

# 2018 MMEA NEW DIRECTOR'S GUIDE

## Welcome

Welcome to choral music in the State of Mississippi! Whether you are a first year teacher or a seasoned veteran from another state, this handbook is designed to help you through your first year of teaching in the State of Mississippi. The *Mississippi Music Educators Association (MMEA)* is the state affiliate of *NAfME: The National Association for Music Education*, which is a professional music organization that advances the teaching of music education nationwide. It is *NAfME's* philosophy that "For today's students to succeed tomorrow, they need a comprehensive education that includes music taught by exemplary music educators." *MSACDA* is the state chapter for the *American Choral Directors Association*. Membership with *NAfME* and/or *ACDA* is required for students to participate in many of the activities listed in the document.

This handbook is meant to serve as a general guide. Please keep in mind that procedures can vary between districts. In addition to your division presidents and your state president, your administrators, district chair, and colleagues in your area can also be of great help in answering any questions you may have. The current officer list for the MS Music Educators Association may be found at [www.msmea.org](http://www.msmea.org). The current list for the MS Chapter of ACDA may be found at [www.msacda.org](http://www.msacda.org).

The MHSAA (Mississippi High School Activities Association) is the organization responsible for governing high school choral activities in the State of Mississippi. As a new director in the state, it is highly beneficial to attend their choral business meetings which are led by MMEA division presidents. These meetings are held at the beginning of August and January each year at the MHSAA office building in Clinton. You can find exact dates for these meetings by visiting [www.msmea.org](http://www.msmea.org) or by clicking on <http://www.misshsaa.com/choral/>. In addition to these meetings, there also is a brief business meeting for members of the Senior High, Junior High, and Elementary Divisions that are held during the annual MMEA/ACDA State Conference. Please note that there are MMEA divisional meetings and activities throughout the year that are not sponsored by the Mississippi High School Activities Association.

## Beginning the School Year

### Membership

Join your professional music organizations so your students will be eligible to participate in all of the choral music opportunities offered statewide. Membership forms may be downloaded from the MMEA website, [www.msmea.org](http://www.msmea.org) and the MSACDA website, [www.msacda.org](http://www.msacda.org).

### Registration with the Mississippi High School Activities Association

In order for your students to be eligible to participate in choral music activities in the state, you must register both yourself and your students with the MHSAA. All forms are located in the choral directors handbook on the MMEA website.

**Form 1** registers you as a choral director, and students are registered in the **C2C Online Registration Database System** (see "Eligibility" on pg. 2), which confirms the eligibility of your students. Form 1 and C2C Registrations are due no later than September 14<sup>th</sup> and should be sent to LeAnna Dawson at MHSAA. If these forms are not received, your students will not be able to participate in district and state choral festivals.

Contact: LeAnna Dawson, [ldawson@misshsaa.com](mailto:ldawson@misshsaa.com)

## Eligibility

Students are academically eligible to participate in statewide choral activities if they maintain a GPA of 2.0 or a C average. Eligibility rules are explained in depth in the MHSAA manual. If a student does not meet eligibility requirements, he or she **may** participate in your school concerts, but they **may not** participate in any choral events that includes singers from another school (i.e., district and state performance assessments). Submit your Eligibility Form through C2C. Check with your athletic director or principal for instructions.

## Repertoire to Start the Year

Selection of repertoire is one of the most important keys to success during your first year. It is helpful to obtain old concert programs and recordings so you can ascertain the skill level of your singers, as well as an understanding of the kinds of repertoire to which they previously have been exposed. In many situations, it is best to wait to pick the majority of your repertoire until you have had a chance to hear and work with the singers. Spend time before school starts narrowing down a large list of possibilities. You then will have many pieces ready from which to choose once you have had an opportunity to hear your singers. Be sure to choose several pieces for the beginning of the year that will provide your singers with early success that they also are sure to enjoy. There will be many opportunities to challenge your singers throughout the year, and you will increase your chances of their rising to the challenges you set if you give them a feeling of success during the first weeks of school.

## Scheduling and Maintaining a Calendar

Before the school year starts, it is imperative that you meet with your administration/counselors to discuss scheduling for the choral music program. You will want to determine how many classes you are teaching and obtain rosters for each of these classes. Be sure you are familiar with the procedures for dropping and adding courses. Your counselors are vital to the success of your program, and it is important to develop friendly communications from the beginning.

As soon as you are able, you will want to provide your administration with a choral calendar for their approval. This same calendar should also be distributed to students no later than the first few weeks of school. It is helpful if you can obtain a calendar from the previous year so you will know what kinds of performances to which the students are accustomed. As you are scheduling concerts, be sure you are aware of other school events (especially if you have many singers involved in band or another sport). Also, pay close attention to ACT testing dates, SATP testing dates and MMEA/ACDA sponsored events.

## Choral Music Activities & Opportunities Sponsored by MMEA, ACDA, & MHSAA

### District and State Performance Assessments

After you register yourself and your students with the MHSAA, middle school directors are eligible to participate in your District JH Choral Festival. High school directors, once registered, are eligible to participate in the MHSAA State Performance Assessment. District JH Choral Festivals usually are held in February. The HS and JH State Performance Assessments usually are in March or April. Your District Chair will contact you with specific dates, which also will be posted on the MMEA and MHSAA websites.

**Junior High:** Eligible groups for District and State Performance Assessments: **Choirs-** Mixed, Girls, Boys and **Ensembles:** Mixed, Girls, and Boys.

**High School:** Eligible groups for the State Performance Assessments: **Choirs-** SATB Mixed, SAB Mixed, SSA Women, TTB/TBB/TTBB Men.

**Ensembles:** SATB Madrigals (8-20 members), SSA Madrigals (8-20 members), Mixed Ensemble (4-18 members), Sextet (no more than 6 members), and Quartet (4 members).

- \* All choirs must sight-read at all district and state festivals at both the junior high and senior levels.
- \* To advance to the State Performance Assessment at the junior high level you must receive a superior rating from two of the three judges at District Festival.

At the **junior high level**, all groups are required to sight-read at the State Performance Assessment regardless of their score/rating at the district level.

### Choosing Music for Festivals

New directors sometimes experience situations where they are faced with a smaller number of men in their choir than desired. If this is the case, remember that you can use SAB music for the State Performance Assessment.

Each performing group sings two selections at district festival for junior high schools and the State Performance Assessments for high schools. For high schools, one of these selections must come from the Mississippi, Texas or Florida Prescribed Music lists. See MHSAA website.

The second selection may be the choice of the director. Keep in mind that certain musical styles may not be appropriate for festival performance. If you have questions regarding the suitability of a piece of music for festival, it always is recommended that you contact a mentor or trusted colleague.

### Festival Preparations

Registration and Adjudication Forms for District and State Performance Assessments are located in the JH and HS Choral Manuals that are located on the MHSAA website. The fees are due in mid-to late January depending on the date of the festival.

**You are responsible for preparing packets (manilla envelopes) for the adjudicators with the following:**

- (3) original, clean copies of each piece of music with measures numbered for the judges.
- (3) copies of the adjudication forms (with all required information completed)
- (1) copy of the sight-reading adjudication form
- piano accompanist for both your performance (if needed) AND sight-reading

Clearly identify music used from the Choral Public Domain Library (CPDL) ([www.cpdll.org](http://www.cpdll.org)). **Photocopied music will result in disqualification.**

Be sure to carefully familiarize yourself with the procedures for sight-reading in the JH and HS Choral Manuals. Procedures and rules differ on the junior high and senior high levels.

Teaching sight-reading every day is the best way to ensure success. It is recommended that you practice the specific festival procedures with your students in the weeks leading up to the festival. Masterworks Press sells examples of past sight-reading assessments from the state of Mississippi.

There are three performance judges and one sight-reading judge. Groups are scored from "I-IV," with "I" being a rating of "*Superior*." Groups earning an overall "*Superior*" rating at District Festival (for junior high only) will advance to the JH State Performance Assessment. The same scoring process is used for the High School State Performance Assessment. Be sure to complete and submit your bus request forms with your school district as soon as you receive your performance times for Performance Assessments. Plan to arrive at least thirty minutes ahead of your warm-up/performance time.

### **Choral Art Festival**

The Choral Art Festival, sponsored by MMEA, is a one-day event where choirs can receive comments by a qualified choral expert, for ratings or comments only. This choral experience is especially helpful for new choirs and/or new directors who do not wish to participate in District Festival. The high school SPA festival is typically held in late March. Since 6<sup>th</sup> graders are not allowed to participate in district festival for junior high this creates a perfect non-threatening environment to receive comments from judges. We accept any combination of grades and voicings to accommodate everyone's needs.

Contact: Joel Hill, [jhill@madison-schools.com](mailto:jhill@madison-schools.com)

### **Solo and Ensemble**

This event is sponsored by both MMEA (JH) and MSACDA (HS). Directors must be a member of MMEA/ACDA for their students to be eligible to participate. The event is organized by region, so dates vary. Information is provided at the MHSAA meetings and at [www.msmea.org](http://www.msmea.org) and [www.msacda.org](http://www.msacda.org).

### **All State Honor Choirs**

The following All-State Honor Choir opportunities, sponsored by MMEA and MSACDA, are available to students: Elementary, JH Women, JH Mixed, HS School Women, HS Mixed, and HS Show Choir. These honor choirs rehearse and perform during the annual spring MMEA/ACDA State Conference. You must be a member of the sponsoring organization to audition your students, AND you must be registered for the MMEA/ACDA State Conference. Registration/auditions vary depending on the organization.

#### **MMEA Sponsored Honor Choirs**

**Elementary Honor Choir (5<sup>th</sup> and 6<sup>th</sup>)- Celia House, [chouse@nasd.ms](mailto:chouse@nasd.ms)**

**Junior High Mixed Honor Choir (7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>)- Kristy Brumfield, [kristy.brumfield@yahoo.com](mailto:kristy.brumfield@yahoo.com)**

**Junior High Women's Honor Choir (7<sup>th</sup> – 9<sup>th</sup>)- Scott Sexton, [sextons@gosaints.org](mailto:sextons@gosaints.org)**

#### **MSACDA Sponsored Honor Choirs**

**High School Mixed Honor Choir ( 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)- Carrie Owens, [cowens@newton.k12.ms.us](mailto:cowens@newton.k12.ms.us)**

**High School Women's Honor Choir ( 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)- Rachel Landrum, [rupton@madison-schools.com](mailto:rupton@madison-schools.com)**

**High School Honor Show Choir ( 10<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup>)- Debbie Wolfe, [debbiewolfe@gmail.com](mailto:debbiewolfe@gmail.com)**

### **Male Vocal Symposium**

This event, sponsored by MSACDA, offers males the opportunity to participate in a large choir and work with a recognized conductor. Directors are responsible for selecting students for this one day event in the fall. ACDA Membership is required. Visit [www.msacda.org](http://www.msacda.org) for more information.

Contact: Terry Walker- [terry.walker@lbsdk12.com](mailto:terry.walker@lbsdk12.com)

### **Mississippi Lakeshore Choral Camp**

Lakeshore Choral Camp is a five-day summer camp opportunity, sponsored by MMEA and MHSAA, held in June for both teachers and students. Students have the opportunity to rehearse and perform with a nationally recognized clinician, and teachers have the opportunity to participate in teacher sessions and earn 3.0 CEU credits. Visit [www.msmea.org](http://www.msmea.org) for more information.

Camp Director: Amy Lee- [amy.lee@rcsd.ms](mailto:amy.lee@rcsd.ms)