Choir Audition Tips

Here are some helpful tips for making the best possible audition tape or CD!

1. Check the recording level for each student. If the level is too low or too high, it is difficult to make an accurate assessment of the student's vocal quality. For example, the high range of a soprano voice may distort at the same recording level that worked for an alto voice.

2. Is that high baritone really a second tenor? Tenors are in demand!

3. Students who cannot stay on pitch, or have not learned the correct notes, will not be accepted.

4. **Read all of the audition directions carefully!** Be sure to make the required number of repetitions and follow the given tempo for each exercise. Students who do not sing the exercise as directed will not be considered for this festival.

The following is a list of some possible audition mistakes that will disqualify a student:

A. The scales must be sung a cappella following each tonic chord played on the piano. **Do not** play the notes of the scale with the singer.

B. The arpeggios must be sung with the written accompaniment only. The piano should not double the vocal part.

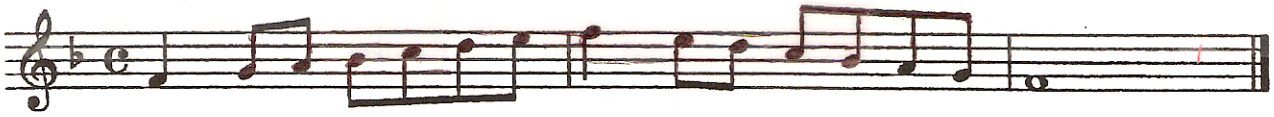
C. The excerpt should also not have the piano doubling the vocal part. Singers must sing by themselves, with piano accompaniment. Students are not allowed to have someone singing along with them in the background.

High Plains Choral Festival Auditions

Please read and follow the audition instructions very carefully! Students will not be considered for the honor choir unless their auditions are completed properly. If you have any questions please contact Joel Schreuder at 308-432-6318

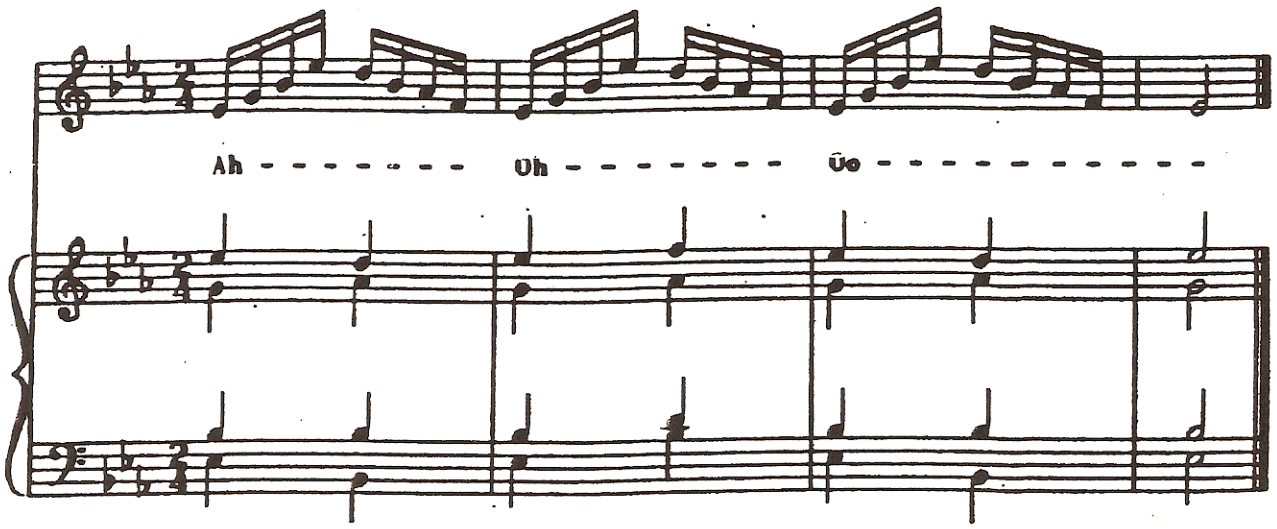
Scales: The accompanist may sound the tonic chord at the beginning of each scale. The student should then sing the scale a cappella at about **quarter note = 90.**

- **Sopranos and tenors:** Begin in the key of F major and repeat the exercise three times with each repeat ascending by half step to the keys of F# major, G major, and A-flat major.
- **Altos and basses:** Begin in G major (the lower octave) and repeat the exercise three times with each repeat ascending by half step to they keys of Ab major, A major, and Bb major.

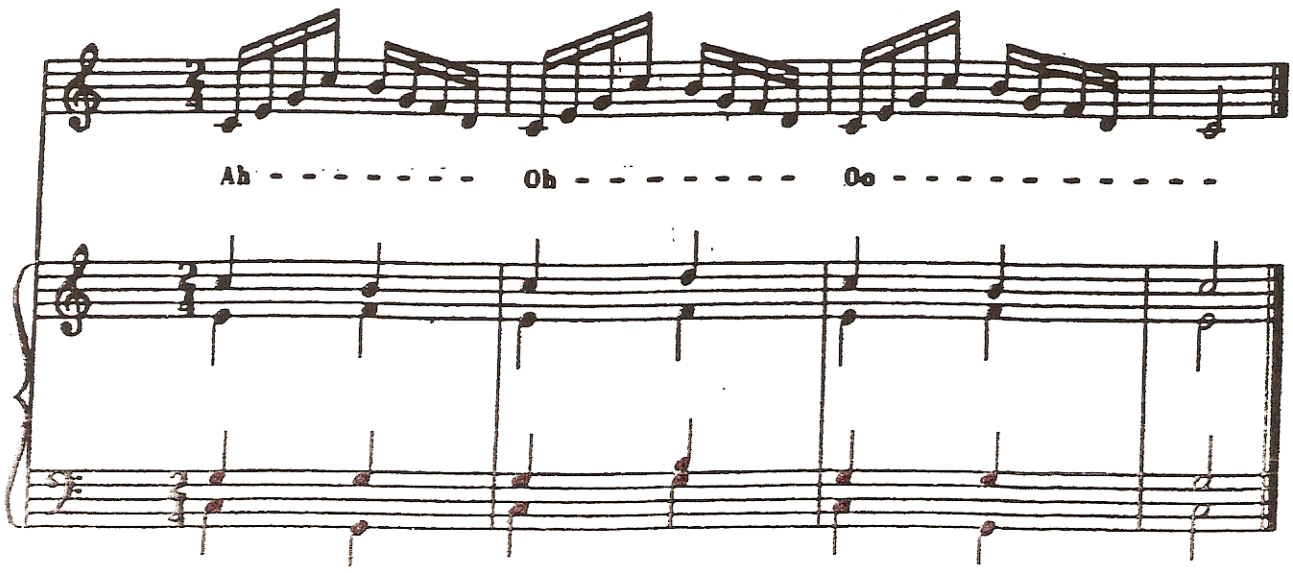


Arpeggios - Sing the given arpeggios with the written accompaniment.

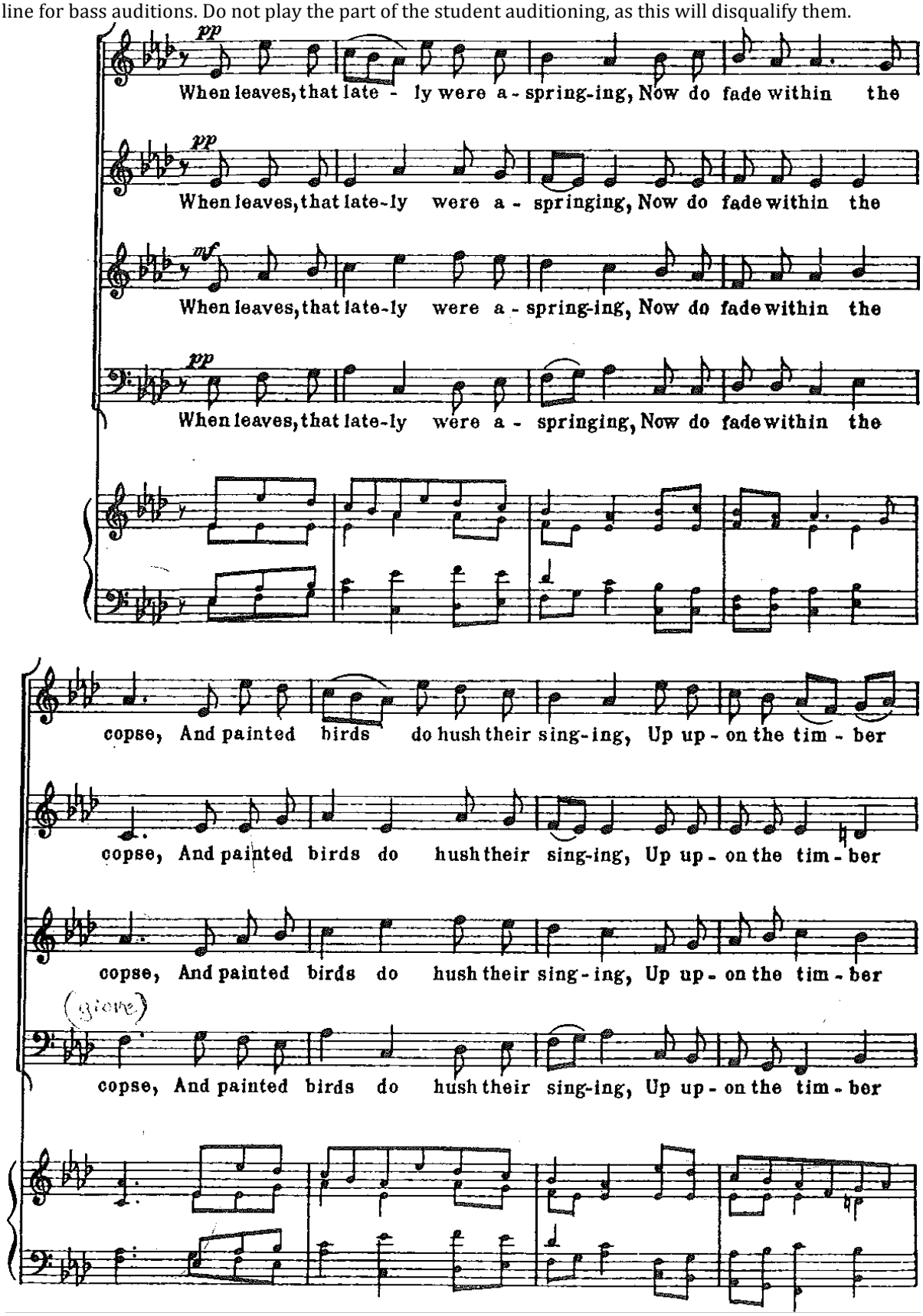
Sopranos and Tenors

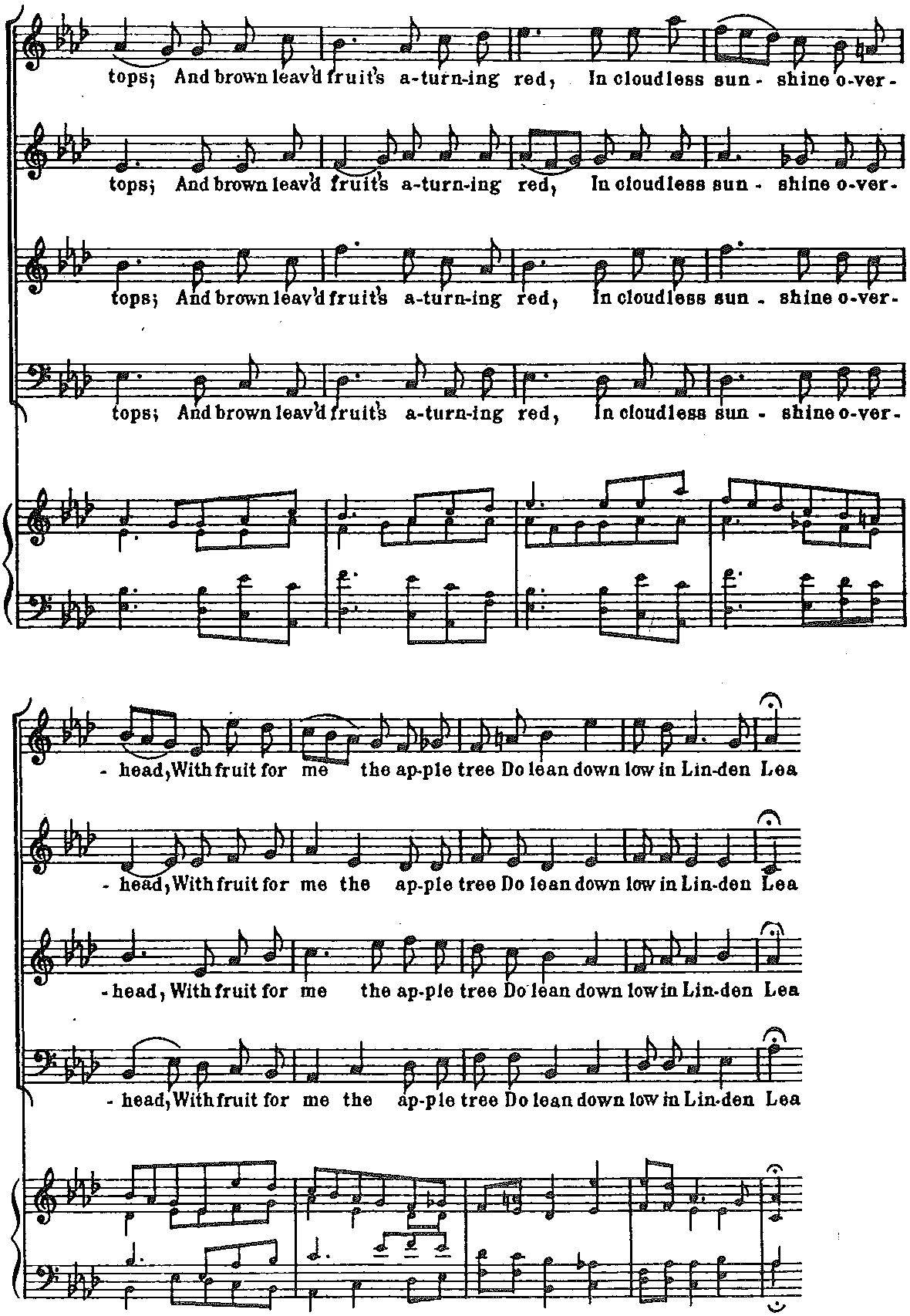


Altos and Basses



CSC High Plains Choral Auditions: Students should sing the appropriate vocal line accompanied by the corresponding midi file. There are four midi parts posted on the high plains web site, each containing 3 of the four parts – minus the part of the auditioning student. (For example, the bass midi file plays the soprano, alto, and tenor parts, only.) If you do not have the technology needed to play the midi files while recording the audition, then you may play the bass line on the piano for soprano, alto, and tenor auditions, and the soprano line for bass auditions. Do not play the part of the student auditioning, as this will disqualify them.

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