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# State FFA

## Chorus Application

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**Due  
Feb. 1**



### Instructions and Deadlines

- The application and CD recording must be sent together and postmarked to the state office by February 1. The address is: Kent Boggs, FFA Executive Secretary, Oklahoma Department of *CareerTech*, 1500 West Seventh Avenue, Stillwater, OK 74074-4364.
  - You may access and complete the computer application template on the [www.okffa.org](http://www.okffa.org) Web site. Click on State Convention. Click on Applications.
  - The Chorus Director and his staff will review the applications and CD recordings and make the chorus selections. However, all correspondence concerning the chorus will be handled through the state FFA office.
- FFA members that have graduated high school are not eligible to apply.
  - The list of selected applicants will be posted on our Web site ([www.okffa.org](http://www.okffa.org)) as soon as it is made available by the Chorus Director (approximately March 20). Selected applicants will be notified in writing by April 1.
  - Approximately 100 members will be selected. No alternate members will be selected. And, non-selected members will not receive written notification.
  - A student may apply for both State Convention Chorus and State Convention Talent. However, separate applications and CDs must be sent to the state office. Talent applications and CDs are due March 1.

### Student's Responsibilities to the State FFA Chorus

- Students selected must attend all rehearsals and performances in Oklahoma City beginning Sunday, 1 p.m., until Wednesday evening, 10 p.m. Please understand that you make this commitment before applying for the chorus! You will not be granted permission to leave the convention for any reason.
- Students are responsible for the cost of lodging and food while at the convention. Some chapters provide financial assistance for these expenses.
- Students are responsible for their official FFA dress. Selected chorus members will wear the official FFA jacket of their local chapter.

### Guitar, Bass, Drummer

- The chorus is generally accompanied by drums, guitar, and bass, depending on the music chosen. If you play any of these instruments, we encourage you to submit a CD instrumental audition according to the instructions attached. Some chorus songs do not require instrumental accompaniment, so if you would like to also sing in the chorus in addition to playing an instrument, you are welcome to submit a vocal audition as well. This is not a requirement, however.
- Drum music is not scored. Some chords for the guitar and bass will be available, but all instrumentalists chosen will be expected to play mostly by ear. You will be sent a CD recording of the material before convention and will learn your music from listening to these recordings.
- You will use your own musical instruments during convention. The guitar and bass players should bring a small amp/speaker for rehearsals and must have an instrument/amplifier that is suitable for providing a direct line out to an amplification system. Bass can either be played on a traditional stringed bass or on a keyboard. If you play keyboard bass, the chorus will provide a keyboard for you to play.

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## Instructions for Drum, Bass, Guitar CD or Cassette Tape Recording

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1. Drum Audition – please play these styles:
  - Fast two-beat for 20 seconds, holding tempo
  - Slow ballad
  - Rock beat with fills
  - Solo fill
  - Any other style you would like to include
2. Bass Audition – please play these styles:
  - Walking bass in F
  - Country waltz, ala Tennessee Waltz
  - Rock beat
  - Any other style you would like to include
  - Verbalize on the recording if you can or cannot read the bass line printed in a choral chart
3. Guitar Audition – please play these styles:
  - Country
  - Rock song, including solo lick
  - Blue Grass, including solo lick
  - Any other style you would like to include

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## Instructions for Vocal CD or Cassette Tape Recording

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1. A vocal recording placed on a CD (preferred) or audio cassette tape is a **requirement** for selection in the State FFA Chorus. The audition sequence is simple and designed to help us properly place your voice in this prestigious music group. If you are unable to record a CD at home, please consider working with someone at your school or church. It is also important that we hear your voice without background noise or distortion.
2. Each year, some vocal CD recordings are submitted that are blank. If your CD is blank, you will be automatically disqualified. Therefore, once your CD recording is made, please be sure it will play on a simple boom box or a device other than the computer or machine you used for the recording. If your CD is recorded using the MP3 compression format, please note this on your CD.
3. Legibly print your name and name of your school on the CD. If you are including the optional solo audition on your recording, please write “Solo Included.”
4. Throughout the recording, slowly announce your name and address. Say: “My name is Bill Jones, and I live at Rural Route 2, Anytown, Oklahoma.” Then repeat your name before proceeding with the recording. Say, “My name is Bill Jones.”
5. After you have recorded your name, tell us the name, kind, and quality of the recording device you are using. For example, say, “I am making this recording using our church’s Apple Macintosh computer, a Mackie sound board, and an SM 58 Shure microphone.”

6. Next, without accompaniment from a piano or keyboard, begin your audition by singing, “ah.” Start with the lowest note you can sing, and sing “ah” on *every note* of a continuous major scale up to and including the highest note you can sing. Please sing with a lot of energy, and try hard to demonstrate the *highest* note you can sing, even if it is uncomfortably high for you. Sing this scale two times: once loudly, then repeat it softly.
7. Again, starting with your lowest note, sing the sentence “This is the State Chorus audition.” Then sing this same sentence on the next highest note of a major scale. Then sing the same sentence on the next highest note. Continue singing this sentence on each note of a major scale up to and including the highest note you can sing. You can sing these words with any rhythm you choose, but sing all the words on each note of the scale. Please sing with a lot of energy, and try hard to sing the sentence on the very highest note that you can sing.
8. Finally, without accompaniment from a piano or keyboard, and starting on any comfortable pitch, sing the song “America” (Oh beautiful for Spacious Skies . . .”). Sing this song from beginning to end, one verse only. Imagine that you are performing for a large crowd, and sing with expression and feeling. Please remember to keep the microphone 12 inches from your mouth.
9. If you want to be considered for a chorus solo part during the convention, you should next sing a portion of a solo song of your choice, either without accompaniment, or accompanied by keyboard or click track. If you are accompanying yourself on guitar or keyboard, please tell us this on the recording. If you have more than one musical style to offer, it would be helpful to sing a portion of a couple of different songs to show your capability. However, please be brief with this portion of the audition.


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## **Instructions for Instrumental Recording**

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1. Follow steps 2 through 5, on previous page. Place the microphone at a distance that makes the best recording of your instrument. Then play and record your instrument, capturing several different musical styles. Identify these styles by speaking on the recording. Describe the make and quality of your musical instrument. Although it is not a requirement, it is helpful if instrumental auditions are made using a video recorder that results in a VHS tape. This enables us to see what you and your instrument look like as we listen to the audition.

# Application for State FFA Chorus

**Due  
Feb. 1** 

- *You may access and complete the computer application template on the [www.okffa.org](http://www.okffa.org) Web site. Click on State Convention. Click on Applications. If using this application, please type or print clearly.*

1. Full name \_\_\_\_\_
2. Your FFA chapter \_\_\_\_\_
3. Name of your FFA advisor(s) \_\_\_\_\_
4. Your home address \_\_\_\_\_
5. City \_\_\_\_\_ ZIP \_\_\_\_\_
6. Home telephone ( \_\_\_\_\_ ) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_
7. Parents' full names \_\_\_\_\_
8. Class in school \_\_\_\_\_ Your age \_\_\_\_\_ Number of years in FFA \_\_\_\_\_  
*(FFA members who have graduated from high school are not eligible to apply.)*
9. Number of students in your high school class \_\_\_\_\_ Size of FFA chapter \_\_\_\_\_

If I am selected to participate in the State FFA Convention Chorus, my appearance will be such that it will reflect credit on my home, my chapter, my school, my community, and my State Association. I promise to abide by the FFA Code of Ethics and the FFA Dress Code. I realize I am representing over 23,000 Oklahoma FFA members.

Applicant's Signature \_\_\_\_\_

## ***For the Music Teacher to Complete*** \_\_\_\_\_

Please comment on the applicant's musical ability and singing talent: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Title \_\_\_\_\_

## ***For the Agriculture Teacher to Complete*** \_\_\_\_\_

Please comment on the applicant's suitability and interest in belonging to the State FFA Convention Chorus: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Chapter \_\_\_\_\_

# Your Musical Experience



Don't let the questions below frighten you . . . perhaps much more important than lots of experience is your basic natural singing ability. In fact, we encourage people with high natural ability to audition. Many times, students with no previous experience have superior voices and talents. So, regardless of your experience, *the CD recording* you submit is the most important part of your audition. No one will be considered unless this CD is submitted. Be sure to read the enclosed instructions carefully because there is a specific form to follow.

1. Describe your voice. (check one)     Soprano     Alto     Tenor     Bass
  
2. Describe your instrumental abilities. (check all that apply)     Acoustic guitar     Acoustic bass     Trombone  
 Drums, trap set     Trumpet     Saxophone     Electric guitar     Electric bass     Keyboard  
 Flute     Keyboard bass     Percussion     Violin/Violn     French Horn     Clarinet  
 Other \_\_\_\_\_
  
3. If you have sung in a school chorus (or any organized chorus), which voice part do you have the most experience singing? (check one)  
 Soprano 1     Alto 1     Tenor 1     Bass 1  
 Soprano 2     Alto 2     Tenor 2     Bass 2
  
4. Have you performed in the State FFA Convention Chorus program?     Yes     No    How many years? \_\_\_\_\_  
Describe your part with the program.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
5. Have you performed in the National FFA Convention Chorus program?     Yes     No    What year? \_\_\_\_\_
  
6. When singing choral music, can you comfortably hear or read a harmony part, or are you most comfortable singing the melody?  
(check one)     Most comfortable singing melody     Can sing a harmony part     Good at singing a harmony part
  
7. Have you performed in either your high school music chorus or band program?  
 Chorus    How many years? \_\_\_\_\_     Band    How many years? \_\_\_\_\_  
Describe the group(s), their size, how long you performed with them, and your voice part or instrument. Be specific:  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
8. Have you had other vocal or instrumental performing experience? Example would be church choir, band member, touring group, vocal or instrumental soloist, etc. List each experience, and describe your part in the program and how long you were involved.  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
9. Do you consider yourself a vocal or instrumental soloist?     Vocal soloist     Instrumental soloist  
How often have you performed as a soloist, and what type of music do you do generally perform?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_
  
10. How do you describe your ability to read a choral music score? (check one)  
 Don't read     Sing by ear     Limited     Average     Good     Excellent
  
11. Have you had formal vocal or instrumental music lessons? With whom and for how long?  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_