



To: Tennessee High School Choral Directors  
From: Mark Statler, TN-ACDA State CPA Coordinator  
Re: 2026 High School State Choral Performance Assessment

Hello directors,

I hope you are doing well and having a positive and meaningful school year with your choirs so far. I am thankful for the activities of TN-ACDA and our regional TMEA vocal associations, and I am grateful to be the coordinator of the State Choral Performance Assessment. My hope is that this event serves as both a challenge and encouragement to each of you as a director and to your choral programs as a whole.

The High School State Choral Performance Assessment (State CPA), formerly known as the State Choral Festival, is one way that TN-ACDA fosters a high-level of choral culture in our state. This year's State CPA will be held April 22-24 in Clarksville (Wednesday 22 April), Murfreesboro (Thursday 23 April), and Knoxville (Friday 24 April). Our adjudicators this year are **Susan Davenport** from Southern Illinois University, **Julian Bryson** from The Bolles School of Jacksonville, FL, and **Jen Wagner** from Milton Hershey School in Pennsylvania.

The State CPA is open to high school choirs who have received a superior in performance rating or overall rating (whichever is higher) at a regional adjudication event during that academic year. Choirs who did not receive a superior in performance rating or overall rating at a regional adjudication event during that academic year might still gain eligibility according to the following guidelines:

- 1) Choirs who received a Superior at their regional assessment event are guaranteed a spot at that year's State CPA. Their schedule requests will be honored first in the order in which they were received.
- 2) Choirs who participated and received a Superior at the previous year's State CPA but who were unable to participate in a regional assessment event in the current year will be automatically eligible but not guaranteed a spot at the State CPA. Their schedule requests will be honored second in the order in which they were received until all spots are full.
- 3) Choirs who participated and received a Superior at the previous year's State CPA but participated and did not receive a Superior in a regional assessment event in the current year

- will be automatically eligible but not guaranteed a spot at the State CPA. Their schedule requests will be honored third in the order in which they were received until all spots are full.
- 4) Any remaining spots will be filled with choirs who did not receive a Superior at the previous year's State CPA and did not participate or receive a Superior at this year's regional assessment event, filled in the order in which their registration was received.

Choirs can register at the "High School State Choral Performance Assessment" tab of the TN-ACDA website: (<https://www.tnacda.org/hs-choral-performance-assessment/>). **The deadline to register is Wednesday, March 25.** If your choir is guaranteed a spot (#1 above), you may go ahead and mail your payment or pay online. If not, register online but don't mail a check or pay online for those choirs yet. You'll receive an email from me by March 31 confirming which choirs have been scheduled, after which you can mail a check or pay online. **The deadline for payments will be Thursday, April 2.** The fee for each choir is \$178 and the Online Registration contains more details about payments.

The schedule for events will be posted by April 7.

Please email me at [mstatler@utm.edu](mailto:mstatler@utm.edu) with any questions!

Objective critiques are the lifeblood of improvement, both for directors and ultimately for the benefit of our students. The ratings are secondary. Receiving suggestions for how we can continually improve is the real objective, and the prestige of singing at the State event can provide an additional motivation for choristers. We hope you will seriously consider taking part.

Gratefully,

**Mark Statler**, Doctor of Arts in Music  
Director of Choral Activities, University of Tennessee at Martin  
Choral Performance Assessment Coordinator, TN-ACDA