



October 16, 2023

Dear Honors Choir Member,

CONGRATULATIONS! I would like to commend you for your participation and success in the 2023-2024 Grades 6-7-8-9 State Honors Choir audition. Please read the information below and check with your choir director for more details about this.

As a member of the State Honors Choir, you will have the honor of performing with the best 6th through 9th grade singers in the state, and you will be working with an outstanding choral conductor! Along with these privileges, you will have the following responsibilities:

- ✓ **LEARNING YOUR MUSIC:** Your first obligation is to learn all of the music. Please do not take this lightly! It is an important factor towards the success of the choir, and your teacher has agreed to help you. All of the music must be memorized for the final performance. Your Honors Choir Director may give you a memorization schedule. You may be pulled out at random during rehearsals to check for music memorization and accuracy. Please be certain that you are prepared! Your teacher will be notified if you are not.
- ✓ **ATTENDANCE:** You must attend all rehearsals and the final performance. Unexcused absences (**any** missed rehearsal time) may result in your dismissal from Honors Choir, and may also prohibit yourself or your school from participation in future Honors Choir auditions. Contact your School Director so they can make necessary calls no less than 24 hours in advance if **serious** illness will cause you to miss a rehearsal or performance. Should that happen, a doctor's excuse may be required at the next rehearsal in order for you to participate further.
- ✓ **CONTRACT:** The **6-7-8-9 Honors Choir Contract** will require three signatures – yours, your parent/guardian, and your choir teacher. Your teacher will return it for you at the first rehearsal along with your medical form. **This is required, so make sure you get it back to your teacher as soon as possible.**
- ✓ **PARENT PERMISSION/MEDICAL:** This form **MUST** be fully completed with ALL requested information and signed. Your teacher will return it for you at the first rehearsal along with your student contract. **This is required, so make sure you get it back to your teacher as soon as possible.**
- ✓ **Lunch:** Lunch is not provided, you will need to bring a bag lunch or obtain food from local fast food restaurants at all rehearsal sites. Your parents, chaperones, or directors will need to take you to lunch. You will have a short lunch/snack break at DeVos. Bring a healthy snack and water to all rehearsals.
- ✓ **Please note:** There will be cafeteria/commons areas open for eating and relaxing. Parents are welcome to sit in on rehearsals. **Wifi is not guaranteed at locations.**
- ✓ **BEHAVIOR:** Please demonstrate your best rehearsal behavior. Your behavior is a direct reflection upon the entire State Honors Choir and upon your school. If there is a behavior problem, depending on the severity, you may be immediately removed from the choir or your director may be required to attend the next rehearsal. Dismissal may result in your school being placed on probation next year.
- ✓ **DRESS:** Dress comfortably and casually for rehearsals. The rehearsal rooms tend to vary in temperature so dress in layers.

January 25th Concert Uniform* is as follows:

SA

- Black pants or full-length black skirt
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks or stockings
- Black, long-sleeve top, no collar **or**
- Black, long-sleeve, button-up, dress shirt with collar
- If choosing the long-sleeved top a **red scarf** should be worn, if choosing the button-up dress shirt, a long **red tie** should be worn

SSA

- Black pants or full-length black skirt
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks or stockings
- Black, long-sleeve top, no collar **or**
- Black, long-sleeve, button-up, dress shirt with collar,
- If choosing the long-sleeved top a **green scarf** should be worn, if choosing the button-up dress shirt, a long **green tie** should be worn

TTB

- Black pants or full-length black skirt
- Black dress shoes
- Black socks or stockings
- Black, long-sleeve top, no collar **or**
- Black, long-sleeve, button-up, dress shirt with collar,
- If choosing the long-sleeved top a **blue scarf** should be worn, if choosing the button-up dress shirt, a long **blue tie** should be worn

STUDENTS MUST ARRIVE FULLY DRESSED IN THEIR CONCERT UNIFORM AND READY TO REHEARSE

- ✓ **TICKETS:** Two complimentary tickets for the 6-7-8-9 Honors Choir concert on THURSDAY January 25th, 2024, will be given to students at the Clarkston rehearsal January 13th, 2024. Additional tickets may be purchased up until the performance. They may be purchased online after December 1st, or in the lobby of the DeVos Place the day of the concert.
- ✓ **REHEARSAL SCHEDULE:** There are four important dates. The SA, SSA and TTB rehearsals will all take place at the same school in the same town on the same day.

Date	Check-In	Rehearsal	Site	Rehearsal Host
Nov. 4, 2023 Saturday	9:00am	10am-4:00pm ALL FORMS AND FEES DUE	Birch Run High School 12450 Church St. Birch Run, MI 48415	Gail Worden
Nov. 18, 2023 Saturday	9:00am	10am-4:00pm	Duncan Lake Middle School 9757 Duncan Lake Ave SE Caledonia, MI 49316	Aaron Goodyke
Jan. 13, 2024 Saturday	8:30am	9:30 -4:00pm	Clarkston Junior High School 6595 Waldon Road Clarkston, MI 48346	Mike Peterson
Jan. 25, 2024 Thursday	8 AM Check - In	9:00-2:00pm	Rehearsal @ DeVos Convention Center	DeVos River Overlook Rooms 187 Monroe Ave Northwest Grand Rapids, MI 49503
		2:00pm	To performance hall stage (SA) & seating (SSA/TTB)	

MSVMA scheduled rehearsals are never canceled.

T-SHIRTS: (optional) Order directly online at <https://msvma.wildapricot.org/page-1343148>. Orders will be delivered at the January 25th rehearsal at The Devos Center.

Again, congratulations to all of you, and enjoy your Honors Choir experience this year!

Sincerely,

Ryan Dawley
6-7-8-9 Honors Choir Supervisor

Grade 6-7-8-9 State Honors Choir
Contract

Please check your State Honors Choir:

SA

SSA

TTB

*This must be returned at the first rehearsal along with your health form.
Your teacher will return it for you in their director's packet.*

I, _____ from _____ School,
agree to the following statements and will abide by all rules and regulations set forth.

1. **I will attend all rehearsals from beginning time until dismissal time.** This choir is my first obligation for all required dates and times. I have examined the rehearsal / performance schedule and find no conflicts. I realize that I may be removed from this choir if I miss a rehearsal / performance and that my school may be placed on probation next year.
2. I will have music learned and memorized by the deadlines set by my Honors Choir Director. I realize that my teacher will be notified if I am not prepared.
3. I will, at all times, be on my best behavior and represent this choir and my school in the most positive and appropriate way possible. Any disturbance I may cause during rehearsal could be grounds for my dismissal from the choir.
4. I will, arrive on time for the final rehearsal/performance at DeVos Place wearing the required uniform (as described in the 2023-24 Packet I received)

Rehearsal Dates and Sites

November 4, 2023	Birch Run High School, Birch Run
November 18, 2023	Duncan Lake Middle School, Caledonia
January 13, 2024	Clarkston Junior High School, Clarkston
January 25, 2024	DeVos Place, Grand Rapids

SIGNATURES:

Student _____

Parent/Guardian _____

Teacher _____

Grade 6-7-8-9 State Honors Choir Parental Permission/Medical Consent Form

Please check your State Honors Choir:

SA

SSA

TTB

This form must be completed and returned at the first rehearsal or the student will not be allowed to participate.

Parent/guardian name (please print) _____

My son/daughter _____ from _____

(School name) has permission to participate in the MSVMA 6-7-8-9 State Honors Choir rehearsals November 4 and 18, January 13, and the final rehearsal/performance on Thursday, January 25, 2024. I understand that I, or my designee, will provide transportation to all of the rehearsals and the performance. I recognize that MSVMA and the local school district assume no liability for my child in case of an accident or injury beyond gross negligence.

During the above time I hereby authorize and consent to emergency medical treatment in the event I/we cannot be reached at the following telephone numbers:

Home: _____ Cell: _____

Our child's physician is: _____ Phone _____

Our medical insurance carrier is: _____

Policy/Group# _____

Please list any allergies, medical conditions, prescriptions, handicaps or special needs your child has:

My child will be leaving after the concert on Jan. 25 with _____

Phone # if different from above _____

Parent/guardian signature

Date

Deadline for all information and fees is **November 4, 2023**
which is the Birch Run Rehearsal

ATTENDANCE POLICY

6-7-8-9

Honors Choir Participants

1. Once a singer is selected for one of the Honors Choirs, they are required to attend all rehearsals and performances. Please make sure to check all audition and musical dates BEFORE you submit your application for your student.
2. The ONLY excused absences will be due to illness or personal or family emergency.
3. In the event of an absence, **it is the student's school choir director's responsibility** to contact the appropriate Honors Choir Coordinator to explain the absence. If the Coordinator cannot be contacted on that day, they must be contacted on the next working day. If no contact is made, the absence will be interpreted as unexcused. All appeals regarding absences will be referred to the JH/MS Honors Choir Supervisor whose judgment will be final. A singer with an unexcused absence will not be allowed further participation in Honors Choir for that year. Their school will be placed on a recommendation list for probation for the following year. If any unexcused absences or violations of Honors Choir guidelines occur for the same school in the succeeding year, the Executive Board shall have the power to invoke a one-year suspension for that school from all Honors Choir activities. Please make sure your school activities do not conflict with rehearsals or auditions. Absences will not be excused nor will early dismissals be allowed due to school performances, activities, or testing.

Rehearsal Schools

November 4, 2023

Birch Run High School
12450 Church St.
Birch Run, MI 48415

November 18, 2023

Duncan Lake Middle School
9757 Duncan Lake Ave SE
Caledonia, MI 49316

January 13, 2024

Clarkston Junior High School
6595 Waldon Road
Clarkston, MI 48346

Parents are reminded NOT to contact the Coordinators or Executive Board Member in Charge of Honors Choirs for any reason. PLEASE contact your child's school choir director.

In an effort to have the final concert run smoothly and safely, participants in all 3 honors choirs **will return to DeVos River Overlook rooms where parents will pick-up children after the concert.** These are the same rooms as the rehearsal rooms.

NO CHOIR MEMBER WILL BE RELEASED TO PARENTS IN OR OUTSIDE THE PERFORMANCE AREA.

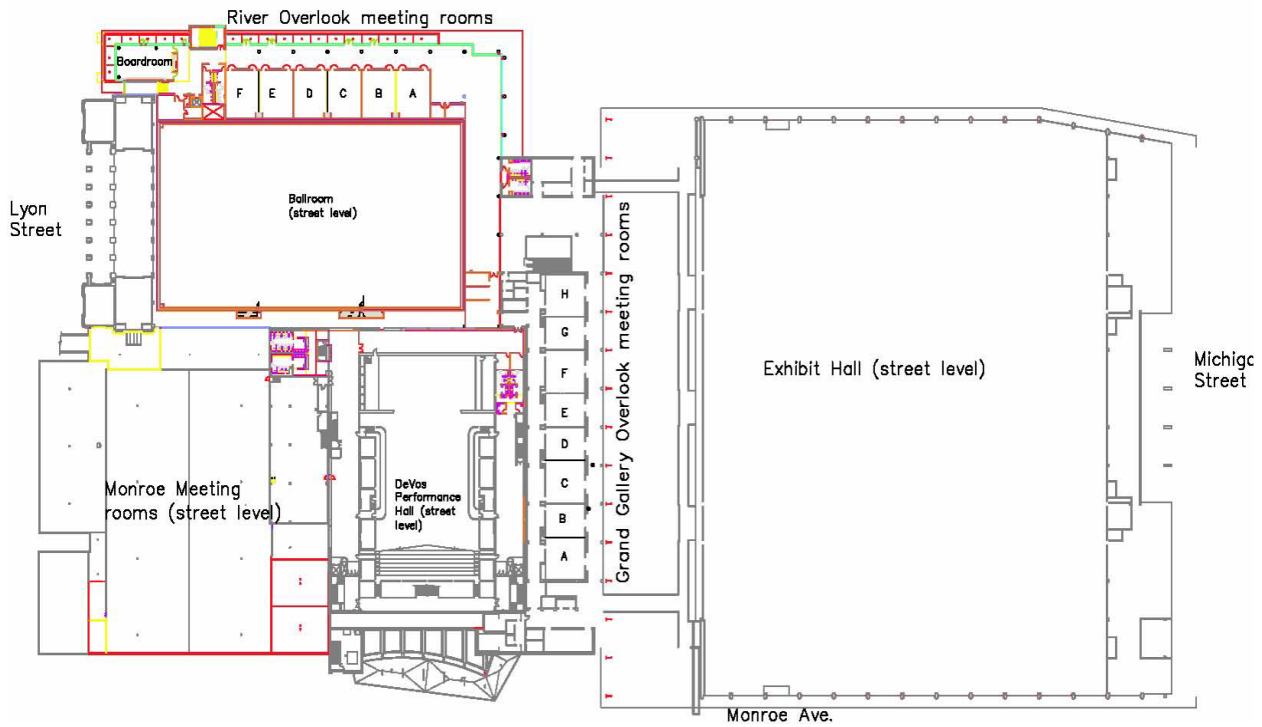
Please see the attached diagram of DeVos Center .

Thank you for your cooperation.

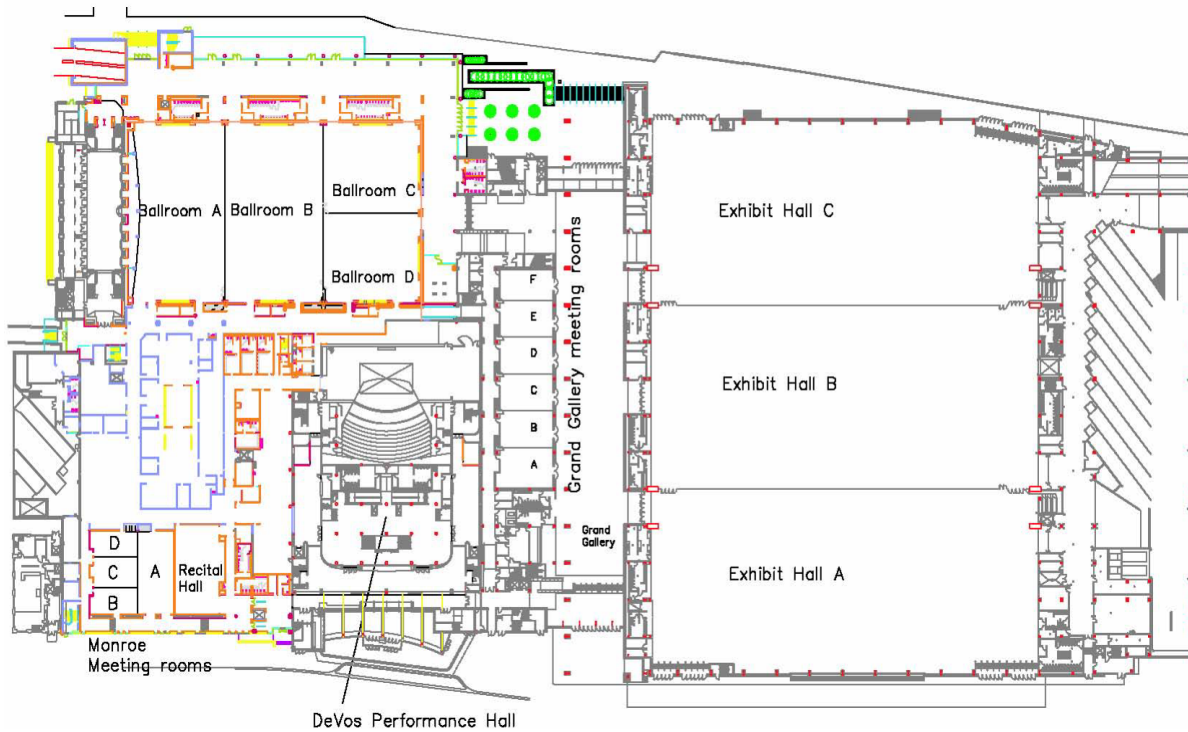
Sincerely,

Ryan Dawley, 6-7-8-9 Honors Choir Supervisor
Anne Lawrence, SA Coordinator
Chris Knapp, SSA Coordinator
Tim Peterson, TTB Coordinator

DEVOS PLACE CONVENTION CENTER (OVERLOOK LEVEL)



DEVOS PLACE CONVENTION CENTER (STREET LEVEL)



DeVos Place Convention Center

Directions

Directions to DeVos Place:

From the North: US-131 South to Pearl St. (exit 85B). Turn Left on Pearl St. to Monroe Ave. Turn Left on Monroe Ave. DeVos Place is 1 block north on the left.

From the South: US-131 North to Pearl St. (exit 85B). Turn Right on Pearl St. to Monroe Ave. Turn Left on Monroe Ave. DeVos Place is 1 block north on the left.

From the East: I-96 West to I-196 Downtown (exit 37). I-196 West to Ottawa Ave. (exit 77C). Keep to Right to Michigan St West. Turn Right on Michigan St. West on Michigan St. to Monroe Ave. Turn Left on Monroe Ave. DeVos Place is on the Right.

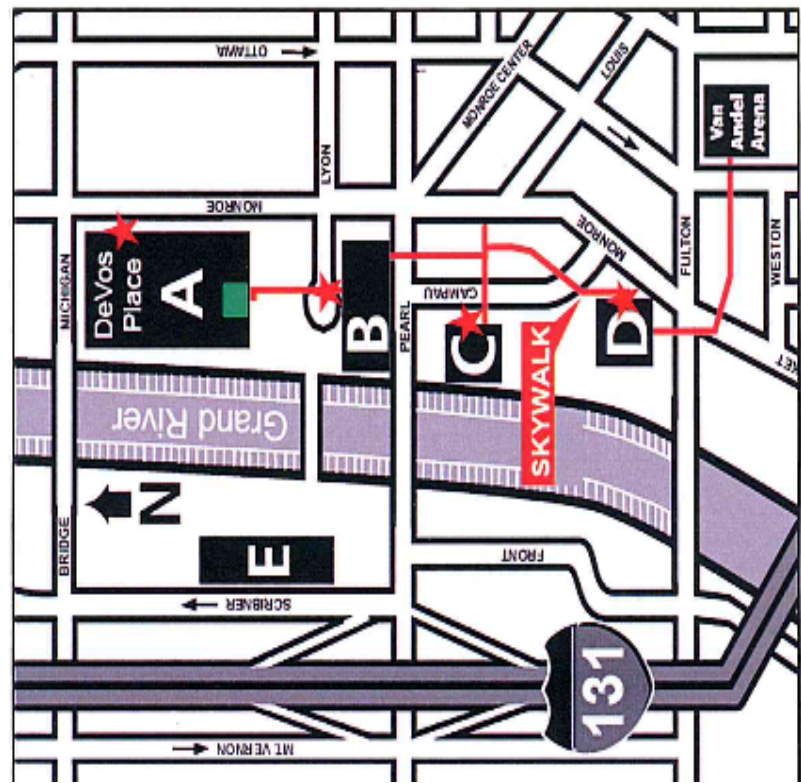
From the West: I-196 to Ottawa Ave. (exit 77C). Keep to Right to Michigan St West. Turn Right on Michigan St. West on Michigan St. to Monroe Ave. Turn Left on Monroe Ave. DeVos Place is on the Right.

From the Airport: Exit the airport to Patterson Ave. Turn Right on Patterson Ave to 28th Street SE. Turn Right on 28th Street SE to I-96 West. Follow I-96 West to I-196 Downtown (exit 37). I-196 West to Ottawa Ave. (exit 77C). Keep to Right to Michigan St West. Turn Right on Michigan St. West on Michigan St. to Monroe Ave. Turn Left on Monroe Ave. DeVos Place is on the Right.

Parking

For more information go to www.michiganmusicconference.org

Parking is under the DeVos Convention Center.



Michigan Music Directors Bus Drop-Off / Pick-Up Map

- A. DeVos Place
- B. Amway Grand Plaza Hotel
- C. JW Marriott
- D. Courtyard by Marriott
- E. Bus Parking Lane on Scribner
(Note: this is a one-way street going north.)

★ = Bus Drop Off Location
 ■ = Welsh Lobby Entrance