



SCMEA Choral Division Handbook 2025-2026

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CHORAL DIVISION OFFICERS 2025-2026

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President-Elect

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Secretary

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Treasurer

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Webmaster

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

All-State Chorus

Lizzi Elliott, York Comprehensive HS
275 Alexander Love Hwy, York 29475
(803)684-2336
Lizzi.elliott@choraldivision.org

High School Choral Performance Assessment

Josh Wall – Beaufort County VPA Coordinator
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Beaufort, SC 29902
843-322-2427
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Middle School Choral Performance Assessment

Casey Kerr, League Academy
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casey.kerr@choraldivision.org

Middle School Choral Clinic

Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School
1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Tega Cay, SC 29708
(803) 548-8300 (s)
jonathan.welch@choraldivision.org

Region Choir

Nicholas Shumate, Chapin High School
300 Columbia Avenue, Chapin, SC 29036
(803) 448-7361
nicholas.shumate@choraldivision.org

Solo and Ensemble Festival

Erin Sellers, Waccamaw High School
2412 Kings River Rd, Pawleys Island, SC 29585
(843)-237-9899 (s) 812-230-6446 (m)
erin.sellers@choraldivision.org

ALL-STATE CHORUS COMMITTEE

Group A (Term 2025-2029)

Jared Fricks, Chelse Lawson, Alex Jones, and Rachel Premo

Group B (Term 2022-2026)

Lizzi Elliott, Amanda Wrona, Emily Reeves Bohl, and Ashlee Poole

Group C (Term 2023-2027)

Sarah Wahl, Melissa Henderson, NeTorrian Patton, and Jacelyn Spearman

HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Kristin Claibourne - Blythewood High Administration
Sarah Wahl - Fountain Inn H.S.
Joshua Wald - West Ashley H.S.

REGION CHOIR COMMITTEE

Region Choir Committee Chairperson & Midlands Region Site Coordinator:
Nicholas Shumate
Chapin High School
Email: nicholas.shumate@choraldivision.org

Phone Number: (803) 448-7361

Southern Region Site Coordinator:

Joshua Wald
West Ashley High School
Phone Number: (864) 356-0239

Western Region Site Coordinator:

Kayla Fernandes
Mauldin High School
Phone Number: (253) 625-6614

Northern Region Site Coordinator:

NeTorrian Patton
Andrew Jackson High School
Phone Number: (803) 610-3527

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE FESTIVAL COMMITTEE

Erin Sellers, Waccamaw High School, Chairperson
Lisa Pecarina, Rock Hill High School
Joshua Wald, West Ashley High School
Sarah High, White Knoll High School
Madi Thomas, Greer High School

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

UPSTATE

Casey Kerr, League Academy of Communication Arts, Chairperson
Leigha Keller and Joey Carlisle - McCracken Middle School
Beth Hoffee - Gable Middle School
Nikki Belch - West-Oak Middle School
Kayla Willimas - Riverside Middle School

MIDLANDS

Beth Brooks - Cyril B. Busbee Academy of the Arts
Selena Brockington - Castle Heights Middle School
Joshua Fleetwood - Dillon Middle School

LOW COUNTRY

Jamie Hawkins - Rollings Middle School of the Arts
Natalie Vernon-Young - Dubose Middle School
Andrea Scheulen - Gregg Middle School

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL CLINIC COMMITTEE

Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill M.S., Chairperson
Bushra Raja, Blue Ridge M.S.
Katelyn Ohler, Abner Creek M.S.
Kristin Rutledge, Mauldin M.S.
Sara Ponds, Lugoff-Elgin M.S.
Casey David, Aynor M.S.
Camille Lacey, Gilbert M.S.
Raymond Dobell, Socastee M.S.
Adam McCormick, Bluffton M.S.
Shelby Krallman, Cane Bay M.S.
Chadwick Redden, Sedgefield M.S.



SCMEA Choral Division Calendar

2025-2026

August

September

2	Choral Arts Registration Deadline	
5-6	Choral Arts Seminar	USC School of Music
26	HS Region Choir Registration Deadline	
	MS Clinics Registration Deadline: Fall Clinics	

October

3	HS All-State Audition Registration Deadline	
21	HS Region Choir: Northern	Winthrop University
	HS Region Choir: Western	Furman University
24	MS SSA & TB Clinic: Northern	Winthrop University
27	MS SAB Clinic: Lowcountry	Charleston Southern University
28	HS Region Choir: Southern	Charleston Southern University
	HS Region Choir: Central	Newberry College
	MS SAB Clinic: Midlands	Richland 2 PAC

November

4-8	HS All-State Chorus Auditions	Lexington 2 PAC
7	MS SSA & TB Clinic: Horry	Conway High School
	MS SSA & TB Clinic: Upstate	Converse University

December

12	MS CPA Registration Deadline	
	HS All-State Weekend Registration Deadline	

January

17	Solo & Ensemble Registration Deadline	
30	MS Clinics Registration Deadline: 5/6th grade clinics	

February

5-7	SCMEA Professional Development Conference	Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
26-28	HS All-State Chorus Weekend	Winthrop University

March

10	MS CPA: Upstate/Western	First Baptist Church of Clemson
12	MS 6th Grade Clinic: Anderson	Anderson University
13	MS 6th Grade Clinic: Spartanburg	Converse University
16-17	HS CPA: Midlands	Lexington 2 PAC
17-18	MS CPA: Lowcountry	Summer's Corner PAC

19-20	HS CPA: Lowcountry	West Ashley High School
20	MS 5/6th grade Clinic: Horry	Conway High School
24-25	HS CPA: Upstate	Fountain Inn High School
26	MS CPA: Upstate/Northern	Morningside Baptist, Greenville
26-27	MS CPA: Midlands	Lexington 2 PAC

April

2	MS Region Choir: Horry	Conway High School
18	Solo & Ensemble: Midlands	White Knoll High School
	Solo & Ensemble: Southern	West Ashley High School
25	Solo & Ensemble: Western	Greer High School
	Solo & Ensemble: Northern	Rock Hill High School

May

16	OPA Submission Deadline
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June

1	SCMEA Performing Ensemble Application Deadline
15	SCMEA Session Proposal Application Deadline

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL CLINICS

Purpose of Middle School Clinics

Choral clinics give students from different choral backgrounds throughout the state an opportunity to rehearse and perform together under the direction of a professional conductor.

Participation in these clinics will:

1. Unify large and small choruses in the common goal of performing challenging choral repertoire
2. Allow students to hear other groups perform in a positive, non-competitive atmosphere
3. Give teachers an unparalleled opportunity to share ideas, music, and "tricks of the trade" and to benefit from first-hand observation of other choruses and conductors
4. Offer students opportunities to be taught by other choral directors

Types of Clinics

Fall Clinics

For the 2025-2026 school year, there will be five sites for fall clinics: Upstate (Spartanburg), Northern, Midlands, Lowcountry (Summerville), and Horry. Upstate, Northern, and Horry locations will be hosting SA and TB clinics on the same day and at the same location. Midlands, and Lowcountry (Summerville) will have SAB Region Choir- style clinics. Please see individual site information for registration fees. If you would like to purchase one for your performing group, plaques will be available to purchase for 30.00.

Upstate

Upstate SA/TB Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	9/26/25
Mail registration fees to:	Katelyn Ohler, Abner Creek Middle School 221 Gin House Rd, Greer, SC 29651
Event Date	11/7/2025
Event Location	Converse University
SA Clinician	Katie Hardwick, Cane Bay High School
TB Clinician	Andrew Huish, Bob Jones University
Site Host	Katelyn Ohler
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. (final concert begins at 6:00 p.m.)

Upstate: SSA Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Dodi Li	Two Part	Doreen Rao	1852672	Link to Pepper
Tuli Tuli	SSA	Alex Gartner	10629402	Link to Pepper
I Met A Bird	Unison/Two Part	Jim Papoulis	11539754	Link to Pepper

Upstate: TB Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Gloria	TB	arr. Mark Patterson	10192348	Link to Pepper
Homeward Bound	Two Part	Jay Althouse	10274940	Link to Pepper
Obiswana	TB	arr. Victor C. Johnson	11197771	Link to Pepper

Northern

Northern SA/TB Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	9/26/25
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	10/24/25
Event Location	Winthrop University
SA Clinician	Maria Ellis, Girl Conductor LLC
TB Clinician	Julian Bryson
Site Host	Jonathan Welch
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. (final concert begins at 6:00 p.m.)

Northern: SA Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
TBD				
TBD				
TBD				

Northern: TB Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
TBD				
TBD				
TBD				

Midlands

Midlands SAB Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	9/26/25
Mail registration fees to:	Sara Ponds, Lugoff-Elgin Middle School 1233 US-1, Lugoff, SC 29078
Event Date	10/28/25
Event Location	Richland 2 Performing Arts Center
Clinician	David Nagelkirk, Goose Creek HS
Site Host	Sara Ponds
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.- 2:00 p.m.

Midlands: SAB Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
O Magnum mysterium	SAB	Evan Ramos	10990309	https://www.jwpepper.com/o-magnum-mysterium-10586916-11933/p
Chosen Family	SAB	Roger Emerson	11513535	https://www.jwpepper.com/chosen-family-11513534-10734/p
Wild Mountain Thyme	SAB	Jacob Narverud	11391898	https://www.jwpepper.com/wild-mountain-thyme-11391897-692343/p
Clap Your Hands and Sing	3 Part Mix	Mary Lynn Lightfoot	10499854	https://www.jwpepper.com/clap-your-hands-and-sing-10499854-264950/p

Lowcountry

Lowcountry (Summerville) SAB Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	9/26/25
Mail registration fees to:	Shelby Krallman, Cane Bay Middle School 1175 Cane Bay Blvd, Summerville, SC 29486
Event Date	October 27th. 2025
Event Location	Charleston Southern University
Clinician	Austin Hannon, Twin Rivers Middle School
Site Host	Chadwick Redden & Shelby Krallman
Start & End time	10:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.(final concert begins at 6:00 p.m.)

Lowcountry: SAB Repertoire					
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper	Notes
TBD					
TBD					
TBD					
TBD					

Horry

Horry SSA/ TB Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	9/26/25
Mail registration fees to:	Raymond Dobell Socastee Middle School 151 Sheffield Parkway, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
Event Date	11/1/25
Event Location	Conway High School
SA Clinician	Dr. Bethany Plissey
TB Clinician	Norman McQueen
Site Host	Raymond Dobell & Casey David
Start & End time	9:30AM -12:30PM: Event Timeline 11:45 Individual School Performances *Clinic Performances Follow School Performances
Attire	Top: School Chorus Uniform Bottom: Jeans Shoes: Any

Horry: SSA Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Cantate Domino	SA	Nancy Hill Cobb	3192275	Click Here
We Are Held	SSA	Susan La Barr	11514263	Click Here
The Storm is Passing Over	SSA	arr. By Barbara W. Baker	5467071	Click Here

Horry: TB Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Medieval Gloria	TB	Vijay Singh	3024569	Click Here
John the Slacker	TTB	Blake Richter	11537026	Click Here
Brown Eyed Girl	TTB	Mac Huff	1819077	Copies to be provided

Spring Clinics

For the 2025-2026 school year, there will be five sites for spring clinics: Upstate (Spartanburg), Upstate (Anderson), Northern, Midlands, and Horry. All locations are for half-day events. Registration fees for spring clinics will be **5.00/student**, plus **30.00** for a plaque if you would like to purchase one for your performing group.

Updates to Spring Clinics this year:

In order to try and provide more opportunities for our younger singers, our Spring clinics will now be open to some 5th grade students, in addition to 6th grade students. To begin with, we are allowing the following:

- 5th grade choral students that are housed with 6th grade students at the intermediate school level are welcome to attend any location
- 5th grade students that are housed in an Elementary school that are in a choral program, that would like to attend in conjunction with their fed middle school choir programs

Upstate

Upstate (Anderson) 6th Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	1/30/26
Mail registration fees to:	Millie Shiflett, Beech Springs Middle 200 S. Danzler Rd, Duncan, SC 29334
Event Date	3/12/26
Event Location	Anderson University
SA Clinician	Shannon Day, Byrnes High School
Site Host	Millie Shiflett
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Upstate (Anderson): 6th grade				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Wau Bulan	SA	Tracy Wong	10779762	Link to Pepper
Hashivenu	Two-Part/SA	Arr. Ruth Morris Gray	11613270	Link to Pepper
Peace on Earth, and Lots of Little Crickets	SA	Paul Carey	10046157	Link to Pepper

Upstate (Spartanburg) 6th Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	1/30/26
Mail registration fees to:	Katelyn Ohler Abner Creek Middle School 221 221 Gin House Rd., Greer, SC 29651
Event Date	3/13/26
Event Location	Converse University
SA Clinician	Camille Lacey
Site Host	Katelyn Ohler
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Upstate (Spartanburg): 6th grade				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
TBD				
TBD				
TBD				

Midlands

Midlands 6th grade Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	1/30/26
Mail registration fees to:	Camille Lacey, Gilbert Middle 120 Rikard Cir, Gilbert, SC 29054
Event Date	3/12/26
Event Location	Gilbert Performing Arts Center
Clinician	Augustus Gill
Site Host	Camille Lacey
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Midlands: 6th grade repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
TBD				

TBD				
TBD				

Horry

Horry 5/6th grade Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	1/30/26
Mail registration fees to:	Raymond Dobell Socastee Middle School 151 Sheffield Parkway, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
Event Date	3/7/25
Event Location	Conway High School
Clinician	Lauren Willis
Site Host	Raymond Dobell & Casey David
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Horry: 6th grade Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
TBD				
TBD				
TBD				
TBD				

Middle School Region Choir: Horry

Horry County will again hold an SAB Region Choir in the spring semester. The Clinics committee is also offering two other SAB Choir options for the 2025-2026 school year that are held during the fall semester. Please see information about these sites above. Registration for this event is 15.00/ student, plus 30.00 for a plaque for any performing group.

Horry: Region Choir Pilot Information	
Registration Deadline	3/5/26
Mail registration fees to:	Raymond Dobell Socastee Middle School 151 Sheffield Parkway, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588
Event Date	4/2/26
Event Location	Conway High School

Clinician	Alyssa Cossey
Site Host	Raymond Dobell and Casey David
Start & End time	9:30AM -6:30PM: Event Timeline 5:30 School Performances 6:00 Combined Performance
Attire	Top: Dress Black or Black School Uniform Bottom: Dress Black Shoes: Solid Black

Horry: Region Choir Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
TBD				
TBD				
TBD				

Registration

Registration Forms

Directors are required to *completely* fill out the registration form for any event they plan on attending. Event hosts need this information to communicate with all attending schools to ensure a smooth, and well-run event. If a registration form is missing any information, the committee will consider that registration form void, and you will not be able to attend the event. Please do not attend a choral clinic unless you have completely filled out a registration form prior to the deadline.

****Please take note of the timeframe for any clinic you sign-up to attend. Schools are expected to stay and participate for the entire event. This is especially important for events with concluding performances****

NAfME Membership

Directors registering to attend clinics must be an active member of SCMEA/NAfME. Directors are required to enter their SCMEA/NAfME number on the registration form, and the director's membership **MUST** be active at the time of registration. Anyone without an active membership will not be allowed to attend.

Payment

Schools may pay via check, or credit card through the choral division portal. Checks must be postmarked by the registration deadline, and mailed directly to the **site host** for the event you plan on attending. Credit card payments are due by the registration deadline at midnight.

Preparing to attend a clinic Repertoire

Directors are responsible for purchasing their own repertoire. Repertoire lists are provided under each site listed above, and on the Choral division website. Please make sure you read the repertoire list carefully and order the correct pieces for your school. Links for each piece are included in this handbook. You may only bring original copies to an SCMEA-sponsored event. If you have e-prints, please plan on bringing a receipt of purchase with those copies to ensure you have enough copies for each student.

Directors are responsible for preparing any students they bring with them. Students are expected to attend the clinic knowing the music already. It does not have to be memorized, but students should feel confident in their own voice

parts. This allows the clinicians to work on other elements to take our students to the next level, rather than only reviewing notes/rhythms.

Practice Tracks

Currently, the Middle School Choral Clinics Committee does not offer practice tracks as a part of our registration fee. However, you may want to consider using practice tracks with your students to help prepare them for your chosen event. Here are some ideas:

1. Matthew Curtis has many tracks available for purchase for selected pieces through JW Pepper. Just type in the piece, and search for "Choral Tracks."
2. Make your own!
3. Check the publisher's websites. They may have tracks available for purchase, or even free downloads. Bri-Lee used to have free tracks available for their pieces.

Day of the Clinic

Director Expectations

- Directors and chaperones should actively supervise and help during the day. We would love your assistance with singing parts where needed or supporting our clinicians as they request.
- Please make sure your students are prepared on notes and rhythms and have black folders, original copies, and pencils to make notes with.
- Groups should plan on staying until the conclusion of the final performance. At that time, you may dismiss your students as you choose (depending on whether they will be picked up there or if they will return to school with you.)
- Please bring chaperones with you as needed (1 chaperone per 15 students)

Student expectations

- Students should be practicing and preparing their music ahead of time.
- Come in prepared on the repertoire so that our clinicians can clean and get the music performance ready.
- Bring black binders with original copies of their music
- Behave respectfully to all students and adults throughout the day
- Come ready to work
- Have a pencil to mark in music as needed
- Electronic devices should not be out at any time during rehearsal
- Only water is allowed in the rehearsal rooms
- Clothing: Please wear school-appropriate clothing. Directors may ask students to wear their choir t-shirts if they wish. There is no required uniform for the performance.

General expectations

- If signing up to attend a clinic, it is expected that your group is there for the entire day, actively participating
- Within 10 days of the registration window closing, Your site host will be in touch with you to begin communicating information to help you prepare to attend your selected clinic(s).
- Schools should not attend a clinic unless the director has correctly registered prior to the registration deadline.
- Please feel free to reach out to your site hosts to ask any questions prior to your clinic
- All-day clinics will end with a final performance. Parents and other community members are welcome and encouraged to attend to support our students!
- Sample schedules for both all-day and half-day clinics are shown below. Any alterations to these schedules will be communicated to you by your site hosts.

Sample Schedule-All day clinic

9:15 a.m.	Arrive. Meet in Sanctuary to discuss expectations, introduce clinicians, etc. Begin moving to rehearsal spaces.
9:30-11:45 a.m.	Rehearsal I
11:45-12:45 p.m.	Lunch in the fellowship hall (students should bring their own lunches)
12:45-3:00 p.m.	Rehearsal II

3:00-3:30 p.m.	Individual group performances in Sanctuary. (optional..just for fun! You may perform a work in progress if you'd like.)/Break.
3:30- 4:30 p.m.	Rehearsal III
4:30-5:00 p.m.	TTB Sanctuary rehearsal
5:00-5:30 p.m.	Final staging/logistics
5:30-5:50 p.m.	Break
5:50 p.m.	Call time for performance
6:00-6:30 p.m.	Performance.

Sample Schedule-Half day clinic

9:15 a.m.	Arrive. Meet in Sanctuary to discuss expectations, introduce clinicians, etc. Begin warm-up.
9:30-10:00 a.m.	Rehearsal I
10:00-10:20 a.m.	Performance (2 groups)
10:20-10:50 a.m.	Rehearsal II
10:50-11:10 a.m.	Performance (2 groups)
11:10-11:40 a.m.	Rehearsal III
11:40-12:00 p.m.	Performance (2 groups)- extra time built in if someone else decides to sing
12:00-12:15 p.m.	Rehearsal IV
12:15-12:30 p.m.	Final review/Performance of pieces
12:30 p.m.	Dismissal

Inclement Weather

In the event of inclement weather, the event coordinator will reach out to directors with as much prior notice as possible to decide whether the event will proceed. Every effort will be made to hold the event where possible as long as students may safely attend.

Refunds can be granted if SCMEA cancels the event due to inclement weather.

Contact a Committee Member

The Middle School Choral Clinics Committee is always here to help you as much as possible. Please do not hesitate to contact us with any questions you may have.

If you have any interest in assisting with our clinics, please contact our site hosts or committee chair. We would love your help.

Get involved! We have two open business meetings every school year:

1. Choral Arts
 - a. MS Clinics meeting is typically held at 6:30 pm on Friday.
2. SCMEA Professional Development)
 - a. MS Clinics meeting typically held at 7:30 p.m. on Thursday

Committee Members

Upstate		
Bushra Raja	Katelyn Ohler	Kristin Rutledge
Location: Greenville Blue Ridge Middle School 2423 E. Tyger Bridge Rd, Greer, SC 29651	Location: Spartanburg Abner Creek Middle School 221 221 Gin House Rd., Greer, SC 29651	Location: Greenville Mauldin Middle School 1190 Holland Rd, Simpsonville, SC 29681

braja@greenville.k12.sc.us	katelyn.ohler@spart5.net	kmrutledge@greenville.k12.sc.us
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Northern
Jonathan Welch, Chair
Location: Fort Mill Gold Hill Middle School 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708 jonathan.welch@choraldivision.org

Midlands	
Sara Ponds	Camille Lacey
Location: Kershaw Lugoff-Elgin Middle School 1244 US-1, Lugoff, SC 29078 sara.ponds@kcsdschools.net	Location: Gilbert Gilbert Middle School 120 Rikard Circle, Gilbert, SC 29054 clacey@lexington1.net

Lowcountry		
Adam McCormick	Shelby Krallman	Chadwick Redden
Location: Bluffton Bluffton Middle School 30 New Mustang Drive, Bluffton, SC 29910 Adam.McCormick@beaufort.k12.sc.us	Location: Summerville Cane Bay Middle School 1175 Cane Bay Blvd, Summerville, SC 29486 Krallmans@bcsdschools.net	Location: Goose Creek Sedgefield Middle School 131 Charles B Gibson Ave, Goose Creek, SC 29445 reddec@bcsdschools.net

Horry	
Casey David	Raymond Dobell
Location: Aynor Aynor Middle School 400 Frye Rd, Galivants Ferry, SC 29544 cdavid@horrycountyschools.net	Location: Myrtle Beach Socastee Middle School 151 Sheffield Parkway, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588 rdobell@horrycountyschools.net

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

REGISTRATION

Deadline: December 12th, 2025

- Login to the SCMEA Choral Division Website, by creating an account using your NAFME membership. Navigate to CPA>Middle School Site Info to view site information and registration.
- Once you have logged in to the Choral Division Website and completed registration and payment you will be considered fully registered.
- If you choose to pay by check, it must be postmarked by December 12, 2025 and made payable to SCMEA Choral Division.
 - Mail to:
League Academy
% Casey Kerr
125 Twin Lake Road
Greenville, SC 29609

Eligibility

Current NAFME/SCMEA membership (required to login to the site. If a student teacher is conducting, they will also need to present their membership card at the site check-in.

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 in the adjudication. 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 on the SCMEA Choral Division Website by December 12, 2025 for online payments or checks postmarked by December 12, 2025.

Cancellation

No money will be refunded due to cancellation after February 1, 2026 for all Sites. Proof of payment online should also be submitted by the due date.

SITE INFO

Upstate: Northern

Dates: March 26th, 2026

Location: Morningside Baptist Church

897 S. Pine Street

Spartanburg, SC 29302

Upstate: Western

Dates: March 10th, 2026

Location: First Baptist Church of Clemson

397 College Ave.

Clemson, SC 29631

Midlands

Dates: March 26-27th, 2026

Location: Lexington 2 Performing Arts Center

3209 Platt Springs Rd

Lowcountry

Dates: March 17-18th, 2026

Location: Summers Corner Performing Arts Center

318 Gnarly Oak Lane

Summerville, SC 29485

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 2026. 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 in a spring email with the schedule. 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 no later than SCMEA Conference in February, 2026. Directors must not discuss the Choral Performance Assessment with the judges or use any of the judges as a clinician during the 2025-2026 school year.

DIVISIONS

	<u>NO DIVISIONS WILL BE CONDUCTED FOR THE 2026 CPA EVENT YEAR</u>
Requirements	Students in 6-8 grade, housed in a middle school or an intermediate school that is eligible for middle school events
Awards Given	<ul style="list-style-type: none">-Number scores awarded-Ratings or Comments only -For beginning/ intermediate groups, new teachers, small schools, young singers, non-auditioned groupsFor advanced groups, larger schools, experienced teachers or auditioned groups -Trophies given for Superior with Distinction*, Superior, Excellent

	*Superior with Distinction is given to groups who receive Superior from all three performance judges and sight reading judge and sightreads at the same voicing as their performance pieces.
Judging	-Using a defined rubric - CPA Judges Rubric -Judges would be made aware of the school's chosen division and the Superior with Distinction system prior to judging
Sight Reading	SCMEA MS CPA SIGHT READING - 2025 10% of overall score One judge will be in the sight reading room CPA Sight Reading Judges Rubric
Scoring	SUPERIOR = 90-100 EXCELLENT = 80-89 GOOD = 70-79 FAIR = 60-69 *No scores are ROUNDED TO THE NEXT WHOLE NUMBER

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 assessment and remain with them during the performance day. Please ensure that students are supervised at all times. Students must be accompanied to the restroom by an adult.
2. No cell phones, other devices, hats, sunglasses, food/drink or any item that would interfere with the aural, visual and appreciation of the 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 scores and record verbal 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 2-part 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.

SIGHT READING

Sight Reading Requirements:

1. All students must participate in both the choral performance and sight reading.
2. Directors can still choose to go down one voicing from their stage performance as done before in the middle school division only. (Ex. SATB on stage, can sight-read SAB). Doing so omits a choir for being considered for the Superior with Distinction Rating.
Appropriate music will be available for each choir, based on their stage performance classification. **NO DIVISION SEPARATION WILL HAPPEN THIS YEAR. Only choirs that choose to sight read the same classification as their literature will be considered for the Superior with Distinction award.**
3. Directors will be given one minute to look at the score BEFORE it is passed out to the students.
4. Directors and choirs will have 9 (nine) minutes of preparation time before the evaluated sight-reading performance. The adjudicator will signal the conductor when one minute of preparation remains. Directors must stop their preparation promptly when the adjudicator 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 director may use his/her voice in any manner he/she wishes during the preparation period. The director 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 director is prohibited from singing with the ensemble during the adjudicated sight-reading performance.
7. Directors and singers should heed any tempo indications, phrase markings, and/or dynamic indications in the sight-reading materials.
8. ONLY the director may assist students during the assessment. Student teachers and School Administrators may be allowed in the sight reading room to observe, but may not help or participate.

AWARDS

1. Ratings will be: Superior with Distinction (for choirs who choose the same classification for SR), Superior, Excellent, Good, Fair, or Poor. TROPHIES will be given for Superior with Distinction, Superior and Excellent ratings.
2. Ratings will be given for sight singing. Sight reading will count as 10% of the overall rating/score.
3. Music scores, trophies can be picked up 30 minutes after your performance.

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.

HIGH SCHOOL REGION CHOIR

<https://choraldivision.org/region/high-school-region-choirs/>

The purpose of the SCMEA Choral Division Region Choir is to provide an opportunity for vocally talented 9-12 grade students to work with a well-known expert clinician culminating in a concert presentation for the public. The experience will provide the following:

- 1) An opportunity for musical growth and development above the traditional classroom setting through the intense study of challenging repertoire;
- 2) An opportunity to encourage continued participation and support in local school choral programs;
- 3) An aesthetic gift to the local communities supporting each Region Choir site.

A. SELECTION

Directors are welcome to attend any Region Choir Site regardless of where their school is located. Because Region Choir is not auditioned, the committee gives directors this choice. Approval to attend a different Region Choir Site must be given to the school before registering. Contact Region Choir Chairperson, Nicholas Shumate nshumate@lexrich5.org, before registering their students for approval.

If the school is located within the Region Choir site, directors may bring up to a set number of vocalists in balanced quartets (SATB), see details below. Students must be active members of the school's Choral Program. **Directors are encouraged to bring students who are prepared and know the music before their first rehearsal at Region Choir.**

- If a school has unbalanced quartets, please contact Region Choir Chairperson, Nicholas Shumate nshumate@lexrich5.org, before registering their students for approval.
- If a school is choosing to attend a different Region Choir event than the one in their area, please contact Region Choir Chairperson, Nicholas Shumate nshumate@lexrich5.org, before registering their students for approval.

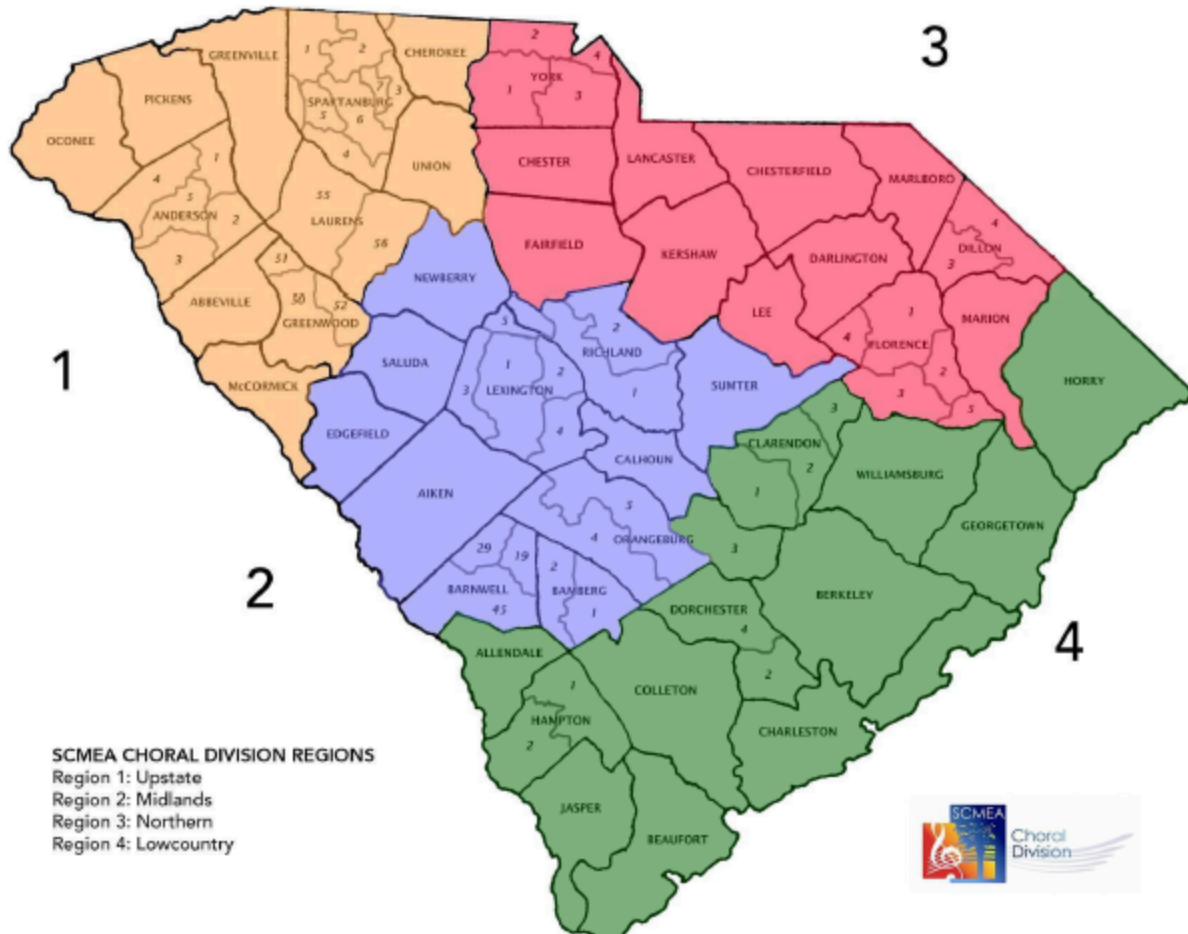
***Important/New-**

Due to a huge influx of students at last year's events, Region Choir is limiting the number of students that you may register initially. Process will be explained below:

- Each school will be allowed to register a set number of students initially. Each Region allotment will be different due to the number of schools attending and the venue size. Some Regions have more schools participating than others. See below for numbers allowed for each Region:
 - Central:
 - Each school attending this Region can register **10** students initially.
 - Northern:
 - Each school attending this Region can register **20** students initially.
 - Southern:
 - Each school attending this Region can register **16** students initially.
 - Western:
 - Each school attending this Region can register **10** students initially.
- Each school will be able to sign up extra students during the registration that they would like to bring per voice part. If there is extra room, directors will be contacted the first of October with the exact number of extra students they will be able to bring per voice part. Extra students will be accepted in the order (date/time) that the school signed up. Get your registration in early if you are wanting to bring more than the allotted number of students in balanced quartets (SATB) for your Region. All registrations are time stamped and dated.
 - Schools that are allowed to bring extra students will pay/register a second time on the Choral Division Website. Payment will be due by the date of their event. If there is an issue/problem, please contact Nicholas Shumate.

SC Choral Division Region Map: (This Map Is Also Located At The End Of The Choral Division Handbook)

The SCMEA Choral Division divides the state into regions to make sure all demographics are represented on Division committees. Regional events are not exclusive for the Choral Division as they are for other divisions; schools may attend events in any region in the state.



Region Choir Committee Chairperson:
Nicholas Shumate
Chapin High School
Email: nicholas.shumate@choraldivision.org
Phone Number: (803) 448-7361

Midlands Region Site Coordinator:
 Sarah High
 White Knoll High School
 (803) 457-4908

Southern Region Site Coordinator:
 Joshua Wald
 West Ashley High School
 Phone Number: (864) 356-0239

Western Region Site Coordinator:
 Kayla Fernandes
 Mauldin High School
 Phone Number: (253) 625-6614

Northern Region Site Coordinator:

NeTorrian Patton

Blythewood High School

Phone Number: (803) 610-3527

B. SELECTED PARTICIPANTS

- 1) Directors are to choose students they feel are going to be successful at Region Choir. Directors are welcome to determine a selection process that works best for their Choral Program. **DIRECTORS ARE RESPONSIBLE FOR THE PREPARATION OF THE MUSIC BY THEIR STUDENTS PRIOR TO THE EVENT. STUDENTS MUST BE ABLE TO SING THE MUSIC AND MATCH PITCH.**
- 2) Check-In will occur prior to the first rehearsal. A tentative schedule for each site is included below.

C. REGION CHOIR RULES

Teachers and Students **MUST BE PRESENT** at all Region Choir Activities. Example: Rehearsals and Performance. Emergency situations may be excused but each director **MUST** talk with the site Coordinator if an emergency occurs for approval.

All incidents or exceptions pertaining to the Region Choir rules and regulations will be subject to review by the Region Choir Committee and could result in consequences to the school and/or student(s) involved. Requests for exceptions due to extenuating circumstances must be submitted in writing to the Region Choir Committee Chairperson two weeks prior to the event.

1) Rehearsal Guidelines:

- a. No gum, no talking, no tobacco, no vaping, alcohol, and no illegal substances of any kind.
- b. Each student is expected to devote his/her full attention to the director at all times in all rehearsals and performance.
- c. Each student must bring a pencil and his/her music to ALL rehearsals/concert, even if the music is memorized.
- d. Each student will need a black folder for use at the concert.
- e. Dress Code for Rehearsals:
 - i. Students are to wear normal school clothes that meet dress code policies for their school/district. Students should be appropriately covered.
 - ii. Hats, sunglasses, or any other item that would interfere with rehearsal are prohibited.

2) General Guidelines:

- a. Students should be chaperoned at all times. Appropriate attentive behavior will be expected at all times. Students that cannot maintain this requirement will be removed from the Region Choir event.
- b. **All students who attend rehearsals must participate in the concert.**
- c. Students will be dismissed from Region Choir participation on the following grounds. Other reasons at the Chairperson/Site Coordinator discretion that may not be listed below deemed inappropriate will result in dismissal:
 - i. Vandalism of any kind. The student's school will be held responsible for damages.
 - ii. Possession of drugs without a doctor's prescription.
 - iii. Possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages.
- d. Disciplinary action, not excluding dismissal, will be taken on the following grounds:
 - i. Failure to adhere to attendance, and rehearsal/concert regulations.
 - ii. Any behavior found to be unbecoming by the Region Choir Site Coordinator/Chairperson.
 - iii. Cell phones and any other electronic device with/without headphones are not to be present during rehearsals/concert. If a student is found to be in possession of these items during the rehearsal, the student's name will be taken and the director will be notified. If the same student is found to be in possession of the items for the 2nd time, they will be removed from participation in Region Choir, and the student's director will be notified.
 - 1. Directors/Teachers are suggested to take their student's cell phones so that this is not a problem!**
 - iv. Teachers are responsible for the conduct and behavior of their students throughout the entire Region Choir event. They are to monitor their students' behavior by walking around frequently and addressing any problems with behavior immediately. This is not an event to simply drop your students off at.**
- e. Any dismissed student may cause his/her school to be suspended from participation for one year. An explanatory letter will be sent to the student's parents, choral director, school principal, and district administration.
- f. Members of the Region Choir will adhere to the following concert dress. All attire will be checked for compliance prior to the concert. Students not in compliance with the dress code **WILL BE PROHIBITED**

FROM SINGING IN THE CONCERT and will put the school in jeopardy of suspension from Region Choir participation for one year. If you are unsure that your uniform is compliant, contact the Region Choir Chairperson.

i. Dress Code for Performance:

1. NO DENIM. Schools should wear their performance attire or concert black. Attire should cover the student's body appropriately for the concert.

D. REPERTOIRE

Each school is responsible for the purchase of music for their students.

The registration fee **DOES NOT** cover the cost of music. **All students must have original copies of the music. Absolutely no photocopies allowed unless the selection is in the public domain or written permission is granted by the publisher. If a school has purchased ecopies or print on demand copies, proof of purchase must be provided.**

Rehearsal tracks can be obtained by going to the SCMEA Choral Division Website. Log in and under the Region Choir Menu there is a tab that says Rehearsal Tracks. You will be able to download them from there. If you have any problems, please contact Nicholas Shumate for assistance at nshumate@lexrich5.org.

2025-2026 Repertoire

Key:

SAB Voicing

FREE Sheet Music

Pay Attention To

- Joshua Fit The Battle of Jericho- arr. Brandon Boyd
 - SATB
 - Commissioned for Region Choir 2025-2026
 - Directors should login to the SC MEA Choral Division Website to obtain the PDF of this score. There should be a link under the Region Choir menu on the main webpage for you to download the PDF. Must be logged into the website to obtain the PDF. If you have a problem, please contact Nicholas Shumate, nshumate@lexrich5.org.
 - **SC MEA Region Choir Committee paid for every school to be able to copy this piece and perform it at Region Choir ONLY.**
 - **"Duplication or performance of this work apart from the 2025-2026 SCMEA Region Choir is strictly prohibited."**
- The Word Was God- Rosephanye Powell
 - SATB opt. accompanied version (NOT SSAATTBB)
 - [JWPepper Link](#)
- Jambo- arr. Jacob Narverud
 - SATB
 - [JWPepper Link](#)
- Gloria- Franz Joseph Haydn/arr. Russell Robinson
 - Three-Part Mixed
 - [JWPepper Link](#)
- More Waters Rising- arr. Adam and Matt Podd
 - SATB
 - [JWPepper Link](#)

E. REGISTRATION

1) Registration will be completed online through the SCMEA Choral Division Website. Please login to your account to register.

2) Registration Deadline: Friday, September, 26, 2025

3) Registration Fee: \$15 Per Student

a. Registration cost covers the following:

i. Payment of:

1. Clinician

2. Pianist
- b. ***Note-** The cost of Region Choir is kept low in order to make this event affordable for students/schools. **The fee DOES NOT include sheet music for each student. Each school participating is responsible for purchasing music for their students. Look under Section D Repertoire for more details.**
- 4) Site Dates:
- Western Region Site-
 - Location: Furman University
 - Address: 3300 Poinsett Hwy., Greenville, SC 29613
 - Tuesday, October 21, 2025**
 - Clinician: Dr. Gregory Graf (Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities North Greenville University)
 - Northern Region Site-
 - Location: Winthrop University
 - Address: 1708 Memorial Cir., Rock Hill, SC 29733
 - Tuesday, October 21, 2025**
 - Clinician: Dr. Jonathan Hall (Chair of Music, Assistant Professor of Music, Assistant Dean Division of Arts, Education, Humanities, & Social Sciences Newberry College)
 - Central Region Site-
 - Location: Newberry College
 - Address: 2100 College Street, Newberry, SC 29108
 - Tuesday, October 28, 2025**
 - Clinician: Stephen Gusukuma (Bingham L. Vick, Jr., and Judith S. Vick Assistant Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities Furman University)
 - Southern Region Site-
 - Location: Charleston Southern University
 - Address: 9200 University Blvd., Charleston, SC 29406
 - Tuesday, October 28, 2025**
 - Clinician: Dr. Jeremy Mims (Associate Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities Winthrop University)
- 5) Site Schedule: (Schedule May Vary At Each Site)

1 Day Only	
8:30-9:00 AM	Check-In
9:00 AM-12:00 PM	Rehearsal- Possible Sectional Rehearsal
12:00-1:30 PM	Lunch (More Time May Be Needed Depending On Site Limitations)
1:30-4:30 PM	Rehearsal- Possible Sectional Rehearsal
4:30-5:30 PM	Dinner and Change For Concert
5:30-6:00 PM	Warm-Up/Rehearsal For Concert
6:00 PM	Performance

- 6) All questions should be directed to Nicholas Shumate, Region Choir Committee Chairperson, nshumate@lexrich5.org.
- 7) If paying by check, **all registrations should be paid with one check and should be made out to SCMEA Choral Division**. Mail check to:
 Nicholas Shumate
 Chapin High School Choral Director
 300 Columbia Ave.
 Chapin, SC 29036
nshumate@lexrich5.org

F. PAYMENT POLICY

All payments must be received by or postmarked by Friday, September 26, 2025.

G. REFUND POLICY

Refunds will be given only if the entire event has to be canceled due to inclement weather that affects the site or for COVID reasons. Individual school cancellations will not be refunded. All attempts will be made to reschedule the event. Schools that cannot come due to weather will be encouraged to participate in another region if possible.

ALL-STATE CHORUS

<https://choraldivision.org/all-state/auditions-and-resources/>

The All-State Chorus program was organized to provide an opportunity for superior choral students in South Carolina to sing together and to represent the state in statewide events. Students who participate in All-State have an opportunity to further utilize the skills obtained and developed in their local school programs. The South Carolina All-State Chorus program provides an intensive and demanding vocal experience which fosters self-discipline and personal growth as well as musicianship.

A. MEMBERSHIP

Membership in the All-State Chorus is based on the total points received in the audition. Students in grades 9th-12th must be enrolled for at least one credit during the 25-26 school year in a school choral program directed by a member with an active NAfME membership and in good standing with SCMEA. Membership of the director will be verified through the NAfME database. Home-schooled students enrolled in a public or home-school choral program for at least one credit in the 25-26 school year must provide documentation that qualifies them as 9th-12th grade students and a member of a South Carolina Home School Association at the time of registration. A director may not sponsor students enrolled in a school other than his/her own. Failure to comply with these rules will result in the involved student(s) not being able to participate in the All-State Chorus Weekend and their school being suspended from participating in auditions for the next academic year.

Registration For Auditions

1. Choral directors should limit registration only to students who possess superior musical skills. Audition registration information can be found at www.choraldivision.org.
2. Teachers must submit All-State Chorus Audition Registration through the process designated by the All-State Chorus Chairperson. The registration process is completed online.
3. The audition fee is twenty dollars (\$20.00) per student and must be remitted to the All-State Chorus Chairperson along with a digital submission of the Audition Request Form. Registration fees should be paid using only one school check, personal check, money order payable to SCMEA Choral Division, or online at registration.
4. Registration forms must be completed online and appropriate fees must be paid online or payment check postmarked by **Friday, October 3, 2025**. (LATE AND/OR INCOMPLETE REGISTRATIONS WILL NOT BE ALLOWED TO AUDITION. NO EXCEPTIONS!!). Without payment, your registration will be considered incomplete and will be returned. The link for online payment may be found on the Choral Division Website. www.choraldivision.org
 - o If mailing one check for payment, please send it to Lizzi Elliott, York Comprehensive High School, 275 Alexander Love Hwy, York, SC 29745. If your school district is submitting a check, please make sure that your school information is indicated and mailed with the check. Please make sure all checks are made payable to SCMEA Choral Division.
5. Once the registration materials have been submitted to the All-State Chorus Chairperson, no refunds will be made, no substitutions of names will be allowed, no voice parts can be changed, and no other changes can be made.

Registration Instructions

Questions about eligibility and the online registration process should be directed to Lizzi Elliott.

Auditions

1. Auditions will be held on **November 4-8, 2025 at Lexington 2 Performing Arts Center**
2. Auditions will be solo auditions and will be divided into two phases:
 - o Prepared audition selection: SSATB "Alleluia" by Pergolesi ed. Bird
 - o Sight-Singing
3. The prepared audition selection portion of the South Carolina All-State Chorus auditions will be blind auditions. Students will be placed behind a curtain, screen, or partition. If this is not possible, judges will sit with their

backs to the students. Students will perform their part of the prepared audition piece with the audition prompt provided on the Choral Division Website. This track will include the starting pitch for their voice part and the other 4 voices played by piano with their part omitted throughout. For example, if you are auditioning as a bass, the bass part will be omitted and the soprano 1, soprano 2, alto, and tenor voices will be played by a piano track.

4. Each student will be given a number of points on each phase of the audition. Individual singers will be selected according to their overall performance at the audition based on the total number of points received in the prepared selection and the sight-singing.
5. Basic techniques and sight-singing will be judged individually. The student will audition individually before three judges. Each student will receive scores from three judges for the prepared piece. Individual student scores for the prepared piece will be determined immediately. The score range will be 0 – 50 from each judge. Each judge will award up to ten points in each of the following categories: Rhythmic and Timing Accuracy, Pitch and Intonation, Diction, Tone Quality, Musicality. Scores from all three judges will be combined for a total score for the prepared piece. The maximum score possible for the prepared piece will be 150 (50 points from three judges).
6. Sight-singing material will be selected by the All-State Chorus Committee Chairperson and the Audition Coordinator. After successfully completing the prepared selection, all students will sight-sing individually for the same three judges in the same audition room.
7. Sight-Singing Process: All directions will be given from a recorded prompt. Students may begin studying the example during the recorded prompt. The example will be 8 measures, and will be printed on two lines, four measures per line. Students will be given the tonic triad and the beginning pitch. They will have 60 seconds to practice the 8 measure piece. After 60 seconds, the students will hear the tonic triad and the beginning pitch again. The students will have 45 seconds to sing through the piece. The student must set his/her own tempo. Count off tempo will NOT be given. The student may sing on solfège, numbers, la, ta, count-singing, etc. The score range will be 0 – 18.

Sight-reading Parameters:

1. The piece will be in any major key.
2. It will start on Do and end on Do.
3. The most difficult rhythm will be a dotted quarter note followed by an eighth note.
4. Skips will come from the I, IV, and V7 triads. (Do, Mi, Sol; Fa, La, Do ; Sol, Ti, Re, Fa)
5. There may be quarter rests.

Students will receive 1 point for completing each half measure accurately (beats 1-2, beats 3-4), one point for retaining tonic, and one point for flow (maintaining a steady tempo with no hesitations or restarts). Students must attempt the rhythmic pattern and melodic contour in order to receive points for retaining tonic and flow.

Scores from all three judges will be combined for a total score for sight singing. The maximum score possible for sight singing will be 54 points (18 points from three judges). This portion of the audition will also be blind.

After completing the sight-singing portion of the audition process, students will leave the building and have no contact with students waiting to audition.

If you have students that need special accommodations due to disabilities, please contact the audition coordinator.

The maximum possible composite score will be 204 (150 from the prepared piece and 54 from sight-singing).

8. ALL STUDENTS MUST AUDITION AT THEIR SCHOOL'S ASSIGNED TIME. Although students may have previously been members of the All-State Chorus program, they will be required to audition again.
9. Absolutely no digital devices, including, but not limited to, phones, smart watches, CD players, CD recorders, iPods, MP3 players, video/DVD recorders, radios, or text messaging devices, will be allowed in or near the audition site. Cell phones are to be turned off and left outside the building. If a student is found using any device listed above within the audition site building, the device will be confiscated immediately. If a student's digital device has been confiscated, that student's audition will be forfeited, and the student's school will receive a level 1 violation. That student's teacher must pick up the device for the student before leaving the premises. Teachers and students are expected to respect the confidentiality of the sight-singing process and not share written or verbal communication.
10. No changing of clothes on site.
11. Teachers must be present with their students at the auditions. Students not accompanied by their own teacher will not be allowed to audition.
12. No photocopied music will be allowed.

13. All incidents or exceptions pertaining to the All-State Chorus rules and regulations will be subject to review by the All-State Chorus Committee and could result in consequences to the school and/or student(s) involved.

Selected Participants

1. The All-State Chorus will be composed of up to three ensembles chosen randomly from the highest-scoring students. No alternate All-State Chorus members will be selected, nor may any teacher make any substitutions. Failure to comply with the substitution rule will result in the substituted students not being allowed to participate in the All-State Chorus Weekend and their school being suspended for the next academic year.
2. Cut-off scores, how to access score sheets, and other information will be emailed to each director after auditions have been completed. It is the responsibility of the director to double-check the scores and notify students of their acceptance into the All-State Chorus. If you do not receive an email or have questions about scores, please contact Lizzi Elliott, Audition Coordinator.
3. Schools with no students selected may be invited to bring their top-scoring students to participate in the All-State Chorus weekend. The student will be a part of the All-State Chorus but will not be eligible to receive scholarships from colleges due to All-State Chorus acceptance.
4. Teachers are responsible for the preparation of the music by their students prior to the All-State Chorus Weekend. Teachers should not expect students to learn the music entirely independently. Rehearsal tracks will be provided for each student.
5. Music Screening/Part Check: There will be a music screening/part check event at the beginning of the first rehearsal. All-State Chorus Committee members will walk through while the choir sings each piece to ensure that singers have prepared the repertoire. If there is any question about their preparation, singers will be given an opportunity to privately demonstrate that they know the music. If singers cannot demonstrate proficiency, they will not be sent home, nor will we provide tutorials on-site. They will become an Auditor. If singers are significantly late to a rehearsal, miss an entire rehearsal, or commit some other major infraction of rules decided upon by the choir managers, they will become an Auditor. Auditor: Any singer who becomes an auditor will be allowed to attend all rehearsals, be seated in the back of the rehearsal hall, and learn as the other singers do; however, they will not be allowed to sing in the concert. Thus, they will continue to learn and be allowed to attend guest performances and social activities but will lose the privilege of singing in the concert.
6. Attendance: All students that have been selected for the All-State Chorus must attend 100% of the All-State Chorus Weekend. All absences will be reviewed by the All-State Chorus Committee and could result in consequences to the school and/or student involved. All written documentation pertaining to absences must be submitted to the All-State Chorus Weekend Coordinator two weeks prior to the All-State Chorus Weekend. In an emergency, you must provide documentation at All-State Chorus registration.

****PLEASE NOTE:** We will provide information about the All-State Chorus Weekend as it becomes available. All-State Chorus will be held February 26-28, 2026 at Winthrop University. A more detailed schedule will be provided when it is available.

All-State Chorus Weekend Rules

TEACHERS AND STUDENTS MUST BE PRESENT AT ALL ALL-STATE CHORUS ACTIVITIES, i.e., general auditions, rehearsals, special auditions, performances, etc. TEACHERS MUST STAY AT THE SAME HOTEL AS THEIR STUDENTS.

1. In addition to the names of students selected for each choir, the following will be posted on the website: Registration, Parent Permission/Rules, T-Shirts, Schedule.
2. Teachers must submit All-State Chorus Weekend Registration through the process designated by the All-State Chorus Chairperson. The registration process is completed online.
3. In addition to the non-refundable audition fee, a non-refundable All-State Chorus Weekend registration fee of fifty dollars (\$50.00) will be required of each student participating in the All-State Chorus. This registration fee must be remitted by December 12, 2025. Registration fees should be paid using only one school check, personal check, money order payable to SCMEA Choral Division, or through the online registration. If your school district is submitting a check, please make sure that your school information is indicated and mailed with the check.
4. Registration forms must be completed online and appropriate fees must be paid online or payment check postmarked by Friday, December 12, 2024. (Late payments will result in a Level 1 rule violation.) The link for online payment may be found on the Choral Division Website. www.choraldivision.org If mailing one check for payment, please send to: Ashlee Poole. Direct any questions about the weekend registration to Ashlee Poole or NeTorrian Patton.

5. T-shirts and pins will also be available for purchase ahead of time on the registration form. These items will not be available for purchase at All-State Chorus Weekend.
6. Director packets: A link will be provided for directors to order music directly from the distributor. Director packets will not be automatically provided.
7. The following items will be available for purchase at All-State Chorus Weekend;
 - CDs and DVDs of the concert performance
 - Plaques with individual student names, voice part, and choir.
8. Rehearsal Guidelines:
 - Dress for rehearsals will be informal-regular school clothes. Hats, sunglasses, or any other item that would interfere with rehearsal are prohibited.
 - No gum, no talking, no tobacco, no vaping, and no illegal substances of any kind.
 - Each student is expected to devote his/her full attention to the director at all times in all rehearsals and performances.
 - Each student must bring a pencil and his/her music to ALL rehearsals, even if the music is memorized.
 - Each student will need a black folder for use at the concert.
9. General Guidelines:
 - Students will be dismissed from All-State Chorus participation on the following grounds:
 - Vandalism of any kind- the student's school will be held responsible for damages.
 - Possession of drugs without a doctor's prescription.
 - Possession and/or consumption of alcoholic beverages.
 - Disciplinary action, not excluding dismissal, will be taken on the following grounds:
 - Failure to adhere to attendance, housing, and rehearsal regulations.
 - Violation of curfew.
 - Any behavior found to be unbecoming by the All-State Chorus Chairperson or his/her representative.
 - Cell phones, iPods, MP3 players, CD players, and any device with headphones are not to be present during rehearsals. If a student is found to be in possession of these items during the rehearsal, the student's name will be taken and the director will be notified. If the same student is found to be in possession of the items for a 2nd time, they will be removed from participation in the All-State Chorus, will be turned over to the director as an "Auditing Singer," and the school will be given a level 1 violation.
 - Teachers are responsible for the conduct and behavior of their students throughout the entire All-State Chorus Weekend.
 - Any dismissed student may cause his/her school to be suspended from participation for one year. An explanatory letter will be sent to the student's parents, choral director, school principal and district administration.
 - Members of the All-State Chorus will adhere to the following concert dress. All attire will be checked for compliance prior to the concert. Students not in compliance with the dress code WILL BE PROHIBITED FROM SINGING IN THE CONCERT and will put the school in jeopardy of suspension from All-State Chorus participation for one year. If you are unsure that your uniform is compliant, contact the All-State Chorus Weekend Coordinator.
 - Concert Attire: Tuxedo consisting of a white or black button down shirt, black tie/bow tie, black tuxedo pants, black tuxedo jacket, black socks, black dress shoes. Tails and a WHITE or BLACK vest/tie/cummerbund are acceptable. Students may also wear a black sports coat with black slacks accompanied by a white dress shirt and solid black tie with black socks and black dress shoes. Alternatively, a black ankle-length concert dress or an ankle length black skirt with a black top of similar or complementary fabric. (No cocktail or formal [prom] dresses allowed, no denim, no show choir dresses); medium- to low-heeled black shoes no more than 2 inches in height. No spaghetti straps on blouses or dresses allowed. No bare midriffs, no bare backs. Necklines should be modest and appropriate for a concert. No slits in dresses or skirts above the bottom of the knee cap. Students may also wear black dress slacks with a black dressy blouse, black pantsuit/skirt suit (skirt must be ankle length) with medium-to low-heeled black shoes no more than 2 inches in height.
 - The All-State Chorus will present a public concert at Winthrop University on February 28, 2026, at 3:00 p.m. Only participants will be allowed to attend any activities of the All-State Chorus Weekend. No one other than All-State Chorus members, official chaperones, and teachers may be present at hotels, rehearsals or facilities connected with the All-State Chorus events. No children, even those whose parents are choral directors, will be allowed at any All-State Chorus rehearsal. All chaperones must be at least 21 years of age – preferably older. All SCMEA members are welcome to attend any part of the All-State Chorus weekend even if that member does not have students participating in these events.

- All incidents or exceptions pertaining to the All-State Chorus rules and regulations will be subject to review by the All-State Chorus Committee and could result in consequences to the school and/or student(s) involved. Requests for exceptions due to extenuating circumstances must be submitted in writing to the All-State Chorus Committee Chairperson two weeks prior to the All-State Chorus Weekend.

Group A (Term 2025-2029)

Jared Fricks, Chelse Lawson, Alex Jones, and Rachel Premo

Group B (Term 2022-2026)

Lizzi Elliott, Amanda Wrona, Emily Reeves Bohl, and Ashlee Poole

Group C (Term 2023-2027)

Sarah Wahl, Melissa Henderson, NeTorrian Patton, and Jacelyn Spearman

SOLO AND ENSEMBLE

<https://choraldivision.org/solo-ensemble/site-information/>

The Solo and Ensemble Festival provides students the opportunity to perform before an adjudicator. The adjudicator provides a written and verbal critique of the performance and awards a rating based on defined criteria. There is also a chance for high school students to participate in a scholarship competition during their senior year. Solo and Ensemble Festival is open to both middle school and high school programs.

Registration Deadline is January 17, 2026.

- [Scholarship Division Résumé Form](#)

Dates and Locations

- April 18, 2026 – White Knoll High School – Lexington, SC – Sarah High
- April 25, 2026 – Greer High School – Greer, SC – Madi Thomas
- April 25, 2026 – Rock Hill High School – Rock Hill, SC – Lisa Pecarina
- April 18, 2026 – West Ashley High School Charleston, SC – Joshua Wald

****Registrations/Payments should be submitted/postmarked, including payments by SATURDAY, JANUARY 17th, 2026 @ 5pm.**

IMPORTANT FORMS

- Registration is on [Choral Division Webpage](#)
(Login- email and password, Director's Area-top right corner, Click Registrations, Applications and Forms)
 - *Due **Saturday, January 17th, 2026 @ 5pm**
- **Adjudication Forms** *Must printed for your singers prior to event participation*
 - [Large Ensemble](#)
 - [Small Ensemble](#)
 - [Vocal Solo \(MS/HS\)](#)
 - [Vocal Solo \(Advanced\)](#)
 - Scholarship [Resume Form](#) (Google doc that will ask you to make a copy)

****\$10 per soloist. \$20 per (any) ensemble.****

A. INFORMATION FOR TEACHERS

1. **REGISTER on the [Choral Division Webpage](#).** Login (with email and password), Click on Director's Area, Click on Registration, Applications and Forms. Must be submitted by **SATURDAY, JANUARY 17th @ 5pm.**

- a. Please print and complete an adjudication form for each participant (solo or ensemble) prior to the day of your event.
2. The fees should be paid at the end of your registration page before you submit the registration forms. You can pay by credit card (with a fee) or you can send a check, please make sure that it is postmarked by **January 17th, 2026 at 5pm**. Late registration or registrations without fees will not be accepted. The registration form will include all participants, including solos and ensembles.
3. You will need to indicate a **2nd choice location** on the registration form. Please make sure you are available that day as you may be asked to go to your second choice location because of larger numbers at the first choice site. First choice sites are available first come, first served, so try and get your registration done early. Thank you for being prepared to participate at either choice site. (If you have specific accommodation requests, please indicate those on the form, i.e. prom is that afternoon so you need to perform early, etc.)
4. Teachers must be current members of SCMEA.
5. Only students that are enrolled in your choral program or private instruction should participate in the event. Students can be enrolled in a semester or year long chorus. Teachers assume responsibility for all students that are registered.
6. Ratings for each performance are as follows: I-Superior, II-Excellent, III-Good, IV-Below Average, V-Poor. Plus or minus may be added to the score.
7. Standard vocal literature is required. It is suggested that teachers choose good repertoire and avoid pop songs, show tunes, hymns, or contemporary Christian selections.
8. A Certificate of Achievement will be emailed to the directors to use at their discretion. Pins will be available for purchase this year (\$5.00 each). Check or cash is accepted.
9. Refunds will not be given after the registration deadline.
10. Schools may watch their own student/ensemble performances. They will not be allowed to observe other school performances (with the exception of the scholarship division).
11. When registering 15 or more students, teachers must bring a second accompanist. Your group will be split into two judging rooms, therefore requiring another accompanist. (This will help get through the day quicker. **This is not optional.)
- 12.

B. INFORMATION FOR IN PERSON EVENTS

1. Solo and Ensemble events are available for students in the age range of the **6th-12th grade**.
2. All soloists/ensembles must perform **memorized music**.
3. Teachers should provide judges with original music with measures numbered. If you cannot provide originals to the judge for adjudication, the student/ensemble will perform for comments only.
4. Photocopies may be used by the accompanist. Photocopies must be destroyed after the event.
5. Please print the adjudication forms **prior** to the event. They will not be provided the day of at the site and you may not perform without them. (Forms are linked above.)
6. No electronic/recorded music may be used. (iPads may be used for scores only.)
7. Each school will receive a 15 minute warm-up time prior to their performance. (This time is intended as a warm-up time, not a rehearsal time. Please plan accordingly.)

D. ENSEMBLES

1. Ensemble categories:
 - a. Vocal ensembles (**2-6 performers- small ensemble**) must prepare one **memorized** piece of standard choral literature performed with or without the director.
 - b. Vocal ensembles (**7-17 performers- large ensemble**) must prepare two **memorized** octavos of music in contrasting styles and a director may be present.
2. Ensemble performances:
 - a. May be performed a cappella or accompanied.
 - b. May be directed or not. This is at the discretion of the director.

E. SOLOISTS

1. Students are encouraged to sing age-appropriate literature. (No pop songs, hymns, or contemporary Christian selections.) Musical theater repertoire may be performed.

2. Middle school and high school division soloists will sing one piece, by memory.
3. Advanced division soloists should prepare two pieces, of varying styles, and perform by memory.
 - a. Students are eligible to compete in the Advanced Division after receiving a Superior rating in the High School Division in a previous year.
 - i. You may not participate in the Advanced Division unless you have received a superior rating in the High School Division first.
4. Scholarship division soloists should prepare two pieces, of varying styles, and perform by memory. The scholarship division event will occur after all other divisions have been judged (or if there is a convenient place in the schedule).

****\$10 per soloist. \$20 per (any) ensemble.****

****No refunds will be issued. Please see SCMEA Choral Handbook.****

Masterclass/Clinic: Each site may host a brief masterclass with the judges for a small number of students at the END of the solo and ensemble event, or if there is a space earlier in the schedule. There will only be a small number of students that will be able to participate (as it is a long day), but it will be available. How you utilize this time is up to the director. (If you want the judge to work with a couple of your soloists or if you would like for them to work with one of your ensembles, it is up to you.) Each school will receive 30 minutes with the judge. If you are interested, you will indicate it on your registration form and you must be willing to bring your students toward the end of the judging day.

F. SCHOLARSHIPS (Senior students only)

1. Soloists must have received a I (Superior) in the High School Division and Advanced Division to qualify for the vocal scholarship.
2. Seniors who have received a Superior performing in the Advanced Division in their Junior year will not need to sing in the Advanced Division their Senior year. This student should sign up for the Scholarship Division only their senior year.
3. Seniors who have not previously received a superior rating in the Advanced Division should register as an Advanced Division soloist and indicate that they are intending to compete for the scholarship (provisional). The scholarship fee will be paid at the site if the student receives a Superior in their Advanced Division solo.
4. Each student entering the scholarship division should complete a Scholarship Division Resume Form (see above) This resume should be submitted to Erin Sellers & the site chairperson prior to the performance. (It will be given to the judges before the student performance.)
5. All soloists will prepare two memorized pieces in varying styles. One of the pieces must be in a foreign language.
6. Please print TWO scholarship adjudication forms (both judges will adjudicate).
7. The scholarship division is open to anyone who would like to watch.
8. Scholarship auditions will occur after the adjudication of the other divisions or when there is a convenient place in the schedule. Each student will perform both pieces.
9. The soloist receiving the scholarship must be planning to be a music major or minor at an institution of higher education in the State of South Carolina. Should the student change their major, or move out of state, the scholarship will be given to the first runner up.
10. The scholarship will be distributed in the following manner:
11. The sum of \$400 will be paid to the student after he/she submits transcripts of a successful completion of the first year of a music degree. Subsequently, another \$400 will be sent after the second and third years. The official school transcripts should be sent to the SCMEA Choral Division Treasurer. Contact information is located on the SCMEA Choral Division website. (lisa.pecarina@scmea.net)
12. One scholarship will be awarded per site. (This will be at the discretion of the judges.)

****Still not sure how the Scholarship system works?**

Step One: Achieve a Superior in the high school division. This can happen in 9th - 11th grade.

Step Two: Achieve a Superior in the Advanced Division. (NOTE: You MUST achieve a superior in the high school division BEFORE you can compete in the advanced division.) This can happen in 11th-12th grade.

NOTE: A Senior cannot compete in the high school division, advanced division, and scholarship division in the same year. They must have achieved a superior rating in the high school division in a previous year. If a student transfers from out of state during the second semester of their junior year or during their senior year, special accommodations can be made. Those students that transferred will be allowed to compete in high school, then advanced, and then scholarship division within the same year.

.G. OTHER ITEMS:

1. Each school may allow their students, chaperones, etc. to watch their own school's performances. (only their school unless it is the scholarship division)

If you have any questions, email questions to Erin Sellers at erin.sellers@choraldivision.org BEFORE submitting your registration! Thanks!

Adjudication Forms

[Large Ensemble](#)

[Small Ensemble](#)

[Vocal Solo \(MS/HS\)](#)

[Vocal Solo \(Advanced\)](#)

[Vocal Solo \(Scholarship\)](#)

[Scholarship Resume Form](#) (Google doc that will ask you to make a copy)

Please send your payments, if paying by check, to:

Mrs. Erin Sellers

% SCMEA Choral Division

390 Old River Rd.

Murrells Inlet, SC 29576

HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

<https://choraldivision.org/cpa/high-school-site-info/>

Registration & Postmark Deadline: January 30, 2026

Refund Deadline: TBD

Sight Reading and Rep Submission Deadline:

Upstate

Date: March 24th & 25th, 2026

Location: Fountain Inn High School

Midlands

Date: March 16th & 17th, 2026

Location: Lexington 2 Performing Arts Center

Lowcountry

Date: March 19th & 20th, 2026

Location: West Ashley High School

Information

Fees

The registration fee is \$200.00 per choir. No money will be refunded due to cancellation after **January 30, 2026** Any cancellations must be sent in writing/email to the Committee Chair dated no later than **January 30, 2026, at 11:59**

PM. Checks should be made payable to SCMEA Choral Division. Schools registering two or more choirs may submit 1 check for their school; however, checks (or any registration material) from middle schools will not be accepted by the high school choral festival committee and vice-versa. Note: Late registrations and/or fees will not be accepted.

Repertoire Requirements (including the warmup)

Repertoire must be quality choral literature that is both festival appropriate and appropriate for each individual ensemble (voicing, genre of ensemble, etc.), **and all music should be memorized**. Judges have the discretion to take choice of repertoire into account for scoring using the performance rubric provided. Directors must cite credible literature sources from which their repertoire was chosen. Acceptable sources may include but are not limited to SC All-State Chorus Concert Repertoire, ACDA repertoire lists, High School Honor Choral Clinic lists, graded literature lists, etc. Judges can take off points for choice of repertoire if they feel that the music chosen does not fit the voices within the ensemble. Any repertoire information that is not received by the deadline will result in the ensemble's omission from the program.

Sight-Reading Rules & Procedures

1. Appropriate music will be available for each choir based on their stage performance classifications (female, male, mixed). Please indicate your sight-reading preference on the registration form so we may know how many copies to order for each classification. Choirs may also opt to sight read down one classification if the program is new or in a growing state with a new director (i.e. a 5A school with a new choir director or a new growing program may sight read 4A instead of 5A).
2. Students may NOT be used for two ensembles in the same category (for example, if you have a Chamber Choir that is your "Varsity" Mixed Choir, those students may not be used in another ensemble that is a "Varsity" Mixed Choir. Your "second" group must be your "Non-Varsity" Mixed Choir and will sight read "Non-Varsity" music in the sight-reading room. Further, Varsity students may not sing in Non-Varsity groups.

Performance Site

Consequences of Rules Violations Levels of Notification 3. (a.) If the Choral Director continues to commit 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 at all SCMEA Choral Division events for up to two consecutive years contingent upon the severity of the violations. (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 a period up to two consecutive years contingent upon the severity of the violations. 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 standing 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.

Refunds

The following events do not offer refunds after fees are paid: All-State Chorus, Middle School Clinics, Region Choir, Solo & Ensemble Festival. For these events, refunds will not be processed for any reason unless the Choral Division leadership determines it is necessary to cancel an event. The following events do offer refunds for group cancellation by specific deadlines: Middle School Choral Performance Assessment; High School Choral Performance Assessment. For these events, refunds will not be automatically processed. Directors must request a refund by the published deadline. The refund request must be submitted in writing via email to the event chairperson. Please note: online payment processing fees can never be refunded.

1. Participating choral directors must be members of SCMEA and present your membership card or proof of current membership. It is the director's responsibility to provide this information on online registration and to ensure that it is valid and current. If membership proof is not provided, performance will be denied. No refunds will be issued. Scans of your Principal Authorization form must accompany the Online Registration Form through the online submission link provided. Registration Forms, Principal Authorization Forms, Repertoire Forms, and materials must be completely filled out when submitted. Any Registration forms that are not completely filled out and turned in by the dates below will constitute a rules violation in which the appropriate steps will be followed as outlined by the choral division. These steps can be found at the end of the rules and handbook. It will be at the discretion of the committee if the choir performs. If the choir does not perform, there will be no penalty.

2. Each school will be guaranteed slots for three (3) participating choirs. Registrations for additional choirs beyond three (3) must be approved by the CPA Committee. This decision will be based on availability of time slots at the requested location.
3. Choirs from the same division will perform consecutively within the parameters of the schedule template. Choirs must perform on the scheduled day and time in which they are assigned. Any exceptions will be made by the committee due to logistics and time constraints of the festival. These decisions are determined by the number of registrations received.
4. Ensemble performance times will be assigned using a predetermined template based on the number of registrations per division, size of choirs, facility availability, number of ensembles per school, etc. The template will be created to allow choir assignments for logistical purposes of the festival (size, type, division, warm-up rooms, etc.). Commute times will be researched on MapQuest prior. Choirs with a commute of 2 hours 30 minutes or more will not be scheduled before 9:00 am unless otherwise arranged with the choral director from the affected school. Choirs with the same director may be scheduled less than 1 hour apart. Choirs with the same director and from the same school will not be scheduled on separate days. Choirs from different schools who share one director may be scheduled on separate days.
9. The schedule of the festival will be EMAILED to registered choral directors. Verification of registration, posting of schedule, and performance site instructions will be communicated through email and posted on the Choral Division website. Directors need to provide 2 working email addresses that are checked daily and prevent festival emails from being blocked. It is the director's responsibility to make sure s/he has working emails that are checked and emails are being received. Directors are responsible for keeping up with deadlines, paperwork, and information that is distributed by email.
10. Festival day procedures will be sent out by email to registered directors prior to festival. Follow these procedures precisely.

B. PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES/RULES

1. Choirs are provided a warm-up room for twenty minutes. Choirs must be ready to be collected by festival workers at least 3 choirs ahead of performance in the location that was reported to the Registration Desk.
2. If your choir is late, the warm-up time will be forfeited. The festival must stay on schedule (as much as possible) for all choirs involved. If your choir arrives past their assigned performance time, the choir will not perform.
3. Choirs will be adjudicated on TWO pieces. Each choir has the option of performing a warm-up piece first that will not be adjudicated. All repertoire, including the **warm-up piece** must not exceed 10 minutes of performance time. Travel time on stage and off will not count as part of the 10-minute performance time. For performances that exceed the 10-minute performance time, the choir will drop one rating.
4. Repertoire Requirements (including the warmup): Repertoire must be quality choral literature that is both festival appropriate and appropriate for each individual ensemble (voicing, genre of ensemble, etc.), **and all music should be memorized.** Judges have the discretion to take choice of repertoire into account for scoring using the performance rubric provided. Directors must cite credible literature sources from which their repertoire was chosen. Acceptable sources may include but are not limited to SC All-State Chorus Concert Repertoire, ACDA repertoire lists, High School Honor Choral Clinic lists, graded literature lists, etc. Judges have the ability to take off points for choice of repertoire if they feel that the music chosen does not fit the voices within the ensemble. Any repertoire information that is not received by the deadline will result in the ensemble's omission from the program. There will be no taped background accompaniment unless the tape is part of the composition.
5. Directors are to furnish three scores with numbered measures of each adjudicated selection performed. Copied music will not be allowed without a letter of permission from the publisher included with each judge's copy and a copy for the Festival Chairman to be provided at Registration. If copied music is used without publisher permission, the choir will be able to perform for comments only.
6. Choral Public Domain Library Procedure: *Print off the "Title" page of your piece that CPDL provides as a "cover" for your music, the judges' copies, and your accompanist (if applicable) and any other copies that you may bring with you. (For example: http://www1.cpd.org/wiki/index.php/Missa_Hodie_Christus_natus (Josef_Cainer)) Contact the chairman if problems arise with this procedure.
7. All performance judges will provide recorded digital comments.
8. Separate ratings will be given for performance and sight-reading.
9. All choirs will be required to sight-read. If a choir performed for "comments only" on stage, then "comments only" will be allowed in the sight-reading room.
10. Student teachers that are allowed by their mentor teacher to conduct at Festival may only conduct 1 of the 2 adjudicated pieces, must be a current NAFME member, and must provide their membership card at the Registration Desk with the Director. This information must be provided on the Registration Form of the ensemble. If it is omitted, the student teacher will not be able to conduct the choir.
11. Names of the festival judges will be posted on the Choral Division website and announced at Choral Arts in September as well as at the SCMEA Professional Development Conference in February. Directors must not discuss the Choral Performance Assessment with the judges or use any of the judges as a clinician during that school year.

12. Directors, students, chaperones, and guests are to follow instructions given by the Choral Festival Committee on the day of the festival.
13. Directors are responsible for all students and chaperones and their behavior while at the festival site. Electronic devices are strictly prohibited in the performance venue. This rule covers everyone in attendance, including students, teachers, chaperones, and parents.
14. If a problem occurs, schools may incur a rating deduction, dismissal from the festival, and/or probation and suspension with accompanying letters to the director and principals notifying them of the infraction or inappropriate conduct.
15. All site procedures must be followed.

C. SIGHT-SINGING PROCEDURES/RULES

1. Appropriate music will be available for each choir based on their stage performance classifications (female, male, mixed). Please indicate your sight-reading preference on the registration form so we may know how many copies to order for each classification. Choirs may also opt to sight read down one classification if the program is new or in a growing state with a new director (i.e. a 5A school with a new choir director or a new growing program may sight read 4A instead of 5A).
2. The sight-reading music will have lyrics. However, the director may specify the syllable(s) to be used by the singers (i.e., "loo", solfège, counting syllables, etc.). Sight-reading the text is not recommended.
3. Directors and choirs will have six (6) minutes of preparation time before the evaluated sightreading performance. The evaluator will signal the conductor when one (1) minute of preparation remains. Directors must stop their preparation promptly when the evaluator indicates that the preparation time has expired.
4. 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 director may use his/her voice in any manner he/she wishes during the preparation period.
5. After sounding the beginning pitches, the piano may not be used during the evaluated sight-reading performance. Likewise, the director is prohibited from talking or singing with the ensemble during the evaluated sight-reading performance. In addition, students and directors are prohibited from producing any audible sound that assists in keeping a beat.
6. Directors and singers should heed any tempo indications, phrase markings, and/or dynamic indications in the sight-reading materials.
7. Choirs from the same school must sight-read different sight-reading examples in the adjudication room. Voicing information on the registration form indicates how many sight-reading examples per voicing are needed for the festival.
8. **The following lists should be used when aligning your choir for the sight-reading procedure. Students may NOT be used for two ensembles in the same category (for example, if you have a Chamber Choir that is your "Varsity" Mixed Choir, those students may not be used in another ensemble that is a "Varsity" Mixed Choir. Your "second" group must be your "Non-Varsity" Mixed Choir and will sight read "Non-Varsity" music in the sight-reading room. Further, Varsity students may not sing in Non-Varsity groups.**

Varsity Choirs

Top Performing Group Jr./Sr. Advanced Mixed Choirs

10th – 12th Grade Mixed Choirs

9th – 12th Grade Mixed Choirs

Jr./Sr. Advanced Women's Choirs

10th – 12th Grade Women's Choirs

9th – 12th Grade Women's Choirs

Jr./Sr. Advanced Men's Choirs

10th – 12th Grade Men's Choirs

9th – 12th Grade Men's Choirs

Non-Varsity Choirs (A Varsity Choir from the same school must be present to qualify as Non-Varsity)

9th Grade Mixed Choirs

9th – 10th Grade Mixed Choirs

9th – 12th Grade Mixed Choirs (if the school is represented by a Varsity Mixed Choir)

9th Grade Women's Choirs

9th – 10th Grade Women's Choirs

9th – 12th Grade Women's Choirs (if a Varsity Women's Choir is represented)

10th – 12th Grade Women's Choirs (if a Varsity Women's Choir is represented)

9th Grade Men's Choirs

9th – 10th Grade Men's Choirs

D. BEHAVIOR

1. Teachers must accompany their choirs to the festival and remain with them during the day.
2. All mobile phones, pagers, iPads or other electronic devices, hats, sunglasses, and gum are prohibited. Any item that would interfere with performances, aurally or visually, or the appreciation of the festival will not be allowed.
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, laughing, loud disrespectful noises, or other performance disruptions.
5. If a student, chaperone, parent, or director 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. **No smoking** anywhere on or around the premises.
8. Choirs are encouraged to observe other choirs *respectfully* during the performance.
9. If any interference occurs during a group's performance, those responsible will have to leave the performance site immediately with their directors, chaperones, etc., and will not be allowed to stay. A disciplinary note will follow and may result in probation or suspension of the school from future Choral Performance Assessment participation.
10. All choirs, directors, chaperones, bus drivers, etc., must remain in the designated "choral performance assessment areas." Instructional areas and wings on campus not designated for festival use are prohibited. Any campus visitor found in prohibited areas will be dismissed from campus. A letter will be sent to the school director and principal informing them of the disciplinary action. Disciplinary action could result in probation or suspension.

E. AWARDS

1. Ratings will be: Superior (I), Excellent (II), Good (III), Fair (IV), and Poor (V). Award trophies will be given for Superior and Excellent ratings in performance. In addition, if a Varsity choir earns straight Superiors in performance and sight-reading, the rating will become Superior with Distinction. Performance ratings are determined by the rating opinion of 2 out of 3 of the judges. For example, Judge 1 awards a II, Judge 2 awards a I, Judge 3 awards a II. The Overall Performance Rating would be a II. In the event the judges award three different ratings, the Overall Performance Rating will be the middle rating. For example, Judge 1 awards a I, Judge 2 awards a II, Judge 3 awards a III. The Overall Performance Rating: would be a II.
2. Ratings, score sheets, and awards may be picked up by the **director only**.

PERFORMANCE SITE:

Consequences of Rules Violations

Levels of Notification

1. One 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.
2. Two rule violations occur: 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 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 Standing 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 standing 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. 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 a period of up to two years.
3. 3. (a.) If the Choral Director continues to commit 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 at all SCMEA Choral Division events for up to two consecutive years contingent upon the severity of the violations. (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 a period up to two consecutive years contingent upon the severity of the violations. 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

standing 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.

(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 a period up to two consecutive years contingent upon the severity of the violations. 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 standing 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.

REFUNDS

The following events do not offer refunds after fees are paid: All-State Chorus Middle School Clinics Region Choir Solo & Ensemble Festival For these events, refunds will not be processed for any reason unless the Choral Division leadership determines it is necessary to

cancel an event. The following events do offer refunds for group cancellation by specific deadlines: Middle School Choral Performance Assessment; High School Choral Performance Assessment. For these events, refunds will not be automatically processed. Directors must request a refund by the published deadline. The refund request must be submitted in writing via email to the event chairperson. Please note: online payment processing fees can never be refunded.



SCMEA CHORAL DIVISION OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD PROGRAM GUIDELINES-HIGH SCHOOL

The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in musical instruction and performance for South Carolina middle school and high school choral programs.

To earn this award, qualifying programs must earn a Superior rating at Choral Performance Assessment *and* earn a minimum of **80** points out of a possible 100, as follows:

Choral Performance Assessment

Superior with Distinction

Superior

50 points maximum

50 points

40 points

All-State Chorus

3A / 4A / 5A

1A / 2A

20 points maximum

4 points per participating student

5 points per participating student

Region Choir

Per participant

16 points maximum

2 points

Solo & Ensemble Festival (Superior)

Solo (per participant)

Ensemble

14 points maximum

2 points

14 points

Bonus Points

10 points

Performance in a Choral Division performance session at SCMEA Professional Development Conference (year of performance only)

Directors may apply for OPA in the Spring semester. All points will be verified by appropriate chairpersons. Directors whose programs are awarded OPA may then order trophies commemorating their achievement.



SCMEA CHORAL DIVISION OUTSTANDING PERFORMANCE AWARD PROGRAM GUIDELINES-MIDDLE SCHOOL

The purpose of this award is to recognize excellence in musical instruction and performance for South Carolina middle school and high school choral programs.

To earn this award, qualifying programs must earn a Superior rating at Choral Performance Assessment *and* earn a minimum of **80** points out of a possible 100, as follows:

Choral Performance Assessment

Superior with Distinction
Superior

50 points maximum

50 points
40 points

Fall Clinics

Per participant

20 points maximum

2 points

Spring Clinics (including Horry region)

Per participant

16 points maximum

2 points

Solo & Ensemble Festival (Superior)

Solo (per participant)
Ensemble

14 points maximum

2 points
14 points

Bonus Points

10 points

Performance in a Choral Division performance session at SCMEA Professional Development Conference (year of performance only)

CHORAL DIVISION REGIONS

The SCMEA Choral Division divides the state into regions to make sure all demographics are represented on Division committees. Regional events are not exclusive for the Choral Division as they are for other divisions; schools may attend events in any region in the state.

