



## Audition Guidelines for Performance at National Conferences

2021 ACDA National Conference

Dallas, Texas

March 17-20, 2021

Invitations to choirs for ACDA National Conference performances are based solely on the quality of musical performances as demonstrated in audition recordings (uploaded mp3 submissions).

### I. Preparation of MP3 Files

ACDA will consider only mp3 files prepared in compliance with specifications listed below and accompanied by requested materials in pdf form:

1. Proposed repertoire for the 2021 conference; 2. Scanned copies of three representative programs sung by the auditioning group, one each from 2019-20, 2018-19, and 2017-2018. (For further information, see Section V. below.)

The uploaded mp3 files should contain only complete pieces. If a longer work is excerpted, several minutes should be included on the file, and the repertoire from all three years' examples should be essentially the same kind as that proposed for the conference performance.

### II. Audition Procedures

All mp3, pdf, and choir/conductor information will be submitted and uploaded through the link provided at [www.acda.org](http://www.acda.org) no later than April 15, 2020. Upon receipt, a National Office staff member will assign each submission a number to assure confidentiality until after the National Audition Committee has completed its consideration. At no time will the choir/conductor identity be known to any of the audition committee members.

Submissions must fit into the following Repertoire & Resource committee areas as clarified below:

- Children's and Community Youth
  1. Children's choirs are defined as unchanged voices and may include school choirs, auditioned community choirs, boychoirs, and church choirs.
  2. Community Youth choirs are defined as community groups including singers ages 12-18, pre-college level, and may include (a) treble voicing, (b) mixed voicing (including changed voices); (c) T/B or TTBB voices. Note: School ensembles need to submit in the Junior High/Middle School or High School categories.
- Junior High/Middle School
- Senior High School
- Male Choirs/TTBB/Lower Voice
- Women's Choirs/SSAA/Treble
- Two-year College: community college (2-year schools)
- College and University (4 or 4+ year schools)

## Audition Guidelines for Performance at National Conferences continued

- Vocal Jazz
- Show Choir (Show Choirs will need to submit both audio and video uploads.)
- Community Choirs: ages 18 and up, adult mixed groups or single gender choirs, in either category: (a) volunteer amateur groups with a maximum of one paid leader per section, or (b) semi-professional or professional ensembles with paid members.
- Music in Worship: ages 18 and up adult choirs (treble, mixed or TB/TTBB/Lower Voice) including gospel choirs, even those sponsored by a community or school organization. (Note: children's and youth church choirs can enter in the children's choir and youth categories).
- Ethnic and Multi-cultural Perspectives: groups that represent various ethnic backgrounds (excluding gospel choirs that will be considered under Music in Worship).

### III. Screening Process

(Note: All auditions will be handled via the ACDA online system to ensure a fair and unbiased review of all submissions.)

There are two levels of screening: 1. an initial or first screening level at which finalists will be selected; and 2. a final screening level at which only those recommended from the first screening will be considered. Each choir will be requested to include a brief description of the group which may include context for the ensemble (school/community, auditioned/unauditioned, etc., mission statement (if applicable) and demographics). However, it should be noted that all auditions are "blind," that is, without specific knowledge of the identity of the choir or conductor.

For Level 1, in consultation with the National R&R Chair, national chairs for each R&R area will appoint two additional people, representing different divisions, to screen the category. We recommend that auditors be chosen from among conductors who have performed at divisional or national conferences. The online submissions process automatically tabulates responses from listeners in the respective committees and generates a list indicating the collective top ten submissions in ranked order, plus five alternates for the National Audition Committee. In any area where there are fewer than 10 auditions, the National Committee (Level 2) will hear all submissions.

For Level 2, National Audition Committee members will hear only the top 10 in each category, unless fewer than ten are submitted in that area, as mentioned above. Score results are submitted to the National Audition Committee Chair and the National Conference Chair, who together with the Conference Steering Committee, will decide which eligible groups to invite, in consideration of planning the most effective conference. Every effort will be made to represent a broad range of excellent performing groups, and there is no quota in any area. Audition committee members will not know the identity of groups until AFTER final decisions are made so as to maintain the integrity of the blind audition process.

National Audition Committee members will be selected from the following:

- Division Presidents, past-presidents and/or past divisional and national officers
- National and/or division Repertoire & Resource Chairs in the area of audition

## Audition Guidelines for Performance at National Conferences continued

- Outstanding choral directors of groups in the Repertoire and Resource areas being auditioned that performed at previous national conferences

No person submitting audition materials for the forthcoming conference may serve on either the first screening or final audition committee.

The ACDA National Performing Choirs Chair will notify all choirs of their audition results no later than June 15, 2020.

### IV. Eligibility

Conductors must be current members of ACDA and must have been employed in the same position with the same organization since the fall of 2017. No choral ensemble or conductor may appear on successive national conferences. It is understood that ACDA will not assume financial responsibility for travel, food, or lodging for performance groups. This application implies that the submitted ensemble is prepared to travel and perform at the conference if accepted.

Co-conductors for a particular ensemble may submit an application for performance together if the following conditions apply: a) Both conductors are members of ACDA and have been conductors of the ensemble for at least three years. b) Both conductors share an equal or similar role as the shaper of the ensemble, and c) Recordings are equally representative of both conductors' work with the ensemble.

There will be one application on which both conductors will provide their complete information. Each conductor must submit recordings and programs from the previous three successive years that represent their own performance with the ensemble. Programs must clearly show that co-conductors have an equal or similar role in performance with the specific ensemble. The complete submission (6 selections) will be assessed as one performance application.

### V. Items Required for Application Submission:

1. Director's name, home address, phone, e-mail address, ACDA member number and expiration date.
2. Name of institution, address, name of choir, number of singers, voicing, and age level (See Section II above for clarification regarding Repertoire & Resources area clarification of choir categories.)
3. PDF #1 – Proposed Program for Performance at the national conference. Please include title, composer, and approximate performance time in minutes and seconds. The total program time may not exceed 25 minutes including entrance, exit, and applause. The use of photocopies or duplicated music at ACDA conferences is strictly prohibited. Accompaniment in the forms of mp3/tape/CD may not be used on the audition recordings or on ACDA conference programs. ACDA encourages conductors to program a variety of styles from various eras unless proposing a concert by a single composer or genre. Only one manuscript (unpublished) piece may be included.
4. PDF #2, #3, #4 – Programs – Applicants must upload one scanned program page as proof of conducting and programming for each year represented on the recordings, i.e. from 2017-2018; 2018-2019; and 2019-2020. See item IV above regarding co-conductors, if applicable.

## Audition Guidelines for Performance at National Conferences continued

5. PDF #5 Title, Composer, Recording location (live, studio, rehearsal).
6. Non-refundable application fee of \$50 submitted by credit card only.
7. Conductor and choir bios (125 words each) will need to be uploaded at the time of application. You will also be asked to upload a conductor photo (must be 300 dpi minimum). Choir photos can be submitted at a later time.
8. Recordings in mp3 format based on the following specifications:

The total length of the three audition uploads should be 10 to 15 minutes, one selection each from 2017-2018; 2018-2019; and 2019-2020. The first upload mp3 must be from the current year, 2019-2020; the second upload mp3 from 2018-2019, and the third upload mp3 from 2017-2018.

All materials must be submitted in full no later than April 15, 2020 via [www.acda.org](http://www.acda.org). An incomplete upload of all audition materials will not be considered.

## VI. Schedule of Dates

Auditions open February 1, 2020. Application available online at [www.acda.org](http://www.acda.org).

By April 15, 2020. Audition application, uploads, and payment completed by 11:59 pm CST

By June 15, 2020. National auditions completed

By June 15, 2020. Applicants notified of audition results

## VII. Conference Application Statement

In 2017 California instituted a state law banning the use of taxpayer funds to support travel to certain states which, according to the bill, *"authorizes discrimination based on sexual orientation, gender identity, and gender expression, or (2) voids or repeals existing state or local protections against such discrimination."* This ban applies to our 2021 national conference state, Texas.

In light of these circumstances, we will work directly with any choir which is

- 1) Funded by the state of California and
- 2) Ultimately invited to perform at the conference

to make such an appearance possible by leveraging the national connections of the ACDA.