

# **MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT**

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## **I. REGISTRATION**

The [registration link](#) can also be found on the SCMEA Choral Division webpage.

**To be considered fully registered you must complete the ONLINE REGISTRATION Google FORM which includes the following to be attached:**

1. **PRINCIPAL AUTHORIZATION FORM - attached to Google Form**
2. **NAfME Member Number and Expiration Date**
3. **ONLINE PAYMENT with EventBrite (scan/PDF of receipt must be uploaded) or CHECK PAYMENT mailed and postmarked by December 16, 2022**

**Eligibility**—Participating choral directors must be members of NAfME/SCMEA. A photocopy of your current NAfME ID card must accompany the registration form. You will also be required to show your membership at the time of the performance. (If a student teacher is conducting, they will also need to present their membership card). An individual school may not register more than 2 (two) choirs. Additional choir registration requests may be submitted with initial registration and will be considered if schedule permits. Choirs must have at least 16 members in order to participate. If on performance day the choir does not have at least 16 members, they will receive adjudicator comments only. ***No two (2) schools with DIFFERENT DIRECTORS may combine to form one choir. Directors in an itinerant position may combine their choirs if desired. Otherwise, each individual school must be registered and sing as an individual entity.***

**Cost**—The registration fee is \$200.00 per choir and must be submitted with the registration form by **December 16, 2022 for online payments and postmarked by December 16, 2022 for check payments.** No money will be refunded due to cancellation after March 1, 2023. Checks should be made payable to SCMEA Choral Division. Proof of payment online should also be submitted by the due date.

**Dates**—There will be **3 sites in 2023**:

**CHARLESTON/SUMMERVILLE** Site - March 28, 2023

**COLUMBIA** Site - March 28, 2023

**GREENVILLE/SPARTANBURG** Site - March 30, 2023

Requested performance locations, dates and times will be considered in the order applications are received. You will indicate a first, second, and third choice so please be ready to accept the site you are given. One site cannot be overloaded. If a teacher needs a special performance time, it must be requested on the registration form. Any other changes in the schedule will not be permitted. Please be prepared for any time on the day of your performance. Late registrations, fees or paperwork will not be accepted.

**Dressing Rooms**—There will be no dressing rooms available at any site.

**Piano** - There will be a piano/keyboard in each warm-up room

**Schedule**--The schedule for the event will be communicated with the directors by the end of January 2023. Verification of registration, posting of schedule, and performance site instructions will be communicated through email.

**Repertoire** - Choirs should perform appropriate choral literature. Choreography can only be used if it is written into the music or approved by the committee. Standard, high quality choral repertoire should be selected. Use choral clinic and state, regional, and national ACDA or NAfME honor choir repertoire lists as a guide. No pop or show choir repertoire will be allowed. Repertoire must be entered by the due date on the google form sent with the fall email. That form will be published after the schedule is completed. All pieces must be approved 4 weeks prior to the event and any changes made after this date must meet with the approval of the Middle School CPA Committee.

**Adjudicators** - Names of the CPA judges will be posted on the Choral Division website and announced by at least 2 weeks prior to the event. Directors must not discuss the Choral Performance Assessment with the judges or use any of the judges as a clinician during the 2022-2023 school year.

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## II. DIVISIONS

	<u>Middle School Division</u>	<u>Advanced Middle School Division</u>
<b>Requirements</b>	Students in 6-8 grade, housed in a middle school or an intermediate school that is eligible for middle school events	
<b>Awards Given</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number scores awarded</li> <li>-Ratings or Comments only</li> <li>-For beginning or intermediate groups, new teachers, small schools, young singers, non-auditioned groups</li> <li>-<b>Plaques</b> with Rating on them for Superior, Excellent</li> <li>-Certificate for participation for a Good Rating</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Number scores awarded</li> <li>-Ratings or Comments only</li> <li>-For advanced groups, larger schools, experienced teachers or auditioned groups</li> <li>-Trophies given for Superior with Distinction*, Superior, Excellent</li> <li>-Certificates given for a Good Rating</li> </ul> <p>*Superior with Distinction is given to groups who receive Superior from all three performance judges and sight reading judge</p>
<b>Judging</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Using a defined rubric - <a href="#">CPA Judges Rubric</a></li> <li>-Judges would be made aware of the school's chosen division and the Superior with Distinction system prior to judging</li> </ul>	
<b>Sight Reading</b>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-Unison, 2 part (SA/SB) or SAB</li> <li>-10% of the total score</li> <li>*Rhythms: quarter, half, whole, repeated eighths</li> <li>*Tonal: mostly stepwise with a few easier tonic triad skips</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>-2 part (SA or SB), SSA, SAB, SATB levels will all be available</li> <li>-20% of the total score</li> <li>-Rhythms: quarter, half, whole, repeated eighths, moving eighths, dotted quarter eighths</li> <li>-Tonal: I, IV and V chord skips</li> </ul>
	One judge will be in the sight reading room <a href="#">CPA Sight Reading Judges Rubric</a>	
<b>Scoring</b>	SUPERIOR = 90-100 EXCELLENT = 80-89 GOOD = 70-79 FAIR = 60-69 *No scores are ROUNDED TO THE NEXT WHOLE NUMBER	

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### **III. DAY OF THE EVENT RULES**

#### **DAY OF THE EVENT REGISTRATION**

1. The director must present the following documents at the registration desk:

#### **THREE COPIES OF EACH PERFORMANCE SELECTION (Measures Numbered) ANNOUNCEMENT FORM (Include any phonetic spelling necessary)**

2. Only directors or student teachers need to register. Students should remain on the bus.
3. Teachers are asked to wait at least 30 minutes before returning to the registration area to retrieve your music scores/trophies before leaving for the day. Certificates will be mailed.
4. Adjudicator scores and recordings will be emailed within 24 hours of the performance day.

#### **BEHAVIOR**

1. Teachers must accompany their choirs to the festival and remain with them during the festival day. Please ensure that students are supervised at all times. Students must be accompanied to the restroom by an adult.
2. No cell phones, pagers, hats, sunglasses, gum or any item that would interfere with the aural, visual and appreciation of the festival will be allowed in the performance area.
3. Students are not to wander in and out of the performance area, especially during the adjudication of another group.
4. There is to be absolutely no loud talking.
5. If a student displays unbecoming or illegal behavior or damages property, he/she will be put on probation for the next year. In addition, unbecoming behavior may jeopardize the school's participation for the next year.
6. No food or drink of any kind is allowed in the performing area.
7. Please remind your students to not mess with items in the pews, sight-reading room, bathrooms, other areas that do not pertain to CPA.
7. No smoking anywhere on the premises.
8. Choirs will be permitted to observe other choirs respectfully during the performance. No performers or attendees are allowed to enter the performing area once a choir has begun their performance. It is your responsibility as director to discuss proper concert and audience etiquette to all students, parents, chaperones, etc.
9. Each performing group is required to have at least one chaperone for every 10 students performing.

## PERFORMANCE

1. Choirs are provided a warm-up room for twenty minutes. If your choir is late, you may forfeit that time. This will include a 20-minute warmup and a 5-minute travel time. A piano/keyboard will be provided in each warm-up room.
2. Choirs will be allowed to sing two numbers ONLY effective 2020. ***A warmup selection will NO LONGER be allowed. Maximum total performance time on stage will be 10 minutes.*** Choirs exceeding this time may possibly receive comments only.
3. Standard, high quality choral repertoire should be selected. Use choral clinic and state, regional, and national ACDA or NAFME honor choir repertoire lists as a guide. No pop or show choir repertoire will be allowed.
4. There will be no pre-recorded background accompaniment unless the recording is part of the composition. No accompanists will be provided.
5. Directors are to furnish three scores with numbered measures of each selection performed. Copied music will not be allowed without a letter of permission from the publisher.
6. Three performance judges will provide recorded scores and comments.
7. Separate ratings/scores will be given for performance and sight reading. The sight reading score will count as 10% as the overall score/rating for middle school division and 20% for advanced division. Sight reading will be available from unison to four parts, depending upon the ability level of the choir. Students who perform in more than one choir may not sight sing the same sight singing example more than once. Both Middle School and Advanced level choirs must perform (sight-read) the same classification or one less classification than the literature performed on stage.
8. Choirs may sing for comments only and will not be required to sight sing.
9. Only the choral director of the participating group may assist students in the sight reading procedures. College students/student teachers, parents or accompanists may not provide additional assistance to students during the sight reading.
10. Directors are not to have contact with the judges until the end of the CPA unless permission is granted by the Choral Performance Assessment Committee.
11. Directors are to follow instructions given by the Choral Performance Assessment Committee on the day of the festival.
12. Directors are responsible for all students and their behavior while at the festival site.
13. Groups need to be dressed in proper concert attire: NO JEANS.
14. Photos and videos of groups will be taken at the festival. Any group that does not want their photo or video used on the Choral Division or Choral Performance Assessment website must submit it in writing to the choral festival chair at least one week prior to the event.

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## IV. SIGHT READING/SINGING

1. All students must participate in both the choral performance and sight reading.
2. Appropriate music will be available for each choir, based on their stage performance classification. **Middle Division Level choirs may perform the same classification or one less classification** than the literature performed on stage. **Advanced Division Level choirs must perform the same classification** as the literature performed on stage to be considered for the Superior with Distinction award.
3. The sight-reading music will not have lyrics. The conductor will specify the syllable(s) to be used by the singers (i.e. "loo, solfege, counting syllables, etc.).
4. Conductors and choirs will have five minutes of preparation time before the evaluated sight-reading performance. The evaluator will signal the conductor when one minute of preparation remains. Conductors must stop their preparation promptly when the evaluator indicates that the preparation time has expired.
5. The piano may be used only to arpeggiate the first (or tonic) chord and to sound individual reference pitches during the period of preparation. Two notes may not be played simultaneously on the piano. Two or more consecutive pitches from a particular voice part may not be sounded on the piano. The conductor may use his/her voice in any manner he/she wishes during the preparation period. The conductor may change the key of the sight-reading selection to make it more appropriate for the choir that is singing.
6. After sounding the beginning pitches, the piano may not be used during the evaluated sight-reading performance. The conductor is prohibited from singing with the ensemble during the evaluated sight-reading performance.
7. Conductors and singers should heed any tempo indications, phrase markings, and/or dynamic indications in the sight-reading materials.
8. Chaperones are NOT allowed in the sight reading room. Student teachers may attend the sight reading portion, but may not help or participate. Only the director.

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## **V. AWARDS**

### **Middle Division**

1. Ratings will be: Superior, Excellent or Good. **PLAQUES** will be given for Superior and Excellent ratings.
2. Ratings will be given for sight singing. In the middle school division, sight reading will count as 10% of the overall rating/score.
3. Music scores, plaques can be picked up 30 minutes after your performance. Certificates for a GOOD rating will be mailed at a later time.

### **Advanced Division**

1. Ratings will be: Superior with Distinction, Superior, Excellent or Good. **TROPHIES** will be given for Superior with Distinction, Superior and Excellent ratings.
2. Ratings will be given for sight singing. In the Advanced Division, sight reading will count as 20% of the overall rating/score.
3. Music scores, trophies can be picked up 30 minutes after your performance. Certificates for a GOOD rating will be mailed at a later time.
4. Special awards will be given in the Advanced Division for Superior with Distinction. A Superior with Distinction will be awarded to choirs in the Advanced Division that received Straight Superiors (including sight reading).

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## **VI. CONSEQUENCES OF RULES VIOLATION - NOTIFICATION**

1. When a Rule Violation occurs, the choral director will receive a written letter from the committee stating exactly which standing rule was violated and that all guidelines must be followed or the director and/or school risks being placed on probation and/or barred from participation in future SCMEA Choral Division events if rules violations recur. The Principal will also receive a copy of the same letter if the violation compromised student safety at the event. Students involved in the violation will be barred from attending the same event the following school year for a period of one school year.
2. The same choral director (even if transferred to another school in S.C.) again fails to adhere to the rules or commits two or more Committee Rules violations during the same event. Choral director and school will be put on probationary status. The school choral director, school principal, and Choral Division President will receive written letters from the committee stating that the school may still participate, but the SCMEA By-Laws and Committee Rules serve a real and valuable purpose and it is the Choral Director's responsibility to adhere to them. The letter will contain the event, date, and quote the exact committee rule(s) that were violated. The letters will also direct committee members who teach in the same region of South Carolina to serve as a mentor during this probationary period and submit written documentation to the committee chairperson. Lastly, the letters will state that a recurrence of future violations will result in the students involved, or the Choral Director and the school choral program being barred from attending SCMEA events for one year.
3. (a.) If the Choral Director continues to commit Committee Rules violations after #1 and #2 are issued, either the students involved, or the Choral Director and the school choral program will be barred from participation of all SCMEA Choral Division events for one year. (b.) If the evidence of violations is the direct result of the Choral Director's repeated negligence to review and adhere to the guidelines, the Choral Director (same or different school) and the choral program will be barred from participating in all Choral Division events for one year. The letters (a. and b.) will be mailed to the Choral Director, Principal, District Music Consultant, and Choral Division President containing the documented history of rules violations, dates, and quote the most recent committee rule(s) that were violated. Committee members who teach in the same region of South Carolina will continue to serve as a mentor during this period and submit written documentation to the committee chairperson.

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