The 2023 National Conference centers the need to create and hold space for all to belong. We call upon our membership to share performances that demonstrate excellence and an expertise that broadens our ears, minds, and hearts while highlighting a diversity of music-makers and music-creators. We seek applications for performances that actively engage all components of our membership, as belonging starts with access.

The 2023 Conference theme is *A Place of Belonging*. Please note that all kinds of singing ensembles and repertoire areas of choral music experience are welcomed. All current ACDA members are encouraged to apply.

I. Eligibility & Expectations

Conductors must be current members of ACDA and must have been employed in the same position with the same organization since the fall of 2018. While normally no choral ensemble or conductor may appear on successive national conferences, we have made an exception to allow anyone who performed on the 2021 Virtual Conference to re-submit an application for 2023.

Co-conductors for a particular ensemble may submit an application for performance together if all of the following conditions apply:

- Both conductors are members of ACDA and have been conductors of the ensemble since the fall of 2018
- Both conductors share an equal or similar role as the shapers of the ensemble, and
- 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 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 (six selections) will be assessed as one performance application.

II. Registration and Travel Info

It is understood that ACDA will not assume financial responsibility for travel, food, or lodging for ensembles or conductors. This online application implies that the conductor and the ensemble have the funds to travel and perform at the conference if accepted.

III. Application Process

All materials listed below will be submitted and uploaded through the Submittable platform at www.acda.org/conferences, no later than April 15, 2022. The Submittable platform assigns each submission a number, assuring 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 screening committee members. An incomplete upload of the audition materials listed below will not be considered.

1. A list of your proposed repertoire for the 2023 conference. The proposed program should include the following:

    a. The title, composer and/or arranger, and publication information, of each piece

    b. Approximate performance time of each piece, with a total program time that should not exceed 25 minutes total on stage, including applause.

The proposed program will be considered as a category in the final screening rubric and should include a variety of musical eras and styles. The committee strongly encourages each program to meet or exceed The Institute for Composer Diversity's (https://www.composerdiversity.com/) recommendation to represent "a minimum of 25-35% works by living composers; at least 15-25% works by women composers; and at least 15-25% works by composers from underrepresented racial, ethnic, or cultural heritages, including overlaps between these categories." Only one manuscript (unpublished) piece may be included. The use of photo-copies or duplicated music at ACDA conferences is strictly prohibited. **Note: Accepted choirs are expected to perform their proposed program at the conference.**

2. Three audio-only recordings in digital format. The combined total duration of the three recordings should be no longer than 10–15 minutes in length. Important: Do not include any identifying information within the recording itself (e.g., an announcement of the group or conductor, a visible banner of the school in a video clip), nor any identifying information in the file names of the recording submissions themselves.

    a. The three submissions should include representative examples of the choir's performances that can be chosen from performances in four academic years (September through August) and all should be led by the same conductor. If necessary (due to limitations to in-person rehearsals and performances because of Covid-19 restrictions), two of the recordings can be from the same year, but that should be noted in the application.

        i.   One selection from the 2021–22 academic year or 2022 calendar year

        ii. One selection from the 2020–21 academic year or 2021 calendar year

        iii. One selection from the 2019–20 academic year or 2020 calendar year

        iv. One selection from the 2018–19 academic year or 2019 calendar year

    b. For each piece included in the recording, include a PDF file of one concert program when that music was performed. Each PDF file should display the program page that includes the repertoire. If the date is not shown on the repertoire page, please also include the page that shows the date of the performance.

    c. The uploaded mp3 files should contain only complete pieces. If a multi-movement work is excerpted, please include an entire movement.

    d. Submissions must feature unedited recordings made by the same conductor and the same ensemble; in-concert performances are preferred and encouraged.

    e. Recordings may not be enhanced or engineered in any way.

    f. Recordings should reflect repertoire similar in complexity and style to the program proposed for the conference performance, but they need not be pieces on your proposed program.

3. Conductor and Ensemble Biographies

   a. The ensemble's biography (up to 100 words maximum)

   b. The conductor's biography (up to 100 words maximum)

   c. Headshot of the conductor(s) in .jpg format

   d. Photo of the Ensemble in .jpg format. Note: Ensembles that are selected will have the opportunity to resubmit updated photos by October 1, 2022, for publication in *Choral Journal*.

4. Choirs will be asked to self-categorize as follows:

   a. Ensemble Type

      i. Children's and Community Youth

      ii. College and University

      iii. Contemporary/Commercial (including Showchoir, who will need to submit both audio and video uploads)

      iv. Community

      v. Junior High/Middle School

      vi. Music in Worship

      vii. Professional

      viii. Senior High School

      ix. Vocal Jazz

   b. Voicing

      i. Soprano-Alto

      ii. Tenor-Bass

      iii. Mixed voicing

5. Ensemble Statement - To ensure a diverse and responsive conference, applicants are asked to share about their ensemble mission and practices in a narrative no longer than 300 words. The narrative might include:

   a. The demographics of the ensemble, institution, and/or the wider community

   b. The ensemble's history, mission, values, and philosophy

   c. How/If the ensemble works with the wider community

   d. How/If the ensemble meets the needs of a specific population

6. Director's name, home address, phone, e-mail address, ACDA member number, and renewal date.

7. Name of institution, address, name of choir, number of singers, voicing, and ensemble type (see 4. above).

8. Non-refundable application fee of $50 submitted by credit card only.

IV. Screening Process

All auditions are "blind"; that is, the screening committee will not know the identity of the choir or conductor. 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.

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 regions, to screen the category. We recommend that auditors be chosen from among conductors who have performed at regional 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. 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:

- Region presidents, past-presidents, and/or past regional and national officers

- National and/or regional Repertoire & Resource Chairs in the area of audition

- Outstanding choral directors of groups in the Repertoire and Resource areas being auditioned that have 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 rubric showing the performance criteria and rating scales that will be used by the adjudicators, along with all the information included here, is available at acda.org/conferences, or the QR code below.

V. Schedule of Dates and Application Link

- Auditions Open: February 1, 2022

- By April 15, 2022: Audition application, uploads, and payment completed by 11:59 pm CDT

- By June 15, 2022: National auditions review completed

- By July 1, 2022: Applicants notified of audition results

- Application available online at the Submittable platform at acda.org/conferences, or the QR code below.

www.acda.org/conferences