



To: Tennessee High School Choral Directors  
From: Brian Russell, TNACDA State CPA Coordinator  
Re: 2023 High School State Choral Performance Assessment

Greeting Colleagues,

I hope this message finds you having a good school year with your choral program. I feel blessed every day to be able to work as a choir director, and am so proud of the excellent choral programs across our state. The activities of our regional TMEA affiliate vocal associations, and organizations like ACDA have contributed significantly to my professional growth, and on behalf of all the TNACDA Leadership, we want to continue to enhance the choral art into the future.

The High School State Choral Performance Assessment (State CPA), formerly known as the State Choral Festival, is one way that TNACDA fosters the choral arts for our students. This year's State CPA will be held April 12-14 in Memphis, Murfreesboro, and Knoxville. Our adjudicators this year are **Shanpatrick Davis** (Coral High School, FL), **Melinda Doyle** (University of Montevallo, AL), and **Paul Hondorp** (Western Kentucky University). You can read their full biographies at [TNACDA.org](http://TNACDA.org).

While our choral programs are recovering from the pandemic, we will continue last year's 'hybrid' set of entrance requirements; whereas in most years choirs must first receive a Superior at a qualifying regional adjudication event to become eligible for the State event, this year we want to honor that level of achievement while also making participation possible for choirs who either were not able to participate or, for many reasons we all understand, did not receive a Superior at their regional event.

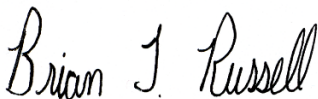
With all this in mind, here is information you'll need to know about this year's State CPA:

- 1) Choirs who received a Superior at their regional assessment event are guaranteed a spot at the State CPA. Their schedule requests will be honored first.
- 2) Choirs who received a Superior at their regional assessment event LAST YEAR but who were unable to participate in a regional assessment event this year will be guaranteed a spot at the State CPA. Their schedule requests will be honored second.

- 3) The remaining spots will be filled with choirs who did not participate or did not receive a Superior at this year's regional assessment event, filled in the order in which their registration was received. This means that **this year your choir can register for the State CPA without first receiving a Superior at a regional event.**
- 4) Guidelines are available at TNACDA.org (along with new rubrics/scoring guidelines). Note that the guidelines don't represent this year's temporary allowance of choirs who didn't receive Superiors at regional.
- 5) Choirs can register at the "High School State Choral Performance Assessment" tab of **TNACDA.org**;
- 6) The deadline to register is Wednesday, March 22. If your choir is eligible (see #1 and #2 above), go ahead and mail your payment or pay online (<https://tennessee-acda.square.site>). If not, register online but don't mail a check for those choirs yet. You'll receive an email from me around March 27 confirming your choirs have been scheduled, after which you can mail a check or pay online. Those choirs will be scheduled based on who registers first. Payment must be in-hand by March 22, which is a quick turn-around, so please plan accordingly.
- 7) The fee for each choir is \$178. Payment may be made with credit card on our web site (or at <https://tennessee-acda.square.site>), or send checks, made to "Tennessee ACDA" mailed c/o Brian Russell, Stewarts Creek High School, 301 Red Hawk Pkwy, Smyrna, TN 37167.
- 8) Schedule for the events will be posted the week of March 27.
- 9) Please email me at [brian.russell@tnmea.org](mailto:brian.russell@tnmea.org) with any questions!

Once again, we have sites across our three regions to make the event more accessible and cost effective for participants, moving the same panel of judges to each site to assure a consistent standard statewide. Objective critiques are the lifeblood of improvement, both for directors, and ultimately for the benefit of our students. The grades are secondary. Receiving suggestions for how we can continually improve is the real objective. Also the prestige of singing at the State event can provide an additional motivation for choristers. We hope you will seriously consider taking part.

All the best,



Brian Russell, D. Mus. A.  
Choral Director  
Stewarts Creek High School  
TNACDA State CPA Coordinator