



2025-2026 MISSISSIPPI JUNIOR HIGH & SENIOR HIGH CHORAL ART FESTIVAL INFORMATIONAL MANUAL

Site Coordinator

MHSAA / MMEA Choral Art Festival
March 17, 2026
Location: Pearl High School
Jana Smith, MHSAA / MMEA Senior High
Choral Division Past President
Stone High School
1268 McGregor Drive
Wiggins, MS 39577
C 601.408.7976
jsmith@stoneschools.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 7th – 12th graders.
6. There are no restrictions on performance combinations for 7th - 12th grade participants
7. The choral director may choose either numeric **Ratings** OR **Comments Only** for the concert portion and the sight-reading portion of CAF.
 - 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 concert 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 concert adjudicators with (3) **original copies** of their **performance repertoire**, all

- measures numbered
- b. the choral director must provide the concert adjudicators with **(3) completed copies of FORM 10**
- c. the choral director must provide the concert 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 the concert portion, each adjudicator will only give a score & rating for **Superior** and **Excellent**.
3. For choral groups who choose **Ratings** for sight-reading, the adjudicator will only give a score & rating for **Superior** and **Excellent**.
4. The tabulator (CAF Site Coordinator) assigns the appropriate composite score based on those ratings. See the chart below for possible composite scores.
5. Certificates are awarded to choirs and ensembles for **Superior** and **Excellent** ratings in stage performance and sight-reading.

ADJUDICATION SCALE BY RATING

Superior = I

Excellent = II

ADJUDICATION SCALE BY SCORE

Superior = 85-100

Excellent = 70-84

Composite Rating	I	II
	I I I	I II II
	I I II	II II II

MHSAA / MMEA CHORAL ART FESTIVAL

FORM 8

APPROVAL APPLICATION

Form Due: December 01, 2025

*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, 2025**

Jana Smith, MHSAA / MMEA Senior High Choral Division Past President

Choral Art Festival Site Coordinator

C 601.408.7976

jsmith@stoneschools.org

Carbon Copy **form** to

Mitchell Crawford, MMEA Junior High Choral Division Secretary

mcrawford@columbiaschools.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: _____

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FORM 9

REGISTRATION FORM

Form Due: Friday, January 16, 2026

This form and a copy of a P.O. completes registration.

Schools will only be placed on the concert schedule once registration is completed.

School _____ Director _____

School Email _____ Accompanist _____

Travel Time (One Way) _____ Preferred Date _____ Preferred Time _____

Extenuating Circumstances _____

Concert ↓One or the Other↓		Sight-Reading ↓One or the Other↓		Grade Level	Voicing	Type of Group <i>Choir or Ens.</i>	# Partps. in Group	Participant Fee	Total Fee	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 _____
								x \$5.00 =		Date Received _____
Total Participants →								x \$5.00 =		Initials _____
							Total Amount Due →		\$	
(Check made payable: MHSAA, paid in full prior to festival)										

REGISTRATION:

Submit this completed form & a copy of P.O. by Friday, January 16, 2026
 Jana Smith, MHSAA / MMEA Senior High Choral Division Past President
 Choral Art Festival Site Coordinator
 1268 McGregor Drive
 Wiggins, MS 39577
 C 601.408.7976
jsmith@stoneschools.org

PAYMENT:

Check made payable to: **MHSAA**
 Submit **PAYMENT IN FULL** with a copy of this form to the site coordinator above by Friday, February 13, 2026.

Principal's Signature (Required)

Date

Choral Director's Signature

MHSAA / MMEA CHORAL ART FESTIVAL
CHOIR INFO ADDENDUM

FORM 10

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

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STAGE PERFORMANCE ADJUDICATION/COMMENT RUBRIC

SCORE / RATING

School / Group Name & Voicing _____

Grade Level(s) _____ Number of Singers _____ Choose One or the Other: Ratings _____ Comments _____

Title #1 _____ Composer _____

Title #2 _____ Composer _____

SCORE	POINTS OF ADJUDICATION	COMMENTS
30.0	SOUND QUALITY 15.0 Tone Quality ___ Natural (for this age) ___ Vibrant (has energy) ___ Free (of tension) 15.0 Pitch ___ Accuracy ___ Intonation	
30.0	TECHNICAL ACCURACY 10.0 Technique ___ Attacks ___ Challenge of Music ___ Releases 10.0 Rhythm ___ Accuracy ___ Steady Pulse ___ Tempi 10.0 Diction ___ Pronunciation ___ Enunciation ___ Unified Vowel Formation ___ Concise Consonants	
35.0	MUSICALITY 15.0 Technique ___ Balance ___ Expressivity ___ Sense of Ensemble ___ Communicating with a Sense of Purpose 10.0 Dynamics ___ Use of Full Range (<i>ff-pp</i>) 10.0 Breath Management ___ Phrasing ___ Supports Tone	
5.0	STAGE DEPORTMENT ___ Confidence ___ Posture ___ Appearance ___ Facial Expressions	
	TOTAL SCORE	OVER →

Adjudicator's Signature _____ Date _____

ADJUDICATION SCALE BY RATING:
 ADJUDICATION SCALE BY SCORE:

Superior = I Excellent = II
 Superior = 85-100 Excellent = 70-84

COMMENTS CONT.

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SIGHT-READING ADJUDICATION RUBRIC

SCORE / RATING

School / Group Name & Voicing _____

SR Voicing _____ SR Level _____ Number of Singers _____ Choose One or the Other: Comments _____ Ratings _____

RHYTHMIC COMPONENT

		9-11	12-14	15-17	18-20	SCORE
I	RHYTHM	<40% accuracy	40-74% accuracy	74-89% accuracy	90-100% accuracy	
		4	6	8	10	SCORE
II	FLOW	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
I	PITCH	<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
II	RHYTHM & FLOW	<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
III	INTONATION AND/OR VERTICAL HARMONY	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

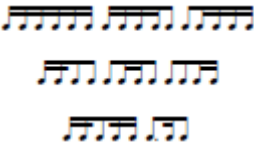
		2	3	4	5	SCORE
I	APPROACH & METHOD	Rhythmic approach and preferred methods of sight-reading are fundamentally lacking	Rhythmic approach and preferred methods of sight-reading are inconsistent most of the time	Rhythmic approach and preferred methods of sight-reading are good, but not uniform much of the time	Rhythmic approach and preferred methods of sight-reading are uniform throughout ensemble	
		2	3	4	5	SCORE
II	USE OF TIME	<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	

TOTAL SCORE	70-84	85-100	TOTAL SCORE
RATING	II = EXCELLENT	I = SUPERIOR	

Comments: _____

Adjudicator's Signature _____ Date _____

MHSAA / MMEA CHORAL ART FESTIVAL 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 Sixteenths (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: $\frac{6}{8}$	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: $\frac{6}{8}$	6/8: Dotted Quarter Beamed Eighth (3) Quarter / Eighth 	add: Dotted Quarter Eighth 	same	same	same	same	add: Chromatic Neighboring Tones & Passing Tones

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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