



2024-2025

# MHSAA / MMEA CHORAL ART FESTIVAL INFORMATIONAL MANUAL

## Choral Art Festival Coordinator

MHSAA / MMEA Choral Art Festival  
April 10-11, 2025  
Location: Pearl High School  
Daniel Vernon, MMEA Senior High Choral  
Division President Elect  
Gulfport High School  
270 Oakwood Drive  
Gulfport, MS 39507  
C 601.218.4631  
[daniel.vernon@gulfportschools.org](mailto:daniel.vernon@gulfportschools.org)

## General Information

1. MMEA is responsible for the Choral Art Festival and will continue to offer it as an alternative to the State Performance Assessment for the choice of **Ratings** or **Comments Only**.
2. The purpose of this festival is to provide new and developing choral programs, grades 7th-12th, and choral directors with a positive, non-threatening, non-competitive choral experience that will ultimately lead to their participation in the State Performance Assessment.
3. **Participation** in one MHSAA sanctioned event (SPA or CAF) **is required** of all MHSAA member schools with choral programs. Choral groups **may NOT** participate in both MHSAA sanctioned festival events; they must choose the Choral Art Festival or the State Performance Assessment.
  - a. a choral director who wishes to request exemption from the Choral Art Festival must submit an **Exemption Request Letter** along with **FORM 1** to the MHSAA Office by **September 15**
  - b. request letters must be composed on school letterhead by the requesting choral director's principal
4. To participate in the Choral Art Festival:
  - a. a choral director's school **must** be an employee of an MHSAA member school
  - b. a choral director **must** be registered with MHSAA (**FORM 1**)
  - c. choral students and small ensemble students **must** be recognized by school authorities and meet MHSAA eligibility requirements (DragonFly Max)
  - d. a choral director is **not** required to be a member of MMEA or NAFME
  - e. a choral director **must** complete an approval application (**FORM 8**) and submit it to the **Choral Art Festival Site Coordinator by December 01** (see the form)
5. MHSAA provides catastrophic insurance for 7<sup>th</sup> – 12<sup>th</sup> graders.
6. There are no restrictions on performance combinations for 7th - 12th grade participants
7. The choral director may choose numeric **Ratings OR Comments Only** for BOTH the stage performance portion and the sight-reading portion of the festival.
  - a. regardless of a choral director's choice, each choral group will receive a 10 – 20-minute on-stage clinic following their stage performance
    - i. the on-stage clinic is provided by one of the three stage performance adjudicators / clinicians
    - ii. instruction and comments will be constructive and student-centered
  - b. choral groups who opt for **Comments Only** for sight-reading will spend the allotted time working with the sight-reading clinician
    - i. the clinician will focus on teaching effective practices and techniques to help the choral groups better understand the expectations of the adjudication process
    - ii. the overall goal of the sight-reading clinician will be to build the students' confidence and set each choral group on a path to successful music reading and development
2. A choral director who is feeling overwhelmed should immediately begin communicating with the Choral Art Festival Site Coordinator (current President Elect).

## Registration Forms and Fees

1. Choral Art Festival registration fees are set by MMEA.
  - a. registration fees are \$5.00 per student, per adjudicated group. Example: The total registration cost for a student who sings in an SATB Choir, SSA Choir, & Sextet is \$15.00.
2. Participation in the Choral Art Festival is by approval application only (**FORM 8**).
  - a. applications are open to all choirs and ensembles based on the specifications listed on FORM 8
  - b. the CAF Coordinator will contact each choral director regarding their approval status
3. Following the approval process of FORM 8, registration forms (**FORM 9**) and fees (**copy of P.O.**) are due to the CAF Coordinator by the **Winter Business Meeting**. Be diligent.
  - a. **registration fees are non-refundable**
  - b. registration fees must be paid in full prior to the festival
  - c. registration fees for additional students not listed on the original registration form must be paid in full prior to the festival event
4. **Schools will not be placed on the performance schedule until completed registration forms and registration fees have been received by the CAF Coordinator.**

## Music Requirements

1. Choral groups **should** perform two selections from memory, chosen by the choral director. **There are no prescribed list requirements for the festival**; however, pop, and patriotic music should be avoided. For helpful lists of graded literature, see the following prescribed lists:
  - a. Florida Prescribed List (FPL) <https://fva.net/mpa/music-list/>
  - b. Texas Prescribed List (TPL) <https://www.uitexas.org/pml/>
  - c. Mississippi Prescribed Music List (MPS) <https://msmea.org/high-school-division/ms-prescribed-music-list-2/>

## Choral Art Festival Expectations

1. Each school must arrive at CAF 30 minutes prior to their first scheduled event.
2. Envelope preparation for the day of CAF
  - a. the choral director must provide the stage performance adjudicators with **(3) original copies** of their **performance**

**repertoire**, all measures numbered

- b. the choral director must provide the stage performance adjudicators with **(3) completed copies of FORM 10**
  - c. the choral director must provide the stage performance adjudicators with **(3) completed copies of FORM 11**
  - d. the choral director must provide the sight-reading adjudicator/clinician with **(1) completed copy of FORM 12**
2. All choral groups are encouraged to attend the stage performances of other choral groups and quietly observe the clinicians' work throughout the day.
  3. No one will be permitted to enter or leave the adjudication area while a performance is in progress.
  4. Children under the age of 6 will not be allowed in the adjudication area. Please advise parents.
  5. Conduct: The choral director and principal of each school will be held responsible for the proper conduct of all persons representing their school. Begin teaching / training behavioral expectations early in the school year.

**Assessment Ratings**

1. Adjudication of choirs and ensembles will be on a performance basis with ratings of
  - a. Superior (I)
  - b. Excellent (II)
  - c. Plus and minus signs will not be used
2. For choral groups who choose **Ratings** for stage performance, each adjudicator will give a score & rating. For choral groups who choose **Ratings** for sight-reading, the adjudicator will give a score & rating.
3. The tabulator (CAF Site Coordinator) assigns the appropriate composite score based on those ratings. See the chart below for possible composite scores.
4. Certificates are awarded to choirs and ensembles for superior rated scores in stage performance and sight-reading.

**ADJUDICATION SCALE BY RATING**      Superior = I                      Excellent = II  
**ADJUDICATION SCALE BY SCORE**      Superior = 85-100              Excellent = 75-84

<b>Composite Rating</b>	<b>I</b>	<b>II</b>
	I I I	I II II
	I I II	II II II

# MHSAA / MMEA CHORAL ART FESTIVAL

FORM 8

## APPROVAL APPLICATION

**Due: December 01, 2024**

*This form must be completed and submitted by the stated date.  
Complete one form for each choir or ensemble approval request.*

School Name \_\_\_\_\_

Choral Director \_\_\_\_\_ Cell # (\_\_\_\_\_) \_\_\_\_\_ - \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Level(s) \_\_\_\_\_ Voicing \_\_\_\_\_ Type (Choir or Ensemble) \_\_\_\_\_ # of Singers \_\_\_\_\_

**Basis for Application: Check all that apply AND include a full explanation below.**

- \_\_\_\_\_ First-year teacher
- \_\_\_\_\_ New program or group established within the past 3 years. (Date group was established \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ Existing group has not performed at JH or HS SPA in the past 3 years
- \_\_\_\_\_ Existing group chooses not to compete in JH or HS SPA
- \_\_\_\_\_ High director turnover rate in the program. (Number of directors in the past 3 years \_\_\_\_\_)
- \_\_\_\_\_ High student turnover rate in group
- \_\_\_\_\_ Conflict with the date(s) of JH District Festival or HS SPA
- \_\_\_\_\_ Other \_\_\_\_\_
- \_\_\_\_\_ **Number of years the choral group and current director has participated in the Choral Art Festival**

Provide a full explanation below, including extenuating circumstances.

\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_  
\_\_\_\_\_

Submit completed form by **December 1, 2024**

**Daniel Vernon, MMEA Senior High Choral Division President Elect**

**Choral Art Festival Coordinator**

270 Oakwood Drive

Gulfport, MS 39507

C 601.218.4631

[daniel.vernon@gulfportschools.org](mailto:daniel.vernon@gulfportschools.org)

The CAF Approval Committee consists of the Executive Board members of both the MMEA Senior High Choral Division & Junior High Choral Division.

\_\_\_\_\_ Approved \_\_\_\_\_ Denied Date: \_\_\_\_\_ CAF Coordinator Initials: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

# MHSAA / MMEA CHORAL ART FESTIVAL

FORM 9

## REGISTRATION FORM, 7th-12th Grade

Due: Friday, January 17, 2025

*This form and a copy of a P.O. completes registration.  
Schools will only be placed on the performance schedule once registration is completed.*

School \_\_\_\_\_ Director \_\_\_\_\_

Email \_\_\_\_\_ Accompanist \_\_\_\_\_

Travel Time (One Way) \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Date \_\_\_\_\_ Preferred Time \_\_\_\_\_

Extenuating Circumstances \_\_\_\_\_

Stage Performance		Sight-Reading		Grade Level	Voicing	Type of Group <i>Choir or Ensemble</i>	#Participants in Group	Participant Fee	Group Total	MHSAA OFFICE USE ONLY
Ratings	Comments	Ratings	Comments							
								x \$5.00 =		P.O.# _____
								x \$5.00 =		P.O. Amount _____
								x \$5.00 =		Date Received _____
								x \$5.00 =		CK# _____
								x \$5.00 =		CK Amount _____
<b>Total Participants</b> →								x \$5.00 =		Date Received _____
<b>Total Amount Due</b> →									\$	Initials _____
(Check made payable: MHSAA, paid in full prior to festival)										

Submit completed form & a copy of P.O.  
(postmarked by Friday, January 17, 2025)  
Daniel Vernon, MMEA Senior High Choral Division President Elect  
Choral Art Festival Coordinator  
270 Oakwood Drive  
Gulfport, MS 39507  
C 601.218.4631  
[daniel.vernon@gulfportschools.org](mailto:daniel.vernon@gulfportschools.org)

\_\_\_\_\_

Principal's Signature (Required)

Date

Choral Director's Signature

# MHSAA / MMEA CHORAL ART FESTIVAL

FORM 10

## CHOIR INFO ADDENDUM

### Director Info:

Name: \_\_\_\_\_

School: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of years at this school \_\_\_\_\_

Total number of years teaching Choir \_\_\_\_\_

Total School Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Choral Program Enrollment: \_\_\_\_\_

Other Courses Taught: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_

### Performing Group Info:

Name of Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Grade Levels of Students: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Performing Singers in This Group: \_\_\_\_\_

Number of Singers Absent Today: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours of Weekly Rehearsal During School: \_\_\_\_\_

Hours of Weekly Rehearsal Outside of School: \_\_\_\_\_

Is this an auditioned group? \_\_\_\_\_

Did this group sing at SPA/CAF in last 2 years? \_\_\_\_\_

### Additional Information for the Adjudicators:

*Revised 03/02/2021*

**MHSAA / MMEA CHORAL ART FESTIVAL**  
**STAGE PERFORMANCE COMMENT/ADJUDICATION RUBRIC**

FORM 11

School Name: \_\_\_\_\_ School Classification: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments Only: \_\_\_\_\_ Voicing & Type Of Group: \_\_\_\_\_ Number Of Singers: \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ Title Of Selections & Composer / Arranger

1. \_\_\_\_\_

2. \_\_\_\_\_

\_\_\_\_\_ **Accuracy (20 points possible):** *(correct pitches & rhythms)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Tone (15 points possible):** *(beauty, vitality, warmth)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Intonation (10 points possible):** *(vertical & horizontal)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Diction (10 points possible):** *(purity of vowels, clarity of consonants)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Balance (10 points possible):** *(between sections)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Blend (10 points possible):** *(within sections)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Technique (10 points possible):** *(breathing, attacks, releases)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Interpretation (10 points possible):** *(historical style, dynamics, tempo, mood)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **Other (5 points):** *(stage deportment, facial expressions, etc.)*

\_\_\_\_\_ **TOTAL SCORE**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**SCORE / RATING**

\_\_\_\_\_  
**Clinician**

**ADJUDICATION SCALE BY RATING:**  
**ADJUDICATION SCALE BY SCORE:**

**Superior = I**      **Excellent = II**  
**Superior = 85-100**      **Excellent = 75-84**

# MHSAA / MMEA CHORAL ART FESTIVAL

## SIGHT-READING ADJUDICATION RUBRIC

SCORE / RATING
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School / Group Name & Voicing: \_\_\_\_\_

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_ Ratings: \_\_\_\_\_ SR Voicing: \_\_\_\_\_ SR Level: \_\_\_\_\_ Number of Singers: \_\_\_\_\_

### RHYTHMIC COMPONENT

		9-11	12-14	15-17	18-20	SCORE
<b>I</b>	<b>RHYTHM</b>	<40% accuracy	40-74% accuracy	74-89% accuracy	90-100% accuracy	
		4	6	8	10	SCORE
<b>II</b>	<b>FLOW</b>	No constant tempo; No evidence of musical phrasing	Tempo somewhat unsteady; Phrasing is halted or interrupted.	Tempo generally steady with minor discrepancies; Phrasing slightly irregular.	Constant tempo; Phrasing is musical throughout	

### MELODIC COMPONENT

		10-14	15-19	20-24	25-30	SCORE
<b>I</b>	<b>PITCH</b>	<40% accuracy overall	40-74% accuracy overall	74-89% accuracy overall; or 90-100% accuracy in some parts with several errors in one or more parts	90-100% accuracy in all parts	
		4	6	8	10	SCORE
<b>II</b>	<b>RHYTHM &amp; FLOW</b>	<40% accuracy overall No constant tempo; No evidence of musical phrasing	40-74% accuracy overall Tempo somewhat unsteady; Phrasing is halted or interrupted.	74-89% accuracy overall Tempo generally steady with minor discrepancies; Phrasing slightly irregular	90-100% accuracy in all parts Constant tempo; Phrasing is musical throughout	
		9-11	12-14	15-17	18-20	SCORE
<b>III</b>	<b>INTONATION AND/OR VERTICAL HARMONY</b>	Intonation not satisfactory Harmonic relationship is missing in some parts	Intonation somewhat satisfactory Harmonic relationship is not clear; errors in several parts	Some parts are in tune throughout with several intonation errors in one of more parts or slight intonation problems overall. Harmonic relationships line up; sense of tonality in some parts	Intonation excellent throughout Harmonic relationship lines up; strong sense of tonality in all parts	

### ENSEMBLE PREPARATION

		2	3	4	5	SCORE
<b>I</b>	<b>APPROACH &amp; METHOD</b>	Rhythmic approach and preferred methods of sight-reading are fundamentally lacking	Rhythmic approach and preferred methods of sight-reading are inconsistent most of the time	Rhythmic approach and preferred methods of sight-reading are good, but not uniform much of the time	Rhythmic approach and preferred methods of sight-reading are uniform throughout ensemble	
		2	3	4	5	SCORE
<b>II</b>	<b>USE OF TIME</b>	<40% of the students on task 100% of the time	40-74% of the students on task 100% of the time	74-89% of the students on task 100% of the time	90-100% of the students on task 100% of the time	



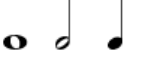











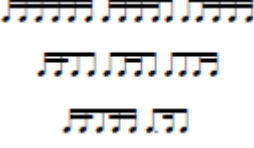



<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>	64 or below	65-74	75-84	85-100	<b>TOTAL SCORE</b>
<b>RATING</b>	IV = FAIR	III = GOOD	II = EXCELLENT	I = SUPERIOR	

Comments: \_\_\_\_\_

Adjudicator's Signature \_\_\_\_\_ Date \_\_\_\_\_



## MHSAA / MMEA STATE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT - SIGHT READING RUBRIC

RHYTHMIC				MELODIC							
Level	Meter	Notes	Rests	Meter	Notes	Rests	Voicing	Key	Pitches	Intervals	Motion
Level I	$\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$	Whole, Half, Quarter, Dotted Half & Beamed Eighth (2) 	Whole Half Quarter 	$\frac{4}{4}$	Whole, Half & Quarter 	Half Quarter 	Unison	C	Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La	Seconds: (M2/m2) Thirds: (M3/m3) Do-Mi, Mi-Sol, Sol-Mi, Mi-Do	Stepwise with Skips in Tonic Triad
Level II	same	add: Dotted Quarter & Single Eighth 	same	$\frac{3}{4}$ $\frac{4}{4}$	add: Dotted Half Beamed Eighth (2) 	same	2 Part Homophonic	C & G	Octave: Do to Do Do, Re, Mi, Fa, Sol, La, Ti, Do	add: Skips (P5 & P4) Do-Sol, Sol-Do up or down	add: Skips in Tonic Triad Do-Sol, Sol-Do up or down
Level III	same	add: Beamed Sixteenth (4) & Syncopation 	same	same	add: Dotted Quarter & Single Eighth 	same	2, 3 & 4 Part Homophonic	C, F & G	same	add: Skips (P4 & P5) Do-Fa, Fa-Do up or down	add: Skips (P4 & P5) Do-Fa, Fa-Do up or down with some diatonic passing tones
Level IV	same	add: Beamed Eighth & Sixteenth (2) 	same	same	add: Beamed Sixteenth (4) & Syncopation 	same	3 & 4 Part Homophonic	Major Keys	same	any: M2/m2, M3/m3, P4, P5 within Diatonic Scale	same
Level V	add: 	6/8: Dotted Quarter, Beamed Eighth (3) Quarter / Eighth 	add: Dotted Quarter Eighth 	same	add: Beamed Eighth & Sixteenth (2) 	same	3 & 4 Part Chorales	same	same	add: Sixths (M6/m6) & Octave Skips in Diatonic Scale	add: (M6/m6) & Octave Skips
Level VI	same	add: as indicated 	same	add: 	6/8: Dotted Quarter Beamed Eighth (3) Quarter / Eighth 	add: Dotted Quarter Eighth 	same	same	same	same	add: Chromatic Neighboring Tones & Passing Tones

# MHSAA / MMEA STATE PERFORMANCE ASSESSMENT

## SIGHT READING VOICING & LEVEL

PARTS	VOICING	LEVEL
Unison	Treble	Level I
Unison	Bass	Level I
2 - Part	SA	Level II
2 - Part	TB	Level II
2 - Part	ST	Level II
2 - Part	SB	Level II
2 - Part	SA	Level III
2 - Part	TB	Level III
2 - Part	ST	Level III
2 - Part	SB	Level III
3 - Part	SSA	Level III
3 - Part	TTB	Level III
3 - Part	SAT	Level III
3 - Part	SAB	Level III
4 - Part	SATB	Level III
3 - Part	SSA	Level IV
3 - Part	TTB	Level IV
3 - Part	SAB	Level IV
4 - Part	SSAA	Level IV
4 - Part	TTBB	Level IV
4 - Part	SATB	Level IV
3 - Part	SSA	Level V
3 - Part	TTB	Level V
3 - Part	SAB	Level V
4 - Part	SSAA	Level V
4 - Part	TTBB	Level V
4 - Part	SATB	Level V
3 - Part	SSA	Level VI
3 - Part	TTB	Level VI
3 - Part	SAB	Level VI
4 - Part	SSAA	Level VI
4 - Part	TTBB	Level VI
4 - Part	SATB	Level VI