally, to hear other choirs comprised of their peers perform at a high level of musical excellence. ETVA sponsorship of this event is a means of enriching the vocal/choral music experience and advancing the cause of vocal/choral excellence for students in east Tennessee as well as for their parents, families, and friends. This activity utilizes 25% of the organization's time.

J. B. Lyle Senior High Choral Festival Begun in 1972 as the East Tennessee Choral Festival, this four-day event was renamed in 1986 to honor one of its initial proponents and longtime east Tennessee vocal music educator, J. B. Lyle. Held in the spring of each

year for one day in the Chattanooga area, for two days in the Knoxville area, and for one day in the Greeneville area, the J. B. Lyle Choral Festival offers choirs the opportunity to perform for ratings and/or comments given by a panel of three choral adjudicators and a sight-reading judge. Each choir that performs receives both written and recorded constructive critiques related to choral tone, intonation, diction, vocal technique, vocal balance, interpretation, musical effect, choice of music, and sight-reading accuracy. In 2009, Ninety-four choirs participated in the Festival. The purpose of this event is to give participating choirs an evaluation of their level of vocal and choral excellence. In addition, performing music from prescribed choral music lists encourages the performance of quality choral music by choirs in east Tennessee. This event is sponsored by ETVA as a means to improve the quality of choral singing and sight-reading in east Tennessee and adjoining states. (If time is available in the Chattanooga area and Greeneville area performance schedules, choirs from adjoining states may participate in the Festival). This activity utilizes another 20% of the organizations time.

Tennessee All-State Choirs In the spring of each year the Tennessee All-State Choirs are generally held in Nashville in conjunction with the Tennessee Music Education Annual Conference. A Tennessee All-State Choir has been in existence for over 50 years. This activity has grown from a single SATB Choir to the current three choirs: the All-State Mixed Choir, the All-State Women's Chorale, and the All-State Men's Chorus. The All-State activities are sponsored by the Tennessee Music Education Association (TMEA). All policies regarding All-State are set by TMEA, a state affiliate of the Music Educators National Conference. Students participating in an All-State Choir are drawn

from three vocal associations within Tennessee: the East Tennessee Vocal Association, the Middle Tennessee Vocal Association, and the West Tennessee Vocal Association. All three of these Associations are an affiliate of TMEA which establishes the quota of students that each Association may send for an All-State choir. In 2009, One Hundred Forty students from east Tennessee sang in an All-State Choir. The East Tennessee Vocal Association selects students for All-State on the basis of the highest All-East/All-State audition scores, having successfully participated in an All-East Choir, and having passed their All-State screening audition. The purpose of the All-State Choirs is to recognize the outstanding vocal students in the state and to receive the enrichment experience of rehearsing and performing under the direction of one of the country's leading choral conductors. Members of ETVA with students singing in an All-State group support this activity by helping their students learn the All-State music, serving as chaperons for their students, and serving as rehearsal monitors and or roll checkers during the three days of this event. This support by ETVA allows students in east Tennessee to be eligible to participate in the All-State experience. This activity utilizes 15% of ETVA's time.

All-East/All-State Auditions On the first Saturday in October auditions are held in the Knoxville area for students in grades 10-12 who would like to sing in one of the All-East Honor Choirs and thus be eligible to be selected for one of three Tennessee All-State Choirs. These auditions, which were initiated in 1971, consist of each registered student singing individually by voice part the same predetermined section from each of two designated audition pieces. Each student's audition is evaluated and scored by a panel of

five judges for each voice part. Judges' scores, evaluations, and comments are given to the respective student at the completion of the audition day. Following the tabulation of all audition scores, the organization's Executive Board will establish the cut-off score for each voice part. Students with scores higher than the cut-off for their voice part are randomly assigned to the All-East SATB Choir, the All-East Women's Chorale or the All-East Men's Chorus. Students who successfully participate in an All-East Choir are then candidates for selection to an All-State Choir. Prior to All-East/All-State Auditions, ETVA furnishes each student, who registers to audition, with an audition practice CD for their personal use. In 2008, Six Hundred Fifty-three students participated in this event. The purpose of the auditions is not only to select students for the All-East/All-State choirs but to also give students an appraisal of their current vocal ability and level of musicianship. In addition, it is the intent of the audition process to help develop poise, self-preparedness, and pride in self-achievement for each of the participating students. On the day of auditions ETVA members, with registered students, are assigned duties as a vocal judge, an accompanist judge, a runner, a warm-up room monitor, a site chair, or lunch runner. Sponsorship by ETVA of these auditions is a means of setting musical standards students in east Tennessee must first attain in order to be selected for an All-East Honor Choir and then later an All-State Choir. This activity utilizes 10% of the organization's time.

Middle School Choral Festival Since its inception in the spring of 1972, the Middle School Choral Festival sponsored by ETVA is held each year in Knoxville. This Festival is open to choruses in east Tennessee whose memberships are comprised of students in

grades 7-9. Choirs participating in this Festival are given the opportunity to perform for ratings and/or comments given by two choral adjudicators. Each choir that performs receives both written and recorded constructive critiques related to choral tone, intonation, diction, vocal technique, vocal balance, interpretation, musical effect, and choice of music. In addition to receiving these written and recorded critiques, each of the participating choirs may elect to have one of the two choral adjudicators work with the choir. In 2009, Thirty-six choirs participated in the Festival. The purpose of this event is to give participating choirs an evaluation of their level of vocal and choral excellence. In addition, performing music from a prescribed music list encourages the performance of quality vocal music by middle school choirs in east Tennessee. This event is sponsored by ETVA as a means to improve the quality of middle school singing in east Tennessee. This event utilizes 10% of the organization's time.

Scholarship Program Beginning in 2003 ETVA began a Scholarship program for high school students in east Tennessee. Each year every student who participates in the All-East/All-State Audition process is eligible and is given consideration for a scholarship . Currently, a scholarship is awarded to the student, in each of the All-East/All-State Audition voice part classifications: Soprano 1, Soprano 2, Alto 1, Alto 2, Tenor 1, Tenor 2, Bass 1, and Bass 2, who achieves the highest All-East/All-State Audition score for their respective voice part. A student's audition score is based on numerical ratings assigned by each adjudicator of a five-member adjudication panel that is comprised of ETVA members. Each adjudicator evaluates a student's audition on a scale of 1 to 50 for each of the following criteria: Tone, Musicality, Diction, Technical

Accuracy, Pitch, and Rhythm. The student's audition score is tabulated by an Audition Manager computer program that drops the highest and lowest adjudicator's scores and then totals the average of the three remaining adjudicator's scores. This means of compiling a student's audition score is used in order to insure that there is no impartiality given to a student's audition by an adjudicator. Student's audition scores are kept on file by the Association's Executive Director/Secretary and the student's score card is returned to the student after the results of all the auditions have been posted on the ETVA website. The purpose of these scholarships is to recognize the achievements of each of the recipients and to encourage their further vocal and musical development. It is planned that as additional scholarship revenue increases that additional student scholarship offerings will be established. No member of the ETVA Board, Officer, or ETVA member is eligible to receive scholarship assistance from the organization. ETVA sponsors and supports its Scholarship Program as a means to help talented students in east Tennessee continue their vocal music pursuits and further develop their musicianship skills. This program utilizes 10% of the organization's time.

All-East Screening In early November students who are assigned to an All-East chorus must pass a music screening audition to demonstrate preparation of all music to be performed by their respective All-East Choir. This activity was begun in the fall of 2002 and takes place at the same time in three different locations in east Tennessee. (Because of issues with travel, ETVA utilizes a site designated Lower Area, Chattanooga and vicinity; a site designated Middle Area, Knoxville and vicinity; and a site designated Upper Area, Kingsport/Johnson City/Bristol and vicinity). Each student's screening

consists of singing pre-selected excerpts from each piece to be performed by the student's respective All-East ensemble, accompanied by a professionally prepared screening CD. The excerpts will be selected prior to the screening by the ETVA Executive Board and kept secret until the day of screenings. All ETVA members having students participate in the music screening process are assigned screening duties at their respective screening site. The purpose of this event is 1) to ascertain that all students wanting to sing in an auditioned All-East Choir know how to correctly sing their voice part in the assigned music and 2) to develop self-responsibility and commitment on the part of students to achieve a desired goal. ETVA sponsorship of this activity is a means to insure that students are adequately prepared to benefit from the enrichment experience of singing in a select honor choir. This activity utilizes 5% of the organization's time.

All-State Screening Audition Each year in January, the East Tennessee Vocal Association holds screening auditions in the Knoxville area for those students from east Tennessee who have been selected to sing in a Tennessee All-State Choir. This screening is the final requirement students must pass in order to be an All-State Choir member. The primary purpose of this event, which was begun in January of 2002, is to insure that each All-State singer has prepared the repertoire they are to sing with their All-State Choir. Prior to the screening auditions each participating student is given an All-State Preparation CD that highlights their respective voice part in the music selected for their All-State Choir. On the day of the screening auditions students assigned to the SATB Chorus are grouped into vocal octets. Students assigned to either the Women's or Men's Choruses are grouped into vocal quartets. Each octet/quartet is then ask to perform

selected portions of each of their respective All-State pieces. To pass the screening students must accurately sing at least 80% of the pitches and rhythm in the selected portions of their All-State pieces. For this event, ETVA members not only help their respective students in preparing for the screening auditions but they are also assigned specific duties as screening judges, screening monitors, or runners. ETVA support of this activity insures that students from east Tennessee meet a standard of excellence and are adequately prepared to benefit from the enrichment experience of singing in an All-State choir. This activity utilizes an additional 5% of the organization's time.