



PMEA All-State Contemporary A Cappella Ensemble

2024 Audition Requirements

PMEA is excited to invite you to audition for its newest All-State vocal experience, the PMEA All-State Contemporary A Cappella Ensemble! Contemporary A Cappella is an innovative and creative style of singing that includes many genres of music and relies solely on the human voice. We hope you will consider submitting an audition to be part of the 2024 All-State Contemporary A Cappella Ensemble!

This style requires a different set of skills than what many usually associate with singing in a traditional choir. We encourage you to explore recordings and videos of this style as you prepare to submit an audition. Movement and expression are key elements of contemporary a cappella. While we want these to be evident in your audition, please do not allow them to distract from your overall vocal performance. Also, all SUBMITTABLE auditions for this Ensemble (with the exception of Vocal Percussion (Beatboxing)/ Part 2) will be A Cappella- no "tracks" or metronomes may be used.

The Window of Opportunity to record via SUBMITTABLE is Tuesday, 11/7/2023- Monday 1/8/2024 at NOON. PMEA will announce the results of the 2024 All-State Contemporary A Cappella Ensemble Tuesday, 2/2/2024 on the website- www.pmea.net.

PART 1

These excerpts will be judged and scored by PMEA Directors who have experience in the contemporary a cappella style. The PMEA All-State Chorus Rubric will be used for judging the excerpts.

Dance To the Music - SATB- arr. Paul Langford

Purchase Information

J.W. Pepper- #11201964 \$2.50 + Shipping <https://www.jwpepper.com/Dance-to-the-Music/11201964.item>

Listening Link

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?type=video&productID=11201964>

Audition Excerpts - Handclaps and Finger Snaps are OPTIONAL as indicated in the music. Judges will be notified that the rhythmic percussion in this excerpt is OPTIONAL but they may consider it to affect the student's overall rhythm score in the scoring rubric.

ALL Parts - beginning to measure 20

- Sopranos MUST sing the alternate high part
Basses may sing either part, whichever shows your versatility of range

ALL Parts - measure 71 (*Listen to the voices*) - measure 83. REPEAT measures 80-83 X 4. The 4th time, sing the ending marked "LAST TIME".

- Sopranos MUST sing the alternate high part
Basses may sing either part, whichever shows your versatility of range

SOLO - "show off" your style, inflection and energy in these short solo passages in tempo using the written notes in the music.

- **SOPRANOS** ms. 21- ms.24
- **ALTOS** pickup to ms. 44- ms.47
- **TENORS** ms.29-end of ms. 36
- **BASS** ms. 36- count 1 of ms. 44 (Basses sing either part)

Scarborough Fair - SSATB A Cappella - arr. Kate Janzen

Purchase Information

J.W. Pepper - #11513194 \$2.95 + shipping

<https://www.jwpepper.com/Scarborough-Fair/11513194.item>

Sheet Music Plus.com - # HL 119800 \$2.80 + shipping (8 copy minimum)

<https://www.sheetmusicplus.com/title/scarborough-fair-sheet-music/22493307>

Listening Link

<https://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/media-player.jsp?type=audio&productID=11513194>

Audition Excerpts

ALL Parts - beginning to Letter A (Sopranos take the top Soprano I part)

ALL Parts - start at measure 59 (fermata hold 3 counts then continue (a tempo quarter note = 110) then...

● **SOPRANO**- stop at measure 74 (Sopranos take the top Soprano I part)

ALTO- stop at end of measure 77 (measure)

TENOR- stop at end of measure 77 (measure)

BASS- stop at end of measure 77 (measure)

PART 2

All applicants must submit at least one of the following submissions. Have fun with these and make them your own..we want to hear you ***AT YOUR BEST!*** These will **NOT** be considered in the initial judging process, however, the Guest Conductor will have access to the SUBMITTABLE Recordings once the Ensemble has been selected to make assignments based on the selected music program.

EACH SUBMISSION should be 30-60 seconds long

Vocal Percussion (Beatboxing) - This section can include anything and everything you're comfortable with (straight-ahead beats, fills, various sounds, freestyle beatboxing, etc). Record a track with a metronome at **120 bpm** that demonstrates a variety of sounds (snare drum, kick drum, hi-hat, a variety of cymbal sounds, etc.). *The metronome should be a neutral sound that can be heard throughout the recording while not overpowering the performance.*

Solo - Choose a solo of any contemporary style (*exception: No musical theater or classical, please*) that best demonstrates your strongest vocal abilities. **The Contemporary A Cappella style features intricate vocal harmonies and rhythms while expressing nearly any genre of music from pop and hip-hop to rock and jazz.** The reason for NOT including musical theater or classical styles from the solo audition is based on the techniques used for these styles which may cause the voices to overpower or not mix well with the ensemble as a whole. Record a track that emphasizes your tone, phrasing, intonation, personality, and energy.

Bass Singing - Choose an excerpt or improvisation that demonstrates your abilities as a bass soloist. Record a track that includes the use of bass syllables (dm, doom, bm, ba, etc.) that demonstrates low range, tone, pitch accuracy, rhythmic accuracy, and style.