

Chorus Competition

The four categories for the Choral Festival include:

Middle School

Ensemble: 8-16 participants

Choir: 17 and above participants

High School

Ensemble: 8-16 participants

Choir: 17 and above participants

I. Hosting Information

The hosting venue must provide an appropriate performance setting, including safe choral risers, a spacious hall/auditorium, a tuned piano in good condition and acoustics that lend well to choral activities. The GICAA will provide the host school with \$\$\$ for judges. Region venues must contain enough seating for ALL schools to observe performances at one time.

II. Student Participation

This event is for students in 6th-12th grade. 6th-8th grade students should participate in the middle school division because of their vocal range and quality. At the discretion of the director a few older middle school students may combine with high school students to meet the minimum participant numbers. However, 9th-12th grade students should participate in only high school categories.

III. Music Selection

- Selections should be two contrasting pieces, one sacred and one standard repertoire. For examples, please refer to the ACDA and GMEA websites.
- The songs should focus on a choral sound, rather than on solos. If the song includes a solo, it should not be the major portion of the song.
- The songs must be sung in the language in which they are printed in the music provided for the judges.
- All selections must be memorized.
- There will be no soundtracks allowed, only live accompaniment as indicated in the music.
- All music must be from published material.
- No alterations to the accompaniment are allowed.
- No microphones will be used.

- One original copy of music must be provided for each judge. If it is a downloaded copy, proof of purchase must be included with the music.
- No Chorus Director is allowed to be the accompanist
- Each School will supply their own accompanist
- A source for purchasing sheet music:
<http://www.jwpepper.com/sheet-music/welcome.jsp>

IV. Dress Code

Performance attire should be appropriate for concert setting. It can include school uniform or traditional concert dress.

V. Performance & Judging

- Groups will have a 20 minute performance time, with a warm-up immediately prior to their performance slot in a separate room that contains a piano.
- The Directors will have the option to begin with a one minute balance check to be included in their 20 minutes.
- Scoring is based on a 100 point scale. There will be an awards ceremony at the conclusion of the event.
- The top two scoring groups from each region will advance to the State level based on judging scores.
- At the State level, awards will be presented for the Georgia State Championship for High School Choral Performance in Large and Small Groups, and Championship trophies for Middle School Performance in Large and Small Groups.
- The judges should be asked to stay until after the awards to discuss any comments notated on the score sheets with the school's director.

VI. Chorus Director Etiquette

- Upon entering the performance stage, make sure that your students are situated correctly on the risers and that the accompanist can see you.
- Use none, any, or all, of one minute to make sure that your balance between the choir and the piano is optimal. This can be accomplished by having a few measures of a separate piece prepared to sing while the piano accompanies.
- Once you are prepared, turn and face the judges. Present your school number (assigned when you arrive to the event), the name of the first selection, and the name of the composer/arranger. Then, turn to your choir to begin performance of that piece.
- Upon completion of your first piece, turn to acknowledge the judges and wait for their signal. When they motion that they are ready for your second selection, introduce the name of the second selection and the name of the composer/arranger, then turn to begin performance of that piece.
- Upon completion of your second piece, turn to acknowledge the audience and their applause. Appropriately indicate the accompanist and the members of the choir, and then have your choir immediately exit the stage.

Honors Chorus

- Each school may nominate up to 2 students each (soprano, alto, tenor, bass) to perform at competition day for Chorus. (GICAA will put a nomination form on the website) (grades 7th -12th)
- Timeframe of the day
8:30-10:30: Honors Chorus practice & perform before competition (music workshop for other competitors)
Lunch break
11-3 Choral Competition
- GICAA will send music and track info for students to learn the music ahead of time, divide into sectionals with local music directors to help prepare students (this will be attempted)
- Concert attire: All black: No jacket required
- The GICAA plans to hire a guest clinician to coach the group and select the music ahead of time.
- Schools or individual students will purchase their own music via JW Pepper and link provided by the GICAA.
- Students are responsible for learning the music ahead of time to the best of their ability and arriving on time to practice the music before the concert.