

A Celebration of Excellence

A Choral Artistry Recorded Performance Competition

OVERVIEW

This Celebration of Excellence Recorded Performance Competition has been created to recognize musicianship, artistry, and expressive performance.

Designed by educators, this event provides a meaningful platform for high school choral ensembles to be evaluated within a framework that values musical integrity, thoughtful interpretation, and artistic communication.

ELIGIBILITY

- The ensemble must represent a public or private high school.
- The director(s) must have taught the ensemble for a minimum of one year.
- Entries become ineligible in the event of a change of director prior to the announcement of results.

COMPETITION DIVISIONS

- Mixed Voices 33+ Singers
- Mixed Voices 21-32 Singers
- Mixed Voices 20 or Fewer Singers
- Treble Voices 33+ Singers
- Treble Voices 32 or Fewer Singers
- Tenor-Bass Voices 33+ Singers
- Tenor-Bass Voices 32 or Fewer Singers

SUBMISSION WINDOW

Opens: May 1 at 12:00 PM (CT)

Closes: May 15 at 11:59 PM (CT)

PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS

- Two complete selections (no excerpts)
- Recordings must be unedited live performances (concert, conference, contest) during the 2025-2026 school year
- Total timed duration 6 – 12 minutes
- Contrasting selections encouraged
- At least one selection must be a cappella
- Provide concert program with date, venue, repertoire
- Include title, composer and/or arranger + original source, editor, (if applicable), complete publication information
- List duration of each selection

EDITING GUIDELINES

- Remove applause
- Adjust volume between tracks
- Remove identifying announcements
- Trim silence between movements

ACCEPTED AUDIO FORMATS

- M4A (AAC-LC) – 48kHz, Stereo, 256 kbps
- MP3 – 48kHz, Stereo, 256 kbps
- WAV – 44.1kHz, Stereo, 16-bit

ADJUDICATION (anonymous process)

Evaluation based on:

- Tone Quality and Characteristic Sound for the Repertoire
- Vocal Technique and Intonation
- Ensemble Cohesion and Balance
- Rhythmic Vitality, Clarity, Precision
- Diction and Language
- Artistry and Expression

PARTICIPATION FEE

\$150 per ensemble, due by June 1

Payment details provided in application portal

APPLICATION PROCESS

All materials submitted electronically.

Instructions for upload provided prior to May 1.

RESULTS & RECOGNITION

Results emailed by July 10

Division Winners, Runners-up, Performances of Distinction named at TCDA Convention (July 16–18)

Recognition includes:

- Award for display
- Certificate of Commendation
- American Classic website
- Social media
- Eblast to national mailing list
- Press release,
- Email signature with festival logo

FINAL NOTE

A Celebration of Excellence is designed not simply to rank ensembles, but to honor the artistry behind each performance.