Traditional Version

Not all chapters find this script appropriate for the style of their membership, but it can serve as an example to consider if an Induction Ceremony is presented. Instructions are in brackets.

Induction Ceremony

Chapter Advisor: [Rises and welcomes audience to ceremony. Introduces self, chapter president, and all other prominent individuals present at ceremony. Individuals rise when introduced. After introduction, all are seated.]

President: [Rises.] Ladies, gentlemen, and fellow students, we welcome you to this important occasion. Today we will formally induct a number of students who have met the necessary Tri-M® criteria and have accepted invitations to become active members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. We will also recognize the continuing members of our chapter and our graduating members as alumni of Tri-M. At this time, I wish to introduce the student officers of our chapter, _____ is the vice president, _____ is the secretary, _____ is the treasurer, and _____ is the historian. [Each officer stands as his or her name is called. After the introduction, each officer sits.]

I will now ask _____ , our chapter treasurer, to present the candidates for student membership. [Sits.]

Treasurer: [Rises.] These music students have been carefully selected on the basis of scholarship, character, leadership, and service. Scholarship represents scholastic achievement and open-mindedness toward knowledge and truth. Character emphasizes a devotion to high ideals and recognizes no barriers between people of diverse backgrounds. Leadership guides us to greater undertakings, and service encourages assistance and kindness to others.[Sits.]

President: [Rises.] We will now describe the meaning of the name Tri-M for the candidates for student membership. [Pauses while vice president and secretary rise.]

The name Tri-M was derived from the original name of our honor society, Modern Music Masters. The vice president and secretary will speak of the first letter M, which signifies modern.

Vice President: That which is new in any age is called modern. It is only in looking back that descriptions such as old, classical, or romantic are given to those art forms that had formerly been accepted as modern.

Secretary: Let us remember that we should study the past to effectively plan our future. This is a youth organization, and with each succeeding year, its membership will be made up of young people such as you. Therefore, our society will never grow old, but will be eternally modern. [Vice president and secretary take their seats.]

President: The second letter M signifies music. The treasurer and historian will explain this second symbol. [The historian and treasurer rise.]

Treasurer: According to The Random House Dictionary of the English Language, “music is the art of sound that expresses ideas and emotions in significant forms through the elements of rhythm, melody, harmony, and color.”

Historian: Music was present even before there was written language, and from that time to the present, it has been a source of communication. Music is the universal language.
[Treasurer and historian take their seats.]

President: The third letter M signifies masters. In the art field, the custom has been to give the title of master to those who have achieved a high degree of proficiency. [Looks at candidates.] You have met the criteria as a Tri-M candidate for student membership. As “masters,” you now have increased your opportunities to serve your school and community.

A member of the Tri-M Music Honor Society is one who sets a good example, is always willing to assist those students who are striving to better themselves in the music department, and always remembers that real honor brings responsibility. May you accept this honor of membership and the responsibility that is now vested in you, and wear your pin emblem with pride. [Turns to Treasurer.] Please explain the meaning of the Tri-M membership emblem. [Sits.]

Treasurer: [Rises and points to the Tri-M emblem, if available.] The Tri-M emblem was designed to symbolize the function and purpose of the honor society. The music staff, the lyre, and the scroll represent the members’ proficiency and service in the field of music. The triplet figure in the form of an M symbolizes the three M’s in the name Modern Music Masters, from which the society’s name was derived. [Junior division chapters add the following phrase: “The Jr. above the triplet figure designates the Junior division of Tri-M”.] [Sits.]

President: [Rises and looks at the candidates.] Will all the candidates for student membership please rise and repeat the pledge to show your willingness to carry out the principles of the Tri-M Music Honor Society?

[Begin pledge.] We, the members of the _____ (school) music department, [pause] in order to foster a greater continued interest [pause] and a desire for excellence in music performance; [pause] to encourage appreciation and awareness in listening to music; [pause] to promote wider opportunities for sharing joy through music [pause] both within our school and within our community; [pause] to advance the spirit of good music and musical knowledge; [pause] and to enhance the reputation of our school as a center for musical enrichment; [pause] accept the honor now granted to us.

[End of pledge.]

It is my pleasure to present each of you with your Tri-M pin emblem and your membership card.

Secretary: [Rises.] The following candidates for student membership have qualified to become new members of the Tri-M Music Honor Society.

[Looks at the candidates for student membership.] As your name is read, please come forward to receive your membership pin emblem and card and then return to your seats. [Reads the names of each candidate. Chapter advisor presents the pin emblems, and the president or treasurer presents the

membership cards. The secretary waits until each candidate has received his or her pin emblem and membership card before reading the next candidate's name.]

President: I now officially congratulate and welcome you as new members of Chapter _____ (number) of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. May you remember this occasion and strive to live up to the aims and ideals of this organization.

[New members return to their seats.]

President: I now ask our chapter advisor to come forward. [Sits.]

Chapter Advisor: [Rises and addresses new members.] It is a pleasure to read the congratulatory message from the Tri-M Music Honor Society national leadership to the new members of Chapter _____ (number).

Dear inductees,

On behalf of the National Tri-M Music Honor Society and the National Association for Music Education, it is my great privilege to congratulate each of you on your induction this evening.

Your nomination for membership is based not only on your musical achievement, but also on your scholarship, leadership, character, and commitment to service. You should take great pride in this accomplishment, which unites you with thousands of Tri-M student members across the nation and throughout the world.

Today, you join a tradition of young musicians who understand that music is far more than performance alone. Tri-M is not simply a gathering of like minds—it is a fellowship of artistic hearts and souls connected through the universal language of music. It is a community that values creativity, dedication, integrity, and the power of service through the arts.

As you continue your musical journey, remember the important idea often shared during induction ceremonies: we study the past to effectively prepare for the future. You now stand in the unique position of carrying forward the torch of your musical knowledge and experience, inspiring your peers and future generations of musicians. Whether through performance, mentorship, advocacy, or leadership, your contributions have the power to strengthen your schools, communities, and the future of music education itself.

Music possesses a rare ability to bring people together in profound and meaningful ways. It creates connection, builds understanding, and reminds us of our shared humanity. In a world that increasingly needs compassion, collaboration, and creativity, musicians often lead by example. As Tri-M members, you are called not only to pursue excellence, but also to use your talents to uplift and serve others.
To the families, teachers, and mentors here tonight, thank you for encouraging these students and nurturing their growth as musicians and leaders. Your support has helped shape the remarkable young people we celebrate this evening.

To our newest inductees: may you take great pride in being part of the Tri-M community as you continue to demonstrate the value of music in your life and in the lives of others. Continue striving for excellence, continue sharing your gifts generously, and continue exploring the limitless potential that music offers.

Welcome to the Tri-M family. Congratulations once again, and best wishes for the journey ahead.

[Pauses, and then, if applicable, looks at the continuing members.] At this time, the continuing members of Chapter _____ (number) will be recognized for their dedicated service and for upholding the standards and ideals of the Tri-M Music Honor Society. We will now present certificates of continuing membership to the continuing student members of Chapter _____ (number). Will continuing student members please rise? [Turns to secretary.]

Secretary: [Rises.] The following students will continue their membership in the Tri-M Music Honor Society and will remain distinguished members of Chapter _____ (number). As your name is read, please rise and come forward to receive your certificate of continuing membership.

[Secretary reads the names of each continuing member. The chapter advisor presents the certificate to the continuing members. Secretary waits until the student has received his or her certificate before going on to the next name.]

Chapter Advisor: I now officially congratulate and recognize you as continuing student members of Chapter _____ (number). You have supported the ideals and aspirations of the Tri-M Music Honor Society through your continued community service and participation in solo and ensemble performance at _____ (school) and in our community. [Sits.]

The ceremony may continue with the following:

1. Recognize new honorary members and Alumni Achievement recipients (if not previously mentioned).
2. If the induction ceremony is part of a music department program, continue with the concert.
3. If the induction ceremony is a separate event, continue with any student musical performances. Give names of performers and selections.
4. Invite the audience to a reception given by the members of the chapter.

President: [Rises.] On behalf of the Tri-M Music Honor Society, I want to thank our chapter advisor, _____, the officers, and all who have made this induction ceremony such a great success. We also appreciate the attendance of parents and guests.