PMEA All-State Contemporary A Cappella Ensemble

2026-2027 Audition Information

PMEA is excited to announce this year's auditions for 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 this year's 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.

With the exception of singing along to the scale tracks for Part 2 - Range Demonstration and the use of a metronome for Vocal Percussion, all portions of the audition must be sung a cappella without tracks or metronomes.

The Window of Opportunity to submit auditions via SUBMITTABLE is **Monday, November 9, 2026, through Tuesday, January 5, 2027, at NOON**. PMEA will announce the results of the 2026 All-State Contemporary A Cappella Ensemble on Friday, January 29, 2027, on the PMEA website - www.pmea.net

The All-State Contemporary A Cappella Ensemble will consist of Ensemble Singers, ONE Featured Bass Singer, and ONE Vocal Percussionist.

- **Ensemble Singers** should choose the part that best matches their range (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Baritone). Results will be posted with just names, as students may be assigned to various parts depending on the performance repertoire (i.e. - a student may be assigned Soprano 2 for one song and Alto 1 for another).
- The **Featured Bass Singer** auditions should highlight a strong bass sound while also demonstrating excellent intonation and style.
- **Vocal Percussion** auditions will only include their vocal percussion recording. Be sure to demonstrate your creativity and a wide variety of sounds while also showing that you can stay in the groove and control the tempo.

Students submitting an audition for Featured Bass Singer or Vocal Percussion may also submit a second audition to be considered for an Ensemble Singer spot.

Ensemble Singers

PART 1 - *Part Singing*

These excerpts will be judged and scored by PMEA Directors with experience in the contemporary a cappella style. The PMEA All-State Contemporary A Cappella Rubrics will be used to judge the excerpts.

Human Heart - SATB A Cappella- *arr. Jennifer Lucy Cook* **J.W. Pepper** #11595103

Purchase Information- $2.50 (Hard Copy) + shipping

2026-2027 PMEA Contemporary A Cappella Music Selection | J.W. Pepper

Listening Link

https://viewer.jwpepper.com/smc2/?preview=true&product=11595103

Audition Excerpts

ALL Parts - pick up to measure 29 (My) to the end.

- Sopranos and Altos will sing the top divisi part of their line

Sir Duke - SATB A Cappella - *arr. Paul Langford* **J.W. Pepper** - #11198941

Purchase Information- $2.75 (Hard Copy) + shipping

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Listening Link

https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Ywc4DKrOAFI

Audition Excerpts

ALL Parts - measure 26 ('doop...') to the conclusion of measure 33 ('...bah dap')

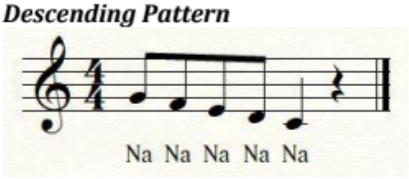
- Soprano will sing the bottom divisi part of their line
- Alto, Tenor, and Bass will sing their part as written
- All singers must include the grace notes at the beginning of measure 32

PART 2 - *Range Demonstration*

All applicants must demonstrate their vocal range by singing along with the recorded tracks (ascending and descending). Start singing after the count off at the beginning of each track in your most comfortable octave using the syllables written below. Sing as high or low as you are able for each track then stop. These will NOT be scored by the judges but the Guest Conductor will use these recordings to assign parts and solos. We want to hear your full range. Please sing your best but do not allow diminished tone or volume to cut your range demonstration short.

Ascending Pattern

Descending Pattern



Featured Bass Singer

PART 1 - *Part Singing*

Put Your Records On - SATBB A Cappella - *arr. Ben Bram*

DIRECTORS (only) of Students auditioning for Bass Singer in the 2027 Contemporary A Cappella Ensemble should **email** : allstate@pmea.net with the **HEADING: Bass Singer** and include in the body of the email- the student's name that is potentially auditioning, school name and Director's name. A PASSWORD will be sent back to the email address that will open the PMEA portal with the Bass Singer Audition Excerpt. Copyright and Licensing permissions have been obtained for this music selection. There is no charge for obtaining the excerpt.

Listening Link

Included in the PMEA Portal

Audition Excerpt

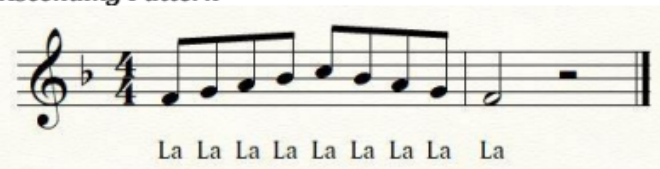
ALL Parts - measure 18 ('dm...') to the downbeat of measure 29 ('...da dat')

PART 2 - *Range Demonstration*

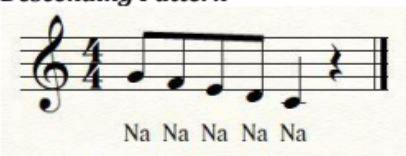
All applicants must demonstrate their vocal range by singing along with the recorded tracks (ascending and

descending). Start singing after the count off at the beginning of each track in your most comfortable octave using the syllables written below. Sing as high or low as you are able for each track then stop. These will NOT be scored by the judges but the Guest Conductor will use these recordings to assign parts and solos. We want to hear your full range. Please sing your best but do not allow diminished tone or volume to cut your range demonstration short.

Ascending Pattern



Descending Pattern



REMINDER: *Students submitting an audition for Featured Bass Singer or Vocal Percussion may also submit a second audition to be considered for an Ensemble Singer spot.*

Vocal Percussion

This 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 the following sounds (snare variants like implosive/explosive Ks and Ps, kick drum, toms, hi-hat, a variety of cymbal sounds). The track should begin with 8 measures of a simple beat that demonstrates your ability to groove and provide a steady beat. You can then transition into any other sounds and styles you would like to demonstrate, such as auxiliary percussion or other effects. The metronome should be a neutral sound that can be heard throughout the recording while not overpowering the performance.

REMINDER: *Students submitting an audition for Featured Bass Singer or Vocal Percussion may also submit a second audition to be considered for an Ensemble Singer spot.*