



Advocacy Statement & Strategies During the COVID-19 Pandemic

From ACDA's COVID-19 Response Committee Report

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The human condition is elevated to a broader understanding of itself and its place in the world through the study of and participation in diverse choral experiences. It builds connectivity throughout communities and enables singers to contribute their unique offerings to a larger community. Society benefits from the aesthetic contributions of diverse communities of singers represented in choral programs within schools, houses of worship, and community organizations through purposeful citizenry, connectivity within and between communities, and acknowledging the worth of its contributors.

Prior to the pandemic, serious cutbacks in funding for music education and the devaluation of the role of music-making in modern society slowly but steadily threatened choral programs in the United States. In the wake of the global pandemic, it is more important than ever to provide support and creative learning outlets that strengthen a well-rounded populace. It is essential to provide access to tools, among them technology, to keep America singing, thinking creatively, and building inclusive communities. Choirs have proven themselves uniquely positioned to use technology to support and in some cases sustain learning, creative artistry, and community identity while tending to the social emotional learning of all singers in choirs across the country.

During the COVID-19 pandemic it is important to advocate for

- the choral art in the school, church, and community
- equitable access to technology for all students
- a safe space to support social emotional learning
- an outlet for creative thinking and artistic expression

Strategies for advocacy

- Provide platforms for singers to tell stories and share photos (ex: social media, conference calls among members).

- Find and use resources that advocate for diversity and the inclusion of all singers and teachers in choral programs.
- Compose messages to local congressional leaders using the template provided on the [National Association for Music Education \(NAfME\) website](#).
- Engage singers in actively advocating for choral music.
- Engage parents and community members in advocating for choral music.
- Actively voice support for funding at local, state, and national levels of education and government.
- Collaborate with local and national organizations to ensure the distribution of arts funding data and arts-related activism opportunities.
- Collaborate with ACDA standing committees to ensure the distribution of unified advocacy statements and data regarding choral programs or individual choristers.