2026 ACDA Southern Region Conference
Call for Performing Choirs

Choral ensembles that audition and have proven to exhibit excellence in singing will be considered for performance at the 2026 ACDA Southern Region Conference in **Memphis, on March 4-7**. Conductors from all R&R areas are strongly encouraged to apply. It is an important priority that ensembles from every R&R area are seen and heard on the concert stage at this regional conference.

I.   Eligibility

Conductors must be current members of ACDA and must have been employed in the same position with the same organization for three complete, consecutive years or seasons (Fall of 2022). **No choral ensemble may appear at successive regional conferences as either a performing choir or demonstration choir**.

Co-conductors for a particular ensemble may apply for performance together if **ALL** the following conditions are met:

- Both conductors are members of ACDA and have been co-conductors of the ensemble for at least three years (Fall of 2022).

- Both conductors share an equal or similar role as leaders of the ensemble.

- Each conductor must submit **THREE** recordings and programs that represent their own performances with the choir from the previous three successive years (beginning Fall 2022 or 2023 calendar year).
    - The complete submission (**SIX** recordings total–three recordings perform each conductor) will be assessed as **ONE** performance application. If the application is submitted incorrectly, the ensemble will not be considered.

- Recordings are representative of both conductors' work with the ensemble from the previous three successive years (beginning Fall 2022 or 2023 calendar year).

- Programs clearly show that co-conductors have an equal or similar role from the previous three successive years (beginning Fall 2022 or 2023 calendar year).

II.   Registration and Travel Information

It is understood that ACDA will not assume financial responsibility for registration, travel, food, or lodging for presenters or interest session participants. The submission of the online application for performance implies that the ensemble is prepared to travel and perform at the conference if accepted.

III.   Application Process

ACDA Southern Region will consider MP3 files (and video/audio links set to "anyone with the link can view" for Show Choir & A Cappella) prepared in compliance with specifications listed below. Recordings should reflect repertoire similar in complexity and style to the proposed program but need not be selections on the proposed program.

Representative programs, submitted in PDF format, **must adhere to anonymity**. This means, **edit the documents by marking out the school's name, director's name, ensemble's name, and any other identifiers.** For audio files, this also means **deleting any announcement naming the school, director, or ensemble**. The application shall include all of the following:

For all choirs, except Show Choir and Contemporary A Cappella:

1. Audio Recordings
Audio recordings from **three** separate academic terms (September - August) to be chosen from:
a. 2024-2025 or 2025 calendar year
b. 2023-2024 or 2024 calendar year
c. 2022-2023 or 2023 calendar year
 If you submit more than THREE selections, your application will be disqualified (except for co-conductors).

2. Programs
For each audio submitted, include a PDF of one concert program page that includes the song title. The date of the performance needs to be included. **Edit the documents to ensure anonymity by marking out the school's name, director's name, ensemble's name, and any other possible identifiers.**

Representative programs from **three** separate academic terms (September - August) to be chosen from:
a. 2024-2025 or 2025 calendar year
b. 2023-2024 or 2024 calendar year
c. 2022-2023 or 2023 calendar year

3. Choir R&R Area and Voicing: Choirs are asked to self-categorize as follows:

a. Ensemble Type (select the ONE R&R area that best describes your ensemble):

    i. Children's and Community Youth
        a. Singers in this ensemble are in grades 3-5; fill in % of students in the ensemble
        b. Singers in this ensemble are in grades 5-7; fill in % of students in the ensemble
        c. Singers in this ensemble are in grades 7-9; fill in % of students in the ensemble
        d. Singers in this ensemble are in grades 9-12; fill in % of students in the ensemble

    ii. Junior High/Middle School
        a. Small school; 799 and below students
        b. Large school; 800 and above students

    iii. Senior High School
        a. Small High School (9-12 enrollment 799 and below)
        b. Large High School (9-12 enrollment 800 and above)

    v. Two-Year College

    vi. Four-Year College or University

    vii. Contemporary A Cappella

    viii. Show Choir

    ix. Vocal Jazz

    x. Community

    xi. Music in Worship (choirs who primarily serve/perform in worship rather than concert settings)

    xii. Professional

b. Voicing
    i. Soprano-Alto
    ii. Tenor-Bass
    iii. Mixed Voicing

For Show Choirs & Contemporary A Cappella Choirs:

1. Show Choir & A Cappella
a. Three video recordings that include both audio and video (or six recordings for co-conductors) in digital format are to be submitted. The combined total duration of the three recordings should be no longer than 10–15 minutes in length (20-30 minutes if co-conductors are submitting six recordings).

b. The three video submissions (six for co-conductors) from three separate academic teams (September - August), and by the same conductor, to be chosen from:

i. 2024-2025 or 2025 calendar year
ii. 2023-2024 or 2024 calendar year
iii. 2022-2023 or 2023 calendar year

c. For each piece in the video, include a PDF file of the concert program when that music was performed. Each should display the program page that includes the repertoire. The date of the performance needs to be included. **Edit the documents to ensure anonymity by marking out the school's name, director's name, ensemble's name, and any other possible identifiers.**

d. File format is a link that is set to "anyone with the link can view."

e. Submissions must be unedited videos performed by the same conductor and the same ensemble.

f. **Delete any announcement naming the school, director, or ensemble.** Please consider any set pieces/props that may identify the ensemble.

For ALL Choirs:

5. Proposed 2026 Program
Submit proposed 2026 program. When choosing literature for this 25-minute program, you are asked to strongly consider diversity in literature through a variety of genres and composers/arrangers of underrepresented groups. For planning purposes, all music, transitions, and applause between the initial downbeat and the final release must take place during the **25-minute** window.

REPERTOIRE: A list of your proposed repertoire for the 2026 conference. The proposed program must include:

a. The title, composer and/or arranger, and complete publication information for each piece.

b. The approximate performance time of each piece. Total program time should not exceed 25 minutes total on stage, including applause.

c. Programs are encouraged to reflect the conference theme. Only one manuscript (not commercially available) piece may be included.

d. Accepted choirs are expected to perform the program proposed in the application, as the proposed program is evaluated as part of the screening process.

e. In the event of a duplicate selection, preference will be given to the application received first. Impacted conductors will be notified and may be required to make a substitution in their program.

f. In special circumstances, the Conference Committee may consider petitions to change repertoire after invitations have been issued, between July 1-October 1, 2025. Significant changes are unlikely to be approved. Approval of changes is at the discretion of the Auditioned Choirs and Conference Chairs.

g. The use of unlicensed photocopies or duplicated music at ACDA conferences is strictly prohibited.

6. Conductor and Ensemble Biographies & Photos:
a.   900 characters maximum for the ensemble's biography.
b.   900 characters maximum for the conductor's biography.
c.   Conductor(s) headshot in .jpg format, 3" x 5", high resolution (minimum 300 dpi).
d. An ensemble photo will only be requested for selected choirs and will be due by October 15, 2025.

Ensemble Statement:
Applicants are asked to share a narrative about their ensemble, the type of institution/organization, ensemble history, and mission in 1800 characters or less to help the committee contextualize your ensemble. **Please remember the anonymity guidelines.**

7. Submission Guidelines
All materials listed above will be submitted and uploaded through the online application system platform at https://www.acdasouthern.org no later than 11:59pm CENTRAL on April 16, 2025. Help desk support is available until 5:00pm CENTRAL on April 16, 2025. After that time, no support will be provided, even if technical issues are encountered. An incomplete upload of materials will not be considered. Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason.

Applicants are encouraged to plan and apply prior to the deadline to assist with a smooth application process.

The uploaded audio or video files should only contain complete selections. If a longer work is excerpted, 3-5 minutes should be included on the file. Recordings may not be altered or manipulated using post-production editing/engineering and must be recorded in one take. Virtual performances are not acceptable. The combined total duration of the submission should be no longer than 10-15 minutes in length (20-30 for co-conductors). **Please remember the anonymity guidelines.**

8. Selection Process
a. All adjudications are "blind," and the committee members will not know the applicant's identity.
b. The Performing Choir Auditions Chair will lead the adjudication committee. Committees will be formed for the various R&R areas; no individuals who have submitted audition materials are eligible to serve. The submission process will automatically tabulate the adjudicator's responses and generate a list of top ten scores, with five alternates.
c. A rubric showing performance criteria and rating scales will be available at https://www.acdasouthern.org

9. Schedule of Dates and Application Link

- March 3, 2025: Application Portal opens.
- April 16, 2025: Applications, uploads, and payment completed by 11:59pm Central
- May 7, 2025: Review of applications completed.
- May 16, 2025: Applicants notified of results.
- June 16, 2025: Deadline for response by those accepted for presentation.
- August 1, 2025: Performing Choirs publicity announced.

Application available March 3, 2025 at https://www.acdasouthern.org. **Please remember to ensure anonymity on all submitted materials.**

APPLICATION FEE $35 payable via the online application portal via debit or credit card at the time of submission.

Questions? Contact the 2026 ACDA Southern Region Conference Auditions Chair,
Dr. Sara Lynn Baird – slbaird56@gmail.com