

American Choral Director's Association  
Tennessee Chapter

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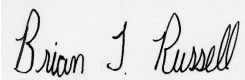
February 10, 2007

Dear colleague:

It is with greatest pleasure that I announce the adjudicators for the 2007 TNACDA State Choral Festival! This Festival has for years been a rite of passage for the finest choral ensembles in the state, perpetuating the art of choral music through the comments of nationally-renowned adjudicators. This year is no different as **Hilary Apfelstadt** of Ohio State University, **Daniel Bara** of East Carolina University, and **John Odom** of Starr's Mill High School in Georgia will serve our choirs well. Each of these individuals is highly involved in his/her state's chapter of ACDA, performing at regional and national conventions and by holding leadership roles and offices.

Attached are biographies of these individuals. I know you will respect the collective experience these directors bring to our Festival. I also encourage you to post these bios in your rehearsal space for your students to read – adding a face and identity to the voices they hear will make the entire process more real for them, perhaps increasing the rehearsal level as you and they prepare for the performance. Also attached is the 2007 Festival Registration Form. Please note that the Fee Structure benefits ACDA members, so if you have let your membership expire, make sure to rejoin and take advantage of all ACDA has to offer!

Finally, should you have any questions about the Festival, please do not hesitate to contact me. I believe highly in the benefits this Festival has to offer for our choral programs. By gaining an invitation, your choirs have already proven to be fine ensembles. Through the Festival experience, we continue to strive to make the good better! I hope you have already made plans to attend; if not, I encourage you to do so. Also, if there are others in your district who are not planning to attend, encourage them to do so as well, for we all benefit from collective improvement and dedication. I look forward to working with you at this Festival. Until then, I remain



Brian T. Russell  
Choir Director – White House High School  
TNACDA High School Repertoire and Standards Chair

## TENNESSEE ACDA STATE CHORAL FESTIVAL ADJUDICATORS



**Hilary Apfelstadt** conducts the Chorale and Women's Glee Club, supervises Mastersingers, teaches conducting and choral repertory, and coordinates the graduate conducting program at Ohio State University. Dr. Apfelstadt's collegiate choral ensembles have performed by invitation at regional and national ACDA (American Choral Directors Association) conventions as well as at other educational conferences. Active as guest conductor and clinician, Dr. Apfelstadt has conducted numerous honor choirs and all-state choruses in the US., Canada and Cuba. Professor Apfelstadt, who sang for several years with the Robert Shaw Institute Singers, has published more than 70 articles on choral music and education. She serves on the editorial boards of three professional journals, is a past-president of Central Division ACDA, and is a member of the Research and Publications Committee for national ACDA. She is also Director of Music at Linworth United Methodist Church in Columbus. She holds a PhD in Music Education from the University of Wisconsin-

Madison, a Masters in Choral music education from the University of Illinois, a Bachelor's degree in music from the University of Toronto, and the Associate diploma in piano from the Royal Conservatory of Music, Toronto.



**Daniel Bara** is the director of choral activities and instructor of conducting and choral literature at East Carolina University in Greenville, North Carolina. A recent recipient of the Robert L. Jones Award for Outstanding Teaching, Dr. Bara heads ECU's program of four university choral ensembles, administers the master of music degree in choral conducting, and is the founder of the East Carolina University Summer Choral Conducting Institute. He received his doctor of musical arts degree in conducting from the Eastman School of Music, where he was also awarded the Walter Hagen Conducting Prize in May 2001. That year, he also won the ACDA National Student Conducting Competition (Graduate Division) in San Antonio, Texas. Dr. Bara is president-elect of NCACDA and is past R&S chair for Community Choirs in North Carolina. In increasing demand as a conductor and clinician, he served on the faculty of the Eastman Summer Conducting Institute at the Eastman School of Music during July 2003, and he is on the summer

conducting and choral faculty at Interlochen Arts Camp in Interlochen, Michigan. He enjoys an active schedule of guest conducting appearances with middle and high school honor choirs, and he has conducted all-state and regional honor choirs in North Carolina, Virginia, and Pennsylvania. As a choral adjudicator and clinician, he has served at choral festivals in North Carolina, Virginia, and South Carolina. Choirs under Dr. Bara's direction have performed by invitation at state and regional conferences of the American Choral Directors Association and the Music Educators National Conference. The ECU Chamber Singers recently sang under his baton at the 2006 ACDA Southern Division Regional Convention in Charleston, West Virginia and have been invited to perform at the 2007 ACDA National Convention in Miami Florida.



A native of Mississippi, **John Odom** holds a Ph.D. in Music Education, a Master of Music Education and a Bachelor of Music Education from the University of Southern Mississippi. He also holds a Master of Church Music degree from the New Orleans Baptist Theological Seminary. Before coming to Georgia, Odom taught choral music in Mississippi for thirteen years at the junior high and high school levels. In his eighth year in Georgia, he has served as Director of Choral Activities at Lovejoy High School in Clayton County for five years and is in his third year as Director of Choral Activities at Starr's Mill High School in Fayetteville, Georgia. Choirs under his direction have consistently received Superior ratings at District, State, and Regional choral festivals, as well as Superior ratings and Best in Class awards at regional competitions. Dr. Odom's students have been selected for All State Honor Choruses, Regional and National ACDA Honor Choruses, and the Governor's Honor Program. He has served as GMEA District Choral Chair, District VI Chair and

District Honor Chorus organizing Chair. Dr. Odom is currently the State ACDA Repertoire and Standards Chair, and serves on the Spivey Hall Education Committee and the Atlanta Opera Education Committee. He was selected as STAR teacher at Lovejoy High School in 2003 and has been selected to Who's Who Among America's Teachers in 1995, 2002, 2004, and 2005.