SCMEA Choral Division Handbook
2026-2027

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COMMITTEE CHAIRPERSONS

All-State Chorus
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ALL-STATE CHORUS COMMITTEE

Group A (Term 2025-2029)
Chelse Lawson, Alex Jones, and Rachel Premo

Group B (Term 2022-2026)
Lizzi Elliott, Amanda Wrona, Emily Reeves Bohl

Group C (Term 2023-2027)
Sarah Wahl, Melissa Henderson, NeTorrian Patton, and Josh Wald

HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT COMMITTEE

Heather Wilcox, River Bluff High School, Chairperson
Amanda Wrona, Airport High School
Kim Colon, Spartanburg High School
Joshua Wald, West Ashley High School

REGION CHOIR COMMITTEE

Nicholas Shumate, Northwestern High School, Chairperson
Email: nicholas.shumate@choraldivision.org
Phone Number: (803) 448-7361

Southern Region Site Coordinator:
Joshua Wald
West Ashley High School
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Western Region Site Coordinator:
Todd Gillespie
Blue Ridge High School
Phone Number: (803) 640-1051

Northern Region Site Coordinator:
Josh Hackley
Andrew Jackson High School
Phone Number: (240) 216-9168

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
Chase McAbee, High Point Academy

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 Williams - Riverside Middle School

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

LOW COUNTRY
Andrea Scheulen - Gregg Middle School

MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL CLINIC COMMITTEE

Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, Chairperson
Casey David, Aynor Middle School
Raymond Dobell, Socastee Middle School
Shelby Krallman, Cane Bay Middle School
Adam McCormick, Bluffton Middle School
Katelyn Ohler, Abner Creek Middle School
Camille O'Shea, Gilbert Middle School
Sara Ponds, American Leadership Academy Blythewood
Chadwick Redden, Sedgefield Middle School
Kristin Rutledge, Mauldin Middle School

SCMEA Choral Division Calendar

2026-2027

**tentative: dates are still subject to change*
Last update: 7/29/26

August

September

1	Choral Arts Registration Deadline	
1	Event Registration Forms Open for fall	
11-12	Choral Arts Seminar	USC School of Music
14	MS CPA Registration opens	
18	HS Region Choir Registration Deadline	
25	MS Clinics Registration Deadline: Fall Clinics	

October

1	HS All-State Audition Registration Deadline	
20	HS Region Choir: Northern	Winthrop University
	HS Region Choir: Central	Newberry College
23	MS SSA & TB Clinic: Upstate	Suber Rd. Baptist Church
26	MS SAB Clinic: Lowcountry	Charleston Southern University
27	HS Region Choir: Southern	Charleston Southern University
	HS Region Choir: Western	Furman University
29	MS SAB Clinic: Midlands	Richland 2 PAC
30	MS SSA & TB Clinics: Horry	Conway High School
	MS SSA & TB Clinics: Northern	Winthrop University

November

3-7	HS All-State Chorus Auditions	Lexington 2 PAC
16	HS All-State Weekend Registration Opens	

December

11	HS All-State Weekend Registration Deadline	

January

4	HS CPA Registration opens	
29	MS/HS CPA Registration Deadline	
30	Solo & Ensemble Registration Deadline	

February

4-6	SCMEA Professional Development Conference	Columbia Metropolitan Convention Center
10	HS CPA Registration Deadline	
12	MS Clinics Registration Deadline: 5/6th grade clinics	
25-27	HS All-State Chorus Weekend	Winthrop University

March

5	MS Clinics: Horry Region Choir Registration Deadline	
5	MS 6th grade Clinic: Lowcountry	Bethany United Methodist, Summerville
5	MS 5/6th grade Clinic: Horry	Conway High School

(PLEASE KEEP IN MIND THAT NATIONAL ACDA IS 3/7-3/10)

11	MS 6th Grade Clinic: Anderson	Anderson University
12	MS 6th Grade Clinic: Spartanburg	Lyman United Methodist
15-16	HS CPA: Midlands	Richland 2 PAC
15-16	MS CPA: Lowcountry	Summer's Corner PAC
16-17	MS CPA: Upstate/Eastern	Dorman High School
17-18	HS CPA: Lowcountry	Summer's Corner PAC
18-19	HS CPA: Upstate	Spartanburg High School
18-19	MS CPA: Upstate/Western	First Baptist Clemson, Clemson
18-19	MS CPA: Midlands	Lexington 2 PAC
23	MS 6th grade Clinic: Midlands	Gilbert PAC

April

2	MS Region Choir: Horry	Theatre of the Republic
10	Solo & Ensemble: Upstate	Greer High School
17	Solo & Ensemble: Upstate	High Point Academy
17	Solo & Ensemble: Lowcountry	West Ashley High School
17	Solo & Ensemble: Northern	Rock Hill High School

May

1	Solo & Ensemble: Midlands	White Knoll High School
16	OPA Submission Deadline	

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 2026-2027 school year, there will be five sites for fall clinics: Upstate (Spartanburg), Northern, Midlands, Horry, and Lowcountry (Summerville). 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. Registration fees for spring clinics will be 10.00/student, plus 30.00 for a plaque if you would like to purchase one for your performing group.

Upstate

Upstate SSA/TB Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	Friday, September 25, 2026
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	Friday, October 23, 2026
Event Location	Suber Road Baptist Church
SSA Clinician	Sarah High, White Knoll High School
TB Clinician	Alex Jones, Dorman Freshman Academy
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
A Jubilant Song	SA	Mary Lynn Lightfoot	1870393	Link
Tyger	SA	Elaine Hagenberg	11107824	Link
Sing with Pleasure	2-Part	arr. Liebergen	1961630	Link

Upstate: TB Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Fillimiooriay	TB	arr. Stuart P. O'Neil	11345226	Link
Vuela	Unison/2-Part	Carlos Cordero	11561436	Link
Song to the Moon	Unison/2-Part (E-Flat)	Alan Bullard	10993268	Link

Northern

Northern SSA/TB Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	Friday, September 25, 2026
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	Friday, October 30, 2026
Event Location	Winthrop University
SSA Clinician	Evan Powers, University of South Carolina
TB Clinician	Alyssa Cossey, Carolina Master Chorale
Site Host	Jonathan Welch
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m. (final concert begins at 6:00 p.m.)

Northern: SSA				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Green Grow the Laurels	SSA	Irish Folk Song, arr. Jason Meyer	11569854	Link
The April Rainbow	SSA	Laura Farnell	10278004	Link
Shine On Me	SSA	Traditional Spiritual, arr. Rollo Dilworth	3295343	Link

Northern: TB				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Ad Astra	TB	Jacob Narverud	11673913	Link
Tell My Father	TTB	arr. Andrea Ramsey	10042175	Link
Joshua Fit the Battle of Jericho	TTB	arr. Robert T. Gibson	11673964	Link

Midlands

Midlands SAB Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	Friday, September 25, 2026
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	Thursday, October 29, 2026
Event Location	Richland 2 Performing Arts Center
Clinician	Sarah High, White Knoll High School
Site Host	Sara Ponds
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-6:30 p.m.

Midlands: SAB				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Tyger	SA	Elaine Hagenberg	11107824	Link
Only I	SA	Jim Populis	10971570E	Link
Will There Really be a Morning	SA	Craig Hella Johnson	10015881	Link
Sing With Pleasure	SAB	Handel arr. Patrick M. Liebergen	3300954	Link

Lowcountry

Lowcountry (Summerville) SAB Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	9/25/26
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	October 26th. 2026
Event Location	Charleston Southern University
Clinician	Nicholas Pierle
Site Host	Shelby Krallman
Start & End time	10:00 a.m.-6:30 p.m.(final concert begins at 6:00 p.m.)

Lowcountry: SAB				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to

				Pepper
Benedicite	SAB	David Thomas	11641401	Link
Be Who You Are	3-Part Mixed	Ryan Main	11347707	Link
Take This Gift	SABar	Tracy Wong	11639539	Link
Always Something Sings	3-Part Mixed	Linda Spevacek	3303144	Link

Horry

Horry SSA/ TB Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	Friday, September 25, 2026
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	Friday, October 30, 2026
Event Location	Conway High School
SSA Clinician	Heather Hammond
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				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Singabahambayo	SSA	Johnson	11348337	Link
Where the Light Begins	SSA	LaBarr	11174706	Link
Be the Bridge	SSA	Pederson	11592983	Link

Horry: TB				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
This Train	3-Part Variable	Siltman	1291517	Link
The Lion Sleeps Tonight	TBB	Funk	3141447	Link

Spring Clinics
For the 2026-2027 school year, there will be five sites for spring clinics: Upstate (Anderson), Upstate (Spartanburg), Midlands, Horry, and Lowcountry. All locations are 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 we are continuing an initiative that began last year by being open to the inclusion of 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 Grade Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	Friday, February 12, 2027
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	Thursday, March 11, 2027
Event Location	Anderson University
Clinician	Todd Gillespie, Blue Ridge High School
Site Host	Millie Shiflett
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Anderson: 6th Repertoire				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Dreams of the Sleeping Birds	2-part	Amy F. Bernon	3294597	Link
Hine Ma Tov	SA	arr. Neil Ginsberg	10482806	Link
Two African Pieces	SA	arr. Andrea Ramsey	10500258	Link

Upstate (Spartanburg) 5th/6th Grade Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	Friday, February 12, 2027
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	Friday, March 12, 2027

Event Location	Lyman United Methodist
Clinician	Millie Shiflett
Site Host	Katelyn Ohler
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Upstate: 5th/6th				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Non, Nobis Domine	3 part canon	William Byrd	n/a	link will be sent with a copy of the pdf
The Turtle and Flamingo	unison	Jill Friedersdorf & Melissa Malvar-Keylock	10522502	LInk
It's All Right	2-part	arr. Robert T. Gibson	11347553	Link

Midlands

Midlands 6th Grade Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	Friday, February 12, 2027
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	Tuesday, March 23, 2027
Event Location	Gilbert Performing Arts Center
Clinician	Katelyn Ohler
Site Host	Camille O'Shea
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Midlands: 6th				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Tutira Mai	2 pt	arr. Henry Leck & Martin Ellis	10011889	Link
Afternoon on a Hill	Unison/2-pt.	David Scott Gantz	11593345	Link
There Has to Be a Song	SA	Andrea Ramsey	10186971	Link

Horry

Horry 5/6th Grade Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	Friday, February 12, 2027
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	Friday, March 5, 2027
Event Location	Conway High School
Clinician	Sara Morey
Site Host	Raymond Dobell & Casey David
Start & End time	9:30 a.m.-12:30 p.m.

Horry: 5th/6th				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
Fly Away Home	2-Part	Pinkzebra	10679523	Link
Sesere Eeye	2-Part	Gilpin	11563951	Link
Lightning!	2-Part	Gilpin	10064860	Link

Lowcountry

Lowcountry 6th Grade Clinic Information	
Registration Deadline	Friday, February 12, 2027
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	Friday, March 5, 2027
Event Location	Bethany United Methodist Church
Clinician	David Nagelkirk
Site Host	Shelby Krallman
Start & End time	10:30 a.m.-1:30 p.m.

Lowcountry: 6th				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper

The Water Is Wide with Bring Me Little Water, Sylvie	2 pt	Dilworth	10364829	Link
Here, Take This Gift	2 pt	Tracy Wong	11668818E	Link
Tyger	SA	Hagenberg	11107824	Link
Sumer Is Icumen In	U	Anonymous		Link

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 2026-2027 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	Friday, March 5, 2027
Mail registration fees to:	Jonathan Welch, Gold Hill Middle School, 1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Fort Mill, SC 29708
Event Date	Friday, April 2, 2027
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				
Title	Voicing	Composer	Item #	Link to Pepper
I Sing Because I'm Happy	SAB	Padden/Dillworth	11614978	Link
Turn, October Project	SAB	Ishiguri	October Project	Link
Lovely Day	SAB	Gibson	11384391	Link

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 credit card or check through the choral division portal. Credit card payments are ***GREATLY*** preferred and are due by the registration deadline at midnight. Checks must be postmarked by the registration deadline, and mailed directly to the site host for the event you plan on attending. Refunds will **NOT** be granted after the registration deadline.

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		
Katelyn Ohler	Kristin Rutledge	
Location: Spartanburg	Location: Simpsonville	
Abner Creek Middle School	Mauldin Middle School	
221 Gin House Rd, Greer, SC 29651	1190 Holland Rd, Simpsonville, SC 29681	
katelyn.ohler@spart5.net	kmrutledge@greenville.k12.sc.us	
NORTHERN		
Jonathan Welch, Chair		
Location: Fort Mill		
Gold Hill Middle School		
1025 Dave Gibson Blvd, Tega Cay, SC 29708		
welchj@fortmillschools.org		
MIDLANDS		
Sara Ponds	Camille O'Shea	
Location: Blythewood	Location: Gilbert	
American Leadership Academy Blythewood	Gilbert Middle School	

10301 Wilson Blvd, Blythewood, SC 29016	120 Rikard Circle, Gilbert, SC 29054	
sarah.ponds@alablythewood.org	clacey@lexington1.net	
HORRY		
Casey David	Raymond Dobell	
Location: Aynor	Location: Myrtle Beach	
Aynor Middle School	Socastee Middle School	
400 Frye Rd, Galivants Ferry, SC 29544	151 Sheffield Parkway, Myrtle Beach, SC 29588	
cdavid@horrycountyschools.net	rdobell@horrycountyschools.net	
LOWCOUNTRY		
Adam McCormick	Shelby Krallman	Chadwick Redden
Location: Bluffton	Location: Summerville	Location: Goose Creek
Bluffton Middle School	Cane Bay Middle School	Sedgefield Middle School
30 New Mustang Drive, Bluffton, SC 29910	1175 Cane Bay Blvd, Summerville, SC 29486	131 Charles B Gibson Ave, Goose Creek, SC 29445
Adam.McCormick@beaufort.k12.sc.us	Krallmans@bcsdschools.net	reddenc@bcsdschools.net

26-27 MIDDLE SCHOOL CHORAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

REGISTRATION
Online and Postmark Deadline - January 29, 2027
Cancellation - February 1, 2027

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.
Checks made payable to **SCMEA Choral Division**
Mail to:
League Academy
% Casey Kerr
125 Twin Lake Road
Greenville, SC 29609

EASTERN UPSTATE SITE - ROEBUCK, SC - **March 16-17, 2027**
DORMAN HIGH SCHOOL
1050 Cavalier Way, Roebuck, SC 29376
SITE HOST - Beth Hoffee - 864-353-3425
SITE HOST - Leigha Keller - 864-316-5236
SITE HOST - Joey Carlisle - 803-468-0559

WESTERN UPSTATE SITE - CLEMSON, SC - **March 18-19, 2027**
FIRST BAPTIST CHURCH of CLEMSON
397 College Ave, Clemson, 20631
SITE HOST - Kayla Williams - 864-723-2378

MIDLANDS SITE - WEST COLUMBIA, SC - **March 18-19, 2027**
LEXINGTON 2 PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
509 Bulldog Blvd, Cayce, SC 29033
SITE HOST - Beth Brooks - 803-260-6553

LOW COUNTRY SITE - SUMMERVILLE, SC- **March 15-16, 2027**
SUMMERS CORNER PERFORMING ARTS CENTER
318 Gnarly Oak Lane, Summerville, SC 29485
SITE HOST - Andrea Scheulen - 443-875-9151

GENERAL RULES AND PROCEDURES

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

2. Each school is guaranteed slots for two (2) participating choirs. Registrations for additional choirs beyond two (2) must be approved by the CPA committee chair. This decision will be based on availability of time slots at the requested location.

3. 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 event. These decisions are determined by the number of registrations received.

Commute times will be researched prior to creating the performance schedule. 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. Choirs with the same director will not be scheduled less than 1 hour apart. Choirs with the same director and from the same school will not be scheduled on separate days unless a special circumstance is presented to the committee by the director. Submitting the request is not a guarantee.

4. The schedule of the event will be EMAILED to registered choral directors. Verification of registration, posting of schedule, and performance site instructions will be communicated through email. Directors need to provide a working email addresses that are checked daily and prevent event 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.

5. Event day procedures will be sent out by email to registered directors prior to the festival. Follow these procedures precisely.

6. Names of the event judges will be posted on the Choral Division website as well as at the SCMEA Professional Development Conference in February. If, for any reason, judging panels are not available for an announcement, the committee chair will communicate the judging as they are secured. Directors must not discuss the Choral Performance Assessment with the judges or use any of the judges as a clinician during that school year.

7. Directors, students, chaperones, and guests are to follow instructions given by the CPA Committee on the day of the event.Directors are responsible for all students and chaperones and their behavior while at the event site. Electronic devices are strictly prohibited in the performance venue. This rule covers everyone in attendance, including students, teachers, chaperones, and parents.

8. Directors are responsible for all students and chaperones and their behavior while at the event site. Electronic devices are strictly prohibited in the performance venue. This rule covers everyone in attendance, including students, teachers, chaperones, and parents.

9. If a problem occurs, schools may incur a rating deduction, dismissal from the event, and/or probation and suspension with accompanying letters to the director and principals notifying them of the infraction or inappropriate conduct.

10. All site procedures must be followed.

FEES AND REFUNDS

Fees

The registration fee is $250.00 per choir. No money will be refunded due to cancellation after February 1, 2027. Any cancellations must be sent in writing/email to the Committee Chair. Checks should be made payable to SCMEA Choral Division. Schools registering two or more choirs may submit 1 check for their school Note: Late registrations and/or fees will not be accepted. Schools that fail to communicate check delays by the registration deadline will forfeit their registration.

Refunds

The following events do offer refunds for group cancellation by specific deadlines: Middle School Choral Performance Assessment and 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 at the fully charged amount.

REPERTOIRE REQUIREMENTS

- Each ensemble will perform only two selections.
- All music must be memorized.
- Repertoire must be quality choral literature that is both festival appropriate and appropriate for each individual ensemble.

- Judges have the discretion to take choice of repertoire into account for scoring using the performance rubric provided. Judges can take off points for choice of repertoire if they feel that the music chosen does not fit the voices within the ensemble.
- Directors must cite credible literature sources from which their repertoire was chosen. Acceptable sources may include but are not limited to:
    - All-County Chorus Concert Repertoire
    - ACDA Repertoire lists
    - Middle School Honor Choral Clinic lists
- Repertoire information, including instrumentalist needs for additional chairs and/or stands, will be required during the registration process.
- There will be no previously recorded background accompaniment unless the recording is part of the composition.
- Choreography can only be used if it is written into the music or approved by the committee.

PERFORMANCE PROCEDURES AND RULES

Warm Up:

- Choirs are provided a warm-up room for twenty (20) minutes. The warm-up room will have a piano or keyboard provided.
- A monitor will be provided to each warm-up room to notify when time begins and ends.
- The twenty (20) minute warm-up time begins when the last member of the ensemble enters the room.
- A five (5) minute warning will be given to alert the director of the time remaining.
- Travel time from the warm-up room to the stage **will** be factored into the stage performance schedule.
- If your choir is late, the missed warm-up time will be forfeited. The festival must remain on schedule (as much as possible) for all choirs involved. If your choir arrives past their assigned performance time, the choir may not perform.

Stage Performances:

- Choirs will be adjudicated on **two** pieces.
- All repertoire must not exceed 10 minutes of performance time..
- Travel time on and off the stage will not count as part of the 10-minute performance time. Time will begin at the end of the presenting announcement.
- Student Teachers or Long Term Substitutes may be given permission by CPA committee to conduct a school's ensemble in extenuating circumstances (ie. director is sick, on maternity leave, last minute emergencies). Student Teachers or Long Term Substitutes must be a current NAfME member and must provide their membership number when registering the choir on event day. If this information is expired or invalid, the student teacher/long term sub will not be able to conduct the choir.
- Each director will be provided with professional recordings of his/her choir's stage performance and each of the judge's comments.
- Groups need to be dressed in proper concert attire: NO JEANS, SHORTS, LEGGINGS, ATHLETIC WEAR or SHORT SKIRTS (above the knee). An appropriate wardrobe may consist of the following: matching ensemble t-shirts/polo shirts,dress shirts, dress pants, slacks, knee/ankle length skirts or dresses.

Marked Original Scores:

- Directors must provide a completed ANNOUNCEMENT sheet upon arrival on event day. Directors must provide **three** original copies of ensemble repertoire with numbered measures.
- Copied music will not be allowed without a letter of permission from the publisher included with each judge's copy. Letters for the judges **and** the Site Host will be provided at the registration table (**4 TOTAL**).
- Digital-download copies will be allowed, but either a receipt for purchase or publisher authorization script showing the number of copies purchased matches the ensemble enrollment should be seen on each copy of the music presented.
- If copied music is used without publisher permission, the choir will be able to perform for comments only.

- Choral Public Domain Library (CPDL) Procedure:
    - Print off the Title Page of your piece that CPDL provides as a cover for your music, each of the judge's copies, and your pianist (if applicable).
- Failure to provide three original copies of ensemble repertoire with numbered measures will result in the school performing for comments only - no rating will be given. Additionally, the CPA Chairperson will send written documentation of the situation to the school principal copying the director, and Choral Division President.

SIGHT READING RULES AND PROCEDURES

- SEE **SCMEA Middle School CPA Sight Reading 2027** for specific level criteria
- Sight Reading repertoire will be in the same voicing as their most difficult voicing of the choir's stage performance repertoire and of Level 2 difficulty
    - Example:
        - A choir that performed an SA and an SSA piece onstage will perform SSA/Level 2 in Sight Reading
        - A choir that performed an SAB and an SATB piece will perform SATB/Level 2 in Sight Reading
- Directors may choose to sightread Level 1 instead, but this will eliminate the eligibility of a "Distinction" classification.
- Students may **not** be used for two ensembles in the same voicing category.
    - For example, if you are bringing 2 ensembles they need to be of different voicing category….SAB/SSA or SA/TB etc.
    - Choirs from the same school will sight-read different sight-reading levels if registered in the same voicing. Voicing information on the registration form indicates how many sight-reading copies are needed for the event.
- All choirs are required to sight-read.
- If a choir performs for "Comments Only" on the stage, then "Comments Only" will be given in the sight-reading room.
    - Directors will not communicate with judges and ask that they put a potential rating on the score sheet as though the ensemble was being rated.
- Directors, student teachers, and school administrators are permitted into the sight-reading room. However, ONLY THE DIRECTOR may assist students with their preparation of sight-reading music. Chaperones and students from other ensembles are not permitted in the sight reading room.
- The sight-reading music will have lyrics. However, the director may specify the syllable(s) to be used by singers (i.e. "loo", Solfege, count singing, etc.). Sight-reading the text is not required.
- Preparation Time
    - Directors will receive one (1) minute of music perusal before the nine (9) minutes of prep time begins.
    - Ensembles will have nine (9) minutes of preparation time before being evaluated. The evaluator will signal the director on timing as determined by the director before the nine (9) minute preparation time starts.
    - The piano may only be used to arpeggiate the first (or tonic) chord and to sound individual reference pitches during the practice time. Two notes may not be played simultaneously on the piano. Two or more consecutive pitches from a particular voice part or phrase may not be played on the piano.
    - At the beginning of prep, directors may guide students to identify time/key signature and their first pitch. As students are reading and singing their part, the director may walk around to each part/group to do the following: listen, correct, sing along with, help with rhythm and pitch errors and guide students to figuring out the examples on their own.
    - Directors should NOT be singing and speaking pitches/rhythms, measures or phrases for students to listen to and then echo or repeat. Students should be learning, reading and figuring out their own musical pitches, rhythms, measures and phrases on their own with needed assistance and corrections from the director.
- Evaluation Time
    - After playing the beginning pitches, the piano may not be used during the evaluated sight-singing 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 from keeping a pulse. Doing so will result in disqualification of the sight-reading score.
    - Directors and singers should heed all tempo indications, phrase markings, and/or dynamic indications in the sight-reading material.

Adjudications

- Scoring sheets and rubrics will be provided to all judges or will be done digitally.
- All performance judges will provide feedback on a digital score sheet and recorded verbal comments.
- Sight Reading judges will provide written or digital feedback only.
- Separate ratings will be given for performance and sight-reading.
- The Performance Rating (80%) and Sight Reading Rating (20%) will be combined for an overall rating to be awarded.
- Judges Scoring Rubric
- Sight Reading Judges Rubric

SCORING AND RATING BREAKDOWN

Possible Rating outcomes:

- Superior with Distinction
    - A rating of 90-100 from all performance judges and the sight reading judge
    - Sight Reading performance of Level 2 music
- Superior
    - A rating of 90-100 as an average score from all performance and sight reading judges
    - Sight Reading performance of Level 1 music
- Excellent - A rating of 80-89 as an average score from all performance and sight reading judges
- Quality- A rating of 70-79 as an average score from all performance and sight reading judges
- Developing- A rating of 60-69 as an average score from all performance and sight reading judges
- Participation - A rating of 50-59 as an average score from all performance and sight reading judges

Awards (trophies) will be given to overall ratings for Excellent, Superior and Superior with Distinction.

***Only directors may pick up original scores/scoresheets/trophies for his or her schools**

PERFORMANCE SITE RULES:

BEHAVIOR

- Teachers must accompany their choirs to the event and remain with them during event day.
- **NO VIDEO RECORDING PERMITTED.** This is a state event; directors, students and chaperones must adhere to copyright policy.
- All mobile phones, smart watches/glasses, or other electronic devices, hats, sunglasses, and gum are prohibited. iPads may be used if on Airplane mode and checked by Site Host, Warm-Up Room monitor, and Sight-Reading Room monitor. Any item that would interfere with performances, aurally or visually, are not allowed.
- Students may not wander in and out of the performance area, especially during the adjudication of another group.
- There is to be no loud talking, laughing, or loud and disrespectful noises, or other performance disruptions.
- If a student, chaperone, parent, or director displays unbecoming or illegal behavior or damages property, they will be put on probation for the next year and the principal will be notified. Additionally, unbecoming behavior may jeopardize the school's participation for the next year.
- No food or drink is allowed in the performance area.
- No smoking/vaping anywhere on or around the host site.

- Choirs are encouraged to observe other ensembles respectfully during the performance.
- If any interference occurs during a group's performance, those responsible will have to leave the performance site immediately with their directors, chaperones, and will not be allowed to stay. A disciplinary note will follow and may result in probation or suspension of the school from the next year's Choral Performance Assessment.
- All choirs, directors, chaperones, bus drivers, etc must remain in the designated "choral performance assessment areas." Instructional areas and wings on campus not designed for event use are prohibited. Any campus visitor found in prohibited areas will be dismissed from campus. A letter will be sent to the school's director and principal informing them of the action. Disciplinary action could result in probation or suspension

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 nicholas.shumate@choraldivision.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.**

1) If a school has unbalanced quartets, please contact Region Choir Chairperson, Nicholas Shumate nicholas.shumate@choraldivision.org, before registering their students for approval.
2) 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 nicholas.shumate@choraldivision.org, before registering their students for approval.

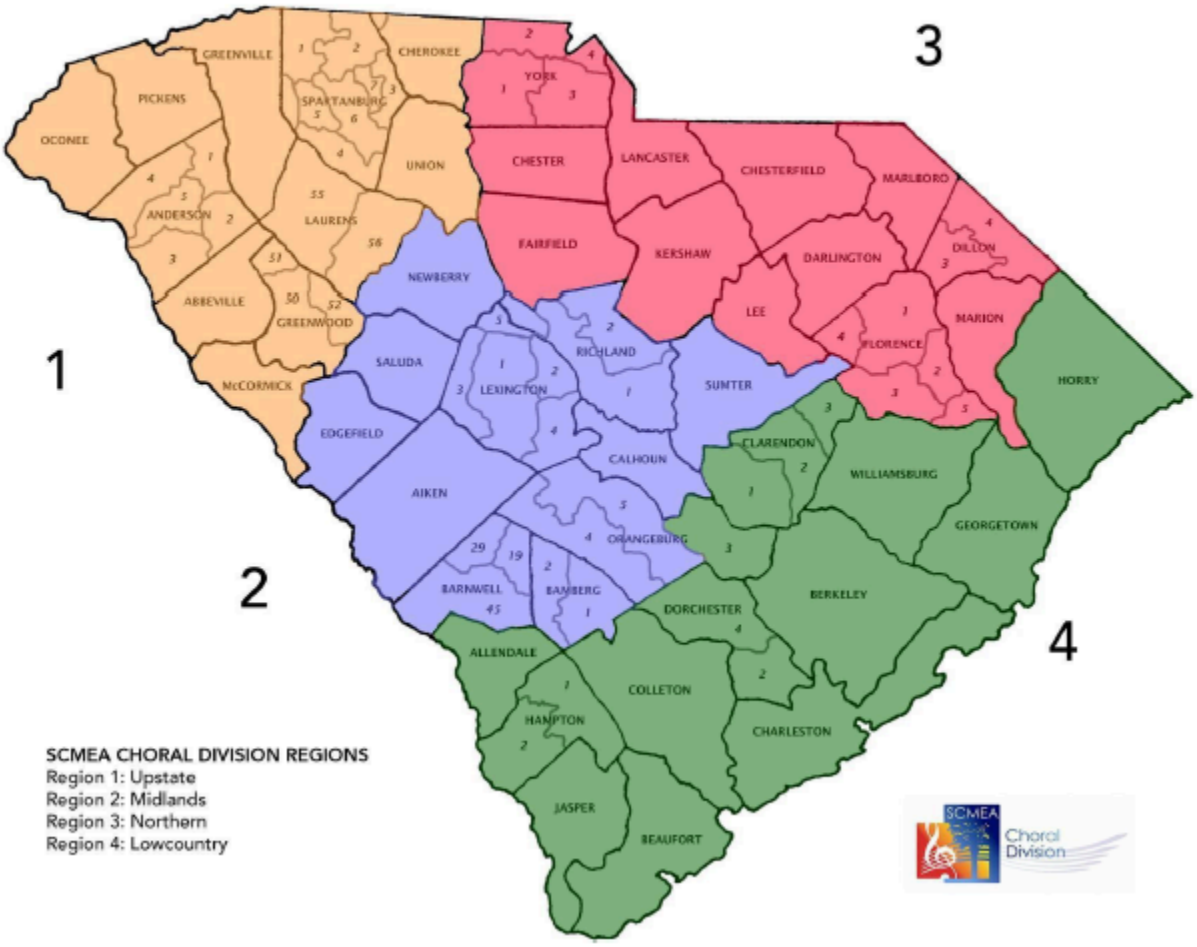
*Important/New-

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 **12** students initially.
  - Southern:
    - Each school attending this Region can register **12** 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:
Todd Gillespie
Blue Ridge High School
Phone Number: (803) 640-1051

Northern Region Site Coordinator:
Josh Hackley
Andrew Jackson High School
Phone Number: (240) 216-9168

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 nicholas.shumate@choraldivision.org.

2026-2027 Repertoire

Key:

SAB Voicing

FREE Sheet Music

Pay Attention To

- It Takes a Village - Joan Szymko
  - SATB
  - JWPepper Link
- The Pasture- Z. Randall Stroope
  - SATB
  - JWPepper Link
- Nine Hundred Miles- arr. Phillip Silvey
  - SATB
  - JWPepper Link
- Elijah Rock- arr. Jester Hairston
  - SATB
  - JWPepper Link
- Gloria - Antonio Vivaldi
  - CPDL FREE Score Link
  - Only need the Gloria Movement, not the rest of the work.

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 18, 2026
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:
   a. Northern Region Site-
      i. Location: Winthrop University
         1. Address: 1708 Memorial Cir., Rock Hill, SC 29733
      ii. Tuesday, October 20, 2026
         1. Clinician: TBD
   b. Central Region Site-
      i. Location: Newberry College
         1. Address: 2100 College Street, Newberry, SC 29108
      ii. Tuesday, October 20, 2026
         1. Clinician: Dr. Will Griswold (Director of Choral Activities Charleston Southern University)
   c. Western Region Site-
      i. Location: Furman University

1. Address: 3300 Poinsett Hwy., Greenville, SC 29613

ii. Tuesday, October 27, 2026

1. Clinician: Dr. Jordan Boyd (Director of Choral Activities College of Charleston)

d. Southern Region Site-

i. Location: Charleston Southern University

1. Address: 9200 University Blvd., Charleston, SC 29406

ii. Tuesday, October 27, 2026

1. Clinician: Dr. Gregory Graf (Director of Choral Activities North Greenville 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, nicholas.shumate@choraldivision.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
Northwestern High School Choral Director
2503 West Main Street
Rock Hill, SC 29732
nicholas.shumate@choraldivision.org

F. PAYMENT POLICY

All payments must be received by or postmarked by Friday, September 18, 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 26-27 school year in a school choral program directed by a member with an active NA*f*ME membership and in good standing with SCMEA. Membership of the director will be verified through the NA*f*ME database. Home-schooled students enrolled in a public or home-school choral program for at least one credit in the 26-27 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 **Thursday, October 1, 2026**. (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
    - 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 3-7, 2026 at Lexington 2 Performing Arts Center**
2. Auditions will be solo auditions and will be divided into two phases:
    - Prepared audition selection: SSATB "Honor and Glory" by Bach ed. Ehret
    - 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. (The only exception is in a year that the audition piece is out of print.)
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. Under no circumstances may teachers substitute one of their other students for a selected student. Failure to comply with the substitution rule is a rule violation, and 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. At the conclusion of each audition cycle, the All-State Committee will examine the cutoff scores for each voice part and may elect to appoint as Alternates those students who missed the cutoff by one to three points: the missed point range (1-3) will be decided year by year based on scoring spread. (See section on Alternates for more information)
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 25-27, 2027 at Winthrop University. A more detailed schedule will be provided when it is available.

Alternates

1. Alternates will need to register fully for the weekend event to be eligible for potential participation.
2. Directors who have students that qualify as alternates will be given the opportunity to decline alternate participation.
3. Alternates who elect to participate and register will be assigned to an ensemble so they may prepare in the event they are called for participation.
4. Alternates who register and are not called for participation will be invited auditors to the rehearsal process. Their teachers will be responsible for their whereabouts in rehearsal and must guarantee that students do not attempt to join the performance.
    a. Clinicians will be privately advised that they may choose to invite alternate auditors for performance participation. This is purely at the discretion of the individual clinician, and teachers will be advised accordingly prior to registration of their alternates.
5. Alternates who participate as Auditors throughout the weekend will follow all rules and regulations of All-State participation to include attendance and timeliness, device policies, etc.
6. Alternates will be required to participate in part checks at the beginning of the All-State Event.
7. As students fail to register for or appear at the All-State event, Alternates will be selected at random from their respective voice parts and notified by the Audition Coordinator if they are selected as an officially participating member of the assigned ensemble.

8. If selected members of the ensemble are identified as deficient in their preparation through the part checks, Alternates who have passed the part check will be selected at random and promoted according to their voice part.

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. Teachers must submit All-State Chorus Weekend Registration through the process designated by the All-State Chorus Chairperson. The registration process is completed online.
2. In addition to the non-refundable audition fee, a non-refundable All-State Chorus Weekend registration fee of fifty-five dollars ($55.00) will be required of each student participating in the All-State Chorus. This registration fee must be remitted by December 11, 2026. 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.
3. Registration forms must be completed online and appropriate fees must be paid online or payment check postmarked by Friday, December 11, 2026. (Late payments will result in a 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: Lizzi Elliott, York Comprehensive High School, 275 Alexander Love Hwy, York, SC 29745.
4. 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.
5. Director packets: A link will be provided for directors to order music directly from the distributor. Director packets will not be automatically provided.
6. The following items will be available for purchase at All-State Chorus Weekend;
    - Recordings of the concert performance
    - Plaques with individual student names, voice part, and choir.
7. 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.
8. 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 for All-State Chorus may be chosen from the following:
    1. A black tuxedo/suit (jacket and pants) with a white or black long-sleeved button down shirt to include a black tie or bow tie (black vest optional)
    2. A formal black button down with full length sleeves and lay down collar, black tie or bow tie and black pants (vest optional)
    3. Black formal concert dress (full length)
    4. Black dress which goes past the knee with fully OPAQUE black tights
    5. Black ankle length skirt with black blouse
    6. Black full-length pants with dressy black blouse or jacket and blouse.
    7. Students who are wearing pants must wear black socks or hose and black dress shoes
    8. The following items are STRICTLY PROHIBITED.
        a. Slits in dresses or skirts above the kneecap
        b. Bare midriff or bare back
        c. Spaghetti straps
        d. Cocktail or prom dresses
        e. Show choir dresses or attire (vests, sequined items, etc.)
        f. Sneakers, sandals, or slides of any type
        g. Low cut or revealing necklines
        h. Heels/shoes higher than 2 inches.
- The All-State Chorus will present a public concert at Winthrop University on February 27, 2027, 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. Rule Violations can result in the following: probation or suspension from auditioning for the student involved, probation or suspension for an entire program. Violations are discussed by the committee and are decided on a case by case basis.

Group A (Term 2025-2029)
Chelse Lawson, Alex Jones, and Rachel Premo

Group B (Term 2024-2028)
Lizzi Elliott, Amanda Wrona, Emily Reeves Bohl

Group C (Term 2023-2027)
Sarah Wahl, Melissa Henderson, NeTorrian Patton, and Josh Wald

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 30, 2027.

- Scholarship Division Résumé Form

Dates and Locations

- April 17, 2027 - West Ashley High School, Charleston, SC - Mr. Joshua Wald (Southern)
- May 1 , 2027 - White Knoll High School , Lexington, SC - Mrs. Sarah High (Midlands)
- April 17, 2027 - Rock Hill High School, Rock Hill, SC - Mrs. Lisa Pecarina (Northern)
- April 10, 2027- Greer High School, Greer, SC - Mrs. Madi Thomas (Western)
- April 17, 2027 - High Point Academy, Spartanburg, SC - Mr. Chase McAbee (Western)

Registrations/Payments should be submitted/postmarked, including payments by **SATURDAY, JANUARY 30th, 2027 @ 5pm.

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 30th @ 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 **Saturday, January 30th, 2027 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, you are sharing accompanists, 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, hymns, or contemporary Christian selections. Musical theater selections are acceptable.
8. A Certificate of Achievement will be emailed to the directors to use at their discretion. Pins will be available for purchase this year ($6.00 each). Check or cash is accepted.
    a. If you choose to order pins after the event, they can be mailed to you with the cost of shipping included in your total.
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**.)

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 the judge with an original score with measures numbered. If you cannot provide originals to the judge for adjudication, the student/ensemble will perform for comments only. You may use printed copies if purchased from a sheet music website. Please include the receipt of purchase with the judges' copy.
4. Photocopies may be used by the accompanist. Photocopies must be destroyed after the event. Accompanists may also use an iPad for their music.
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 for the director, if needed.) *Accompaniment must be live. No recordings. (If you have an accompanist that uses an ipad…that is fine.)
7. Each school will receive a 21 minute ***warm-up*** time prior to their performance. *(This time is intended as a warm-up time, not a rehearsal time. Please plan accordingly.)*
8. Middle/High Solos will be given 7 minutes in the judging room.
9. Advanced Solos will be given 14 minutes.

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.
3. Small ensembles will be given 7 minutes in the judging room.
4. Large ensembles will be given 14 minutes in the judging room.

E. **SOLOISTS**

1. Students are encouraged to sing age-appropriate literature. (No pop songs, hymns, or contemporary Christian selections.) Broadway/ Musical theater repertoire may be performed. Please be careful if selecting music from Disney movies - they must also be a Broadway song.
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 by the site chair.)
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:
    a. 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)
    b. 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)
2. CANCELLATIONS:
    a. If you have a student that can no longer attend, you can switch for another student within the same division.
    b. If you have to cancel an ensemble but keep everyone else, that is no problem. Just let the site host know.

c. If you have to cancel your whole school, you will be put on a probation period the following school year. If it occurs the following year, you will not be allowed to participate in solo and ensemble. We understand that things happen, but we have experienced several schools cancelling at the last minute and this does not allow us to be as efficient with our time and the judges' time.

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)
- Musical Theater (Solo or Small Ensemble)
- Vocal Solo (Scholarship)
- Scholarship Resume Form (Google doc that will ask you to make a copy)

Please send your payments (and invoice), if paying by check, to:

Mrs. Erin Sellers
% SCMEA Choral Division
2412 Kings River Rd.
Pawleys Island, SC 29585

HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

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

Registration & Postmark Deadline: January 29, 2027
Cancellation Deadline: February 5, 2027

Upstate
Date: March 18-19, 2027
Location: Spartanburg High School

Midlands
Date: March 15-16, 2027
Location: Richland 2 Performing Arts Center

Lowcountry
Date: March 17-18, 2027
Location: Summers Corners Performing Arts Center

Purpose:
In South Carolina, choral performance assessments serve as a vital component of the state's music education framework, aiming to enhance both student development and instructional quality. The purpose of the Choral Performance Assessment is the following:

1. **Student Skill Development**: These assessments offer students opportunities to showcase and refine their vocal abilities, musical understanding, and performance techniques. Through structured evaluations, students receive constructive feedback that aids in their artistic growth.
2. **Alignment with State Standards**: The assessments are designed to align with the South Carolina College- and Career-Ready Standards for Visual and Performing Arts Proficiency. This alignment ensures that evaluations are consistent with state educational goals and provide a clear framework for student achievement in choral music.
3. **Teacher Professional Development**: By participating in these assessments, educators gain insights into student progress and areas needing attention. This information is crucial for refining teaching strategies and enhancing overall instructional effectiveness.
4. **Program Evaluation**: The data collected from assessments assist in evaluating the effectiveness of choral programs at various educational levels. This evaluation supports continuous improvement and resource allocation to areas that will most benefit student learning.

The South Carolina Music Educators Association (SCMEA) Choral Division plays a pivotal role in organizing and supporting these assessments. Their mission is to provide leadership and assistance for the development of choral music programs across the state, ensuring that activities enrich the choral music experience for students and educators alike.

General Rules and Procedures

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.

2. Each school is 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 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 event. These decisions are determined by the number of registrations received.

   Commute times will be researched prior to creating the performance schedule. 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. Choirs with the same director will not be scheduled less than 1 hour apart. Choirs with the same director and from the same school will not be scheduled on separate days unless a special circumstance is presented to the committee by the director. Submitting the request is not a guarantee.

4. The schedule of the event 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 event 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.

5. Event day procedures will be sent out by email to registered directors prior to the festival. Follow these procedures precisely.

6. Names of the event judges will be posted on the Choral Division website as well as at the SCMEA Professional Development Conference in February. If, for any reason, judging panels are not available for an announcement, the committee chair will communicate the judging as they are secured. Directors must not discuss the Choral Performance Assessment with the judges or use any of the judges as a clinician during that school year.

7. Directors, students, chaperones, and guests are to follow instructions given by the Choral Festival Committee on the day of the event.

8. Directors are responsible for all students and chaperones and their behavior while at the event site. Electronic devices are strictly prohibited in the performance venue. This rule covers everyone in attendance, including students, teachers, chaperones, and parents.

9. If a problem occurs, schools may incur a rating deduction, dismissal from the event, and/or probation and suspension with accompanying letters to the director and principals notifying them of the infraction or inappropriate conduct.

10. All site procedures must be followed.

Fees and Refunds

Fees

The registration fee is $250.00 per choir. No money will be refunded due to cancellation after February 5, 2027. Any cancellations must be sent in writing/email to the Committee Chair. Checks should be made payable to SCMEA Choral Division. Schools registering two or more choirs may submit 1 check for their school Note: Late registrations and/or fees will not be accepted. Schools that fail to communicate check delays by the registration deadline will forfeit their registration.

Refunds

The following events do offer refunds for group cancellation by specific deadlines: Middle School Choral Performance Assessment and 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 at the fully charged amount.

Repertoire Requirements

- Each ensemble will perform only two selections.
- All music must be memorized.
- Repertoire must be quality choral literature that is both festival appropriate and appropriate for each individual ensemble (voicing, genre of ensemble, etc.).
- Judges have the discretion to take choice of repertoire into account for scoring using the performance rubric provided. Judges can take off points for choice of repertoire if they feel that the music chosen does not fit the voices within the ensemble.
- 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 (UIL, Virginia, Georgia, etc)
    - Etc.
    - Music publisher/distributor difficulty ratings are not acceptable sources (example: JWPepper rating a piece as "Medium" difficulty does not necessarily translate to a 3 or a 4 grade level, therefore it is not accepted as a source for difficulty grading.)
- Repertoire information, including instrumentalist needs for additional chairs and/or stands, will be required during the registration process.
- Repertoire selections should be performed in the correct voicing for the choir. For example, an SAB ensemble must have Sopranos, Altos, and Baritones singing the written parts from the score. The ensemble would **not** be able to sing SA (Soprano/Alto) music and have the Baritones sing the Soprano or Alto vocal line in their octave.
- There will be no previously recorded background accompaniment unless the recording is part of the composition.

Performance Procedures and Rules

Warm Up:

- Choirs are provided a warm-up room for twenty (20) minutes. The warm-up room will have a piano or keyboard provided.
- A monitor will be provided to each warm-up room to notify when time begins and ends.
- The twenty (20) minute warm-up time begins when the last member of the ensemble enters the room.
- A five (5) minute warning will be given to alert the director of the time remaining.
- Travel time from the warm-up room to the stage **will** be factored into the stage performance schedule.
- If your choir is late, the missed warm-up time will be forfeited. The festival must remain on schedule (as much as possible) for all choirs involved. If your choir arrives past their assigned performance time, the choir may not perform.

Stage Performance:

- Choirs will be adjudicated on **two** pieces.
- All repertoire must not exceed 15 minutes of performance time..
- Travel time on and off the stage will not count as part of the 15-minute performance time. Time will begin at the end of the presenting announcement.
- Student teachers that are allowed by the mentor teacher to conduct at CPA may only conduct one (1) of the two (2) adjudicated pieces.
- Student teachers must be a current NAfME member and must provide their membership number when registering the choir. If this information is omitted, the student teacher will not be able to conduct the choir.
- Each director will be provided with professional recordings of his/her choir's stage performance and each of the judge's comments.

Marked Original Scores:

- Directors must provide **three** original copies of ensemble repertoire with numbered measures.
- Each score must be labeled with the **school name *and* ensemble** in the top right hand corner.
- Copied music will not be allowed without a letter of permission from the publisher included with each judge's copy. Letters for the judges **and** the Site Host will be provided at the registration table (**4 TOTAL**).
- Digital-download copies will be allowed, but either a receipt for purchase or publisher authorization script should be seen on each copy of the music presented.
- If copied music is used without publisher permission, the choir will be able to perform for comments only.
- Choral Public Domain Library (CPDL) Procedure:
    - Print off the Title Page of your piece that CPDL provides as a cover for your music, <u>each</u> of the judge's copies, and your pianist (if applicable).
- Failure to provide three original copies of ensemble repertoire with numbered measures will result in the school performing for comments only - no rating will be given. Additionally, the CPA Chairperson will send

written documentation of the situation to the school principal copying the director, and Choral Division President.

Sight Reading Rules and Procedures

- Sight Reading repertoire will be in the same voicing and highest graded difficulty of the choir's stage performance repertoire.
    - Example:
        - An SSA choir that performed a grade 4 and a grade 5 piece onstage will perform SSA grade level 5 in Sight Reading
        - An SATB choir that performed two grade 3 pieces will perform SATB grade level 3 in Sight Reading
- Students may **not** be used for two ensembles in the same difficulty level and voicing category.
    - For example, if you have two SATB groups performing, the level of difficulty of repertoire should be different.
        - Example: one ensemble may sing Level 2 music, while the second group may sing Level 4 music. This will ensure that the director and students will not receive the same sight-reading music.
- All choirs are required to sight-read.
- If a choir performed for "Comments Only" on the stage, then "Comments Only" will be given in the sight-reading room.
    - Directors will not communicate with judges and ask that they put a potential rating on the score sheet as though the ensemble was being rated.
- Directors, student teachers, and school administrators are permitted into the sight-reading room. However, only the director may assist students with their learning of sight-reading music. Chaperones and students from other ensembles are not permitted.
- Choirs from the same school will sight-read different sight-reading pieces if registered in the same voicing. Voicing information on the registration form indicates how many sight-reading copies are needed for the event.
- The sight-reading music will have lyrics. However, the director may specify the syllable(s) to be used by singers (i.e. "loo", Solfege, count singing, etc.). Sight-reading the text is not recommended.
- Ensembles must sing the correct voicing and in the correct octave when sight-reading. For example:
    - A treble voiced singer cannot sing the Baritone vocal line in their treble octave. However, a treble voiced singer could sing tenor if they sing in the correct octave as written in the score. If a student sings in the incorrect octave from what is written in the score, the evaluation can reflect incorrect pitches in the final performance of the piece and that could negatively impact the final rating.
- Preparation Time
    - Ensembles will have six (6) minutes of preparation time before being evaluated. The evaluator will signal the director on timing as determined by the director before the six minute preparation time starts.
    - The piano may only be used to arpeggiate the first (or tonic) chord and to sound individual reference pitches during the practice time. Two notes may not be played simultaneously on the piano. Two or more consecutive pitches from a particular voice part may not be played on the piano. The director may use their voice in any manner they wish during the preparation period.
- Evaluation Time
    - After playing the beginning pitches, the piano may not be used during the evaluated sight-singing 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 from keeping a pulse. Doing so will result in disqualification of the sight-reading score.
    - Directors and singers should heed all tempo indications, phrase markings, and/or dynamic indications in the sight-reading material.

Adjudications

- Scoring sheets and rubrics will be provided to all judges or will be done digitally.
- All performance judges will provide feedback on a written or digital score sheet and recorded verbal comments.
- Sight Reading judges will provide written or digital feedback only.
- Separate ratings will be given for performance and sight-reading.
- The Performance Rating and Sight Reading Rating will be combined for an overall rating to be awarded.

Scoring and Rating Breakdown

Possible Rating outcomes:

- I - Superior with Distinction (a rating of I from all performance judges and the sight reading judge)
- I - Superior
- II - Excellent
- III - Quality
- IV - Developing
- V - Participation

Awards (trophies) will be given to overall ratings for Excellent, Superior and Superior with Distinction.

***Only directors may pick up original scores/scoresheets/trophies for his or her school.**

PERFORMANCE SITE RULES:

Behavior

- Teachers must accompany their choirs to the event and remain with them during event day.
- **NO VIDEO RECORDING PERMITTED.** This is a state event; directors, students and chaperones must adhere to copyright policy.
- All mobile phones, smart watches/glasses, or other electronic devices, hats, sunglasses, and gum are prohibited. iPads may be used if on Airplane mode and checked by Site Host, Warm-Up Room monitor, and Sight-Reading Room monitor. Any item that would interfere with performances, aurally or visually, are not allowed.
- Students may not wander in and out of the performance area, especially during the adjudication of another group.
- There is to be no loud talking, laughing, or loud and disrespectful noises, or other performance disruptions.
- If a student, chaperone, parent, or director displays unbecoming or illegal behavior or damages property, they will be put on probation for the next year and the principal will be notified. Additionally, unbecoming behavior may jeopardize the school's participation for the next year.
- No food or drink is allowed in the performance area.
- No smoking/vaping anywhere on or around the host site.
- Choirs are encouraged to observe other ensembles respectfully during the performance.
- If any interference occurs during a group's performance, those responsible will have to leave the performance site immediately with their directors, chaperones, and will not be allowed to stay. A disciplinary note will follow and may result in probation or suspension of the school from the next year's Choral Performance Assessment.
- All choirs, directors, chaperones, bus drivers, etc must remain in the designated "choral performance assessment areas." Instructional areas and wings on campus not designed for event use are prohibited. Any campus visitor found in prohibited areas will be dismissed from campus. A letter will be sent to the school's director and principal informing them of the action. Disciplinary action could result in probation or suspension.

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. the 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. (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.

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	**50 points maximum**
Superior with Distinction	50 points
Superior	40 points
All-State Chorus	**20 points maximum**
3A / 4A / 5A	4 points per participating student
1A / 2A	5 points per participating student
Region Choir	**16 points maximum**
Per participant	2 points
Solo & Ensemble Festival (Superior)	**14 points maximum**
Solo (per participant)	2 points
Ensemble	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:

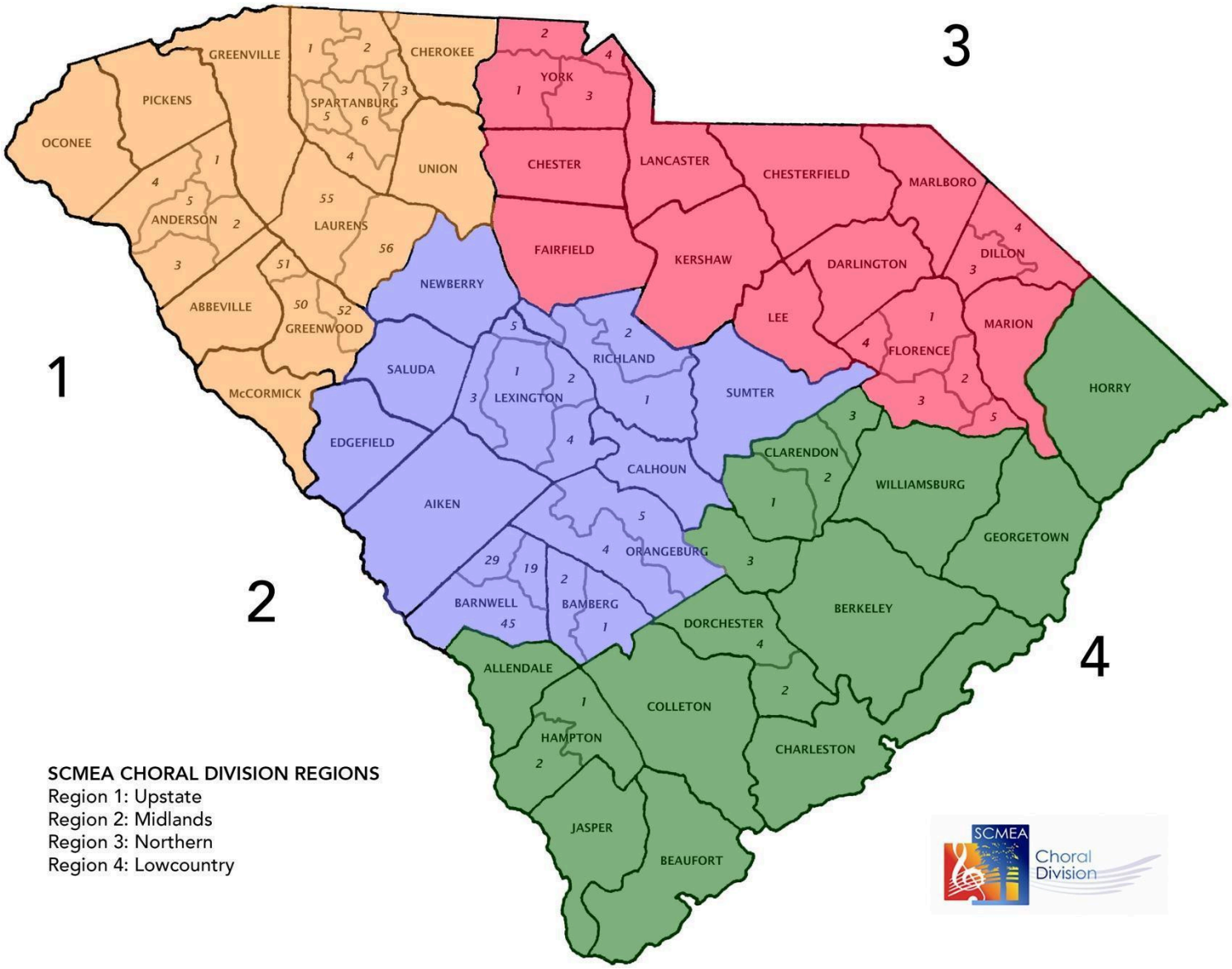
Choral Performance Assessment	**50 points maximum**
Superior with Distinction	50 points
Superior	40 points
Full-Day Clinics	**20 points maximum**
Per participant	2 points
Half-Day Clinics	**16 points maximum**
Per participant	2 points
Solo & Ensemble Festival (Superior)	**14 points maximum**
Solo (per participant)	2 points
Ensemble	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.



SCMEA CHORAL DIVISION REGIONS
Region 1: Upstate
Region 2: Midlands
Region 3: Northern
Region 4: Lowcountry