



To: Tennessee High School Choral Directors
From: Robert King, State Festival Manager
Re: TNACDA Invitation – State Choral Festival, and MORE!

I hope this message finds you having a good school year with your choir program. I feel blessed every day to be able to work as a choir director, and am so proud of the excellent choral programs across our state. The activities of our regional TMEA affiliate vocal associations, and organizations like ACDA have contributed significantly to my professional growth, and speaking for TNACDA President Vincent Oakes and all of our officers, we want to continue to enhance the choral art into the future.

Primarily this letter is to encourage you to participate in adjudications. Hopefully you are already planning to sing in your Regional Adjudication, and for those who make a “Superior” at that event, to continue to the State Choral Festival April 21-24. For the first time we will have 4 sites across our three regions to make the event more accessible and cost effective for participants, moving the same panel of judges to each site to assure a consistent standard statewide. Objective critiques are the lifeblood of improvement, both for directors, and ultimately for the benefit of our students. The grades are secondary. Receiving suggestions for how we can continually improve is the real objective. Also the prestige of singing at the State event can provide an additional motivation for choristers. We hope you will seriously consider taking part.

Attached is important information about the event, including guidelines, dates & locations, and fees. Also note that the 2 days in Middle TN due to overcrowding the last few years will be in Murfreesboro (Tues) and Nashville (Wed). We need choirs choosing the Middle TN sites to be flexible as to which day they can come so we can balance those 2 days. It is fine to state your preferred day, and we will attempt to accommodate those requests.

Send Fees to:

Robert King, Director of Fine Arts, Lipscomb Academy 3901 Granny White Pike, Nashville, TN 37204

Registration will be on our web site <http://tnacda.org/> where you can also learn more about our summer conference June 20-21, and links to our National and Regional conferences, and more! Please do not hesitate to contact me (Robert.king@lipscomb.edu) if I may be of any assistance.

Tennessee ACDA Sponsored State High School Choral Festival Guidelines and Regulations

The ACDA State High School Choral Festival is an adjudicated festival open to high school choirs (grades 9-12) who have received a superior at their regional adjudication festival. If a choir received a superior at the State Festival the previous year and is unable to participate in their regional festival the current year, they may also be invited by the festival committee which shall be made up of the Festival Manager, State HS R&S Chair, and the State President, President Elect and Vice-President. Additional consultation may be sought with area site coordinators as is appropriate.

1. Since all participating choirs have received superiors at the regional level, the adjudication standard at the State level is expected to be higher. Judges will use a 12 point system of grading each category. (A+ =12, A =11, A- =10, etc.) The overall rating they give the choir shall be the average of the scores in the individual categories, carried to 2 decimal places. The overall festival rating will be an average of the 3 judges. Rounding up of numbers will happen only in final averaging of the 3 judges overall scores.
2. Judges shall be secured from out of state and be of a high caliber with sufficient experience in judging as is appropriate for a State Level festival. The festival committee shall approve the list of judges before they are invited. Judges will receive this list of criteria, along with a sample adjudication form prior to their arrival at the festival.
3. There shall be a combination of taped and written comments by the panel of judges, though they may not all do both.
4. Each choir will perform 3 selections, unless limited to 2 by the festival coordinator due to time limitations at the festival site. Selections are at the discretion of the director, and are not required to be the same as performed at the qualifying regional event. Be advised that quality of literature will have an effect on final grades. Each participating choir must submit 3 copies of their performance selections with measures numbered. Failure to fully comply will result in the lowering of the grade by one point on the 12 point scale for each piece. Use of illegally photocopied music will result in disqualification from performance and forfeiture of taped comments and plaque.
5. The fee for participation shall be \$185 dollars for the 1st choir, and \$160 for each additional choir from each school. ACDA members WHO PAY BY THE REGISTRATION DEADLINE receive a \$50 discount on each choir, so the first is \$135 and additional choirs from that school are \$110 each. Add \$25 per choir if past the deadline. All participating schools shall receive an official State Choral Festival participation plaque. All fees are non-refundable and must be paid before a choir can perform. Plaques are given only to choirs that actually perform.
6. Registration fee and form must be postmarked or received within 2 weeks of your Regional Adjudication participation, or 10 days prior to the first day of the State Festival, whichever comes first. Late registration shall incur an additional \$25 late fee per choir. **NO CHOIR WILL BE SCHEDULED WITHOUT PAYMENT RECEIVED, AND NO PAYMENTS MAY BE MADE THE DAY OF THE EVENT. REGISTRATION FORMS MUST INCLUDE A MINIMUM 3 HOUR WINDOW OF SCHEDULING TIME FOR EACH CHOIR.**

(Revised 2/2014)