MIDWESTERN REGION CONFERENCE

FEBRUARY 25-28, 2026
MILWAUKEE, WI

REFLECTIONS OF US

CALL FOR AUDITIONED CHOIRS
DEADLINE MAY 21, 2025 @ 11:59pm CENTRAL TIME

The 2026 Midwestern Conference theme, **Reflections of Us**, invites us to explore how choral music captures our collective voices—past, present, and future—honoring diverse traditions, shared experiences, and the ever-evolving tapestry of our art. As we lift our voices together, we reflect not only on the music but on each other—our communities, our challenges, and our triumphs—knowing that through song, we discover deeper connections and a greater understanding of who we are. We call upon our membership to share performances that demonstrate excellence and showcase a broad spectrum of choral repertoire, including music from pre-1900, works by historically excluded/marginalized composers, and newly composed or commissioned pieces that offer connections to and reflections on the lives and identities of our singers, our choirs, our midwestern communities, and our membership. Conductors from all R&R areas are strongly encouraged to apply.

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 (since 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 will submit ONE application for performance if all the following conditions apply:
- Both conductors are ACDA members and have been co-conductors of the ensemble for at least three years (since Fall 2022)
- Both conductors share an equal or similar leadership role with the ensemble. Shared leadership must be clearly evident in the submitted programs
- Each conductor must submit THREE recordings and programs representing their own performances with the choir. The complete submission (SIX recordings total—three from each conductor) will be assessed as one performance application.

II. Registration and Travel Info

MWACDA will not assume financial responsibility for travel, food, lodging or registration. Registration for the conference is required. Completing the online application implies that the conductor and the ensemble will obtain the necessary funds to travel and perform at the conference if accepted.

All materials listed below must be submitted and uploaded at https://my.acda.org/s/calls, no later than 11:59pm central time on May 21, 2025. Help desk support is available until 5pm central time on May 21, 2025. After that time, no support will be provided, even if technical issues are encountered. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Each submission is assigned a number, assuring confidentiality until after the Adjudication Committee has completed its consideration. At no time will the choir/conductor identity be known to any of the screening committee members. Incomplete uploads of the audition materials listed below will not be considered. The following is the list of requirements for the application:

FOR ALL SUBMISSIONS:

1. **REPERTOIRE**: A list of your proposed repertoire for the 2026 conference. The proposed program must include:
    a. The title, composer and/or arranger, and publisher, and
    b. The approximate performance time of each piece.
    c. Total program time should not exceed 25 minutes total on stage, including applause.
    d. Only one manuscript (not commercially available) piece may be included.

- Programs are encouraged to reflect the conference theme.
- Accepted choirs are expected to perform the program proposed in the application, as the proposed program is evaluated as part of the screening process.
- 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.
- In special circumstances, the Conference Committee may consider petitions to change repertoire after invitations have been issued, between August 15-October 1, 2025. Significant changes are unlikely to be approved. Approval of changes is at the discretion of the Conference Chairs.
- The use of unlicensed photocopies or duplicated music at ACDA conferences is strictly prohibited.

2. **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):

    1. **Children and Community Youth**

        a. Singers in this ensemble are in grades 3-5; provide % of students in the ensemble in this grade range

        b. Singers in this ensemble are in grades 5-7; provide % of students in the ensemble in this grade range

        c. Singers in this ensemble are in grades 7-9; provide % of students in the ensemble in this grade range

        d. Singers in this ensemble are in grades 9-12; provide % of students in the ensemble in this grade range

    2. **Junior High/Middle School**

        a. Small school; 799 and below students

        b. Large school; 800 and above students

    3. **Senior High School**

        a. Small High School (9-12 enrollment 799 and below)

        b. Large High School (9-12 enrollment 800 and above)

4. **Two-Year College**

5. **Four-Year College or University**
6. **Contemporary A Cappella**
7. **Show Choir**

8. **Vocal Jazz**

9. **Community**

10. **Music in Worship** (primarily serve/perform in worship rather than concert settings)

11. **Professional**

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

3. **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.

4. **CONDUCTOR AND ENSEMBLE BIOGRAPHIES AND 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.

5. **DIRECTOR AND CHOIR INFORMATION**:
    a. Director's name,, e-mail address. Name of institution, address, name of choir, and number of singers

6. **APPLICATION FEE**: Non-refundable application fee of $50 submitted by credit card only.

FOR ALL CHOIRS EXCEPT CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA & SHOW CHOIRS

1. **AUDIO RECORDINGS:** Submit three audio recordings in digital format. The combined total duration of the three recordings should not exceed 15 minutes.

    a. The three audio submissions should include representative examples of the choir's performance in each of the last three academic years (August through July), and each submitted recording must be conducted by the submitting conductor:
        i. One selection from the 2024–25 academic year
        ii. One selection from the 2023–24 academic year
        iii. One selection from the 2022–23 academic year

    b. For each piece included in the recording, submit a PDF file of one concert program when that selection was performed. Each PDF file should display the program page that includes the repertoire. If the date is not shown on the repertoire page, please also include the page that shows the date of the performance. Redact any identifying information on the PDF like ensemble name or conductor name.

    c. The uploaded audio files (mp4a) should contain complete pieces. If a multi-movement work is excerpted, include an entire movement. If a work or movement is longer than 7 minutes, a 5-6

minute excerpt may be uploaded, but this should be a continuous excerpt without cuts or breaks.

d. Submissions must be performed by the submitting conductor(s) and the same ensemble. Live, in-concert performances are preferred.

e. Recordings may not be enhanced, engineered, or edited in any way.

f. Recordings should showcase repertoire similar in complexity and style to the program proposed for the conference performance, but they need not be pieces on the proposed program.

FOR CONTEMPORARY A CAPPELLA & SHOW CHOIRS ONLY:

1. **VIDEO RECORDINGS**: Submit three video recordings that include both audio and video in digital format. The combined total duration of the three recordings should be no longer than 15 minutes.

   a. The three video submissions should include representative examples of the choir's performance in each of the last three academic years (August through July) and each submitted recording must be a performance rehearsed and prepared by the submitting conductor.
      i. One selection from the 2024–25 academic year
      ii. One selection from the 2023–24 academic year
      iii. One selection from the 2022–23 academic year

   b. For each piece included in the video, include a PDF file of one concert program when that music was performed. Each PDF file should display the program page that includes the repertoire. If the date is not shown on the repertoire page, please also include the page that shows the date of the performance. Redact any identifying information like ensemble name or conductor name.

   c. The uploaded video files should contain only complete pieces. File format is mp4a or a url set to "anyone with the link can view".

   d. Submissions must be unedited videos performed by the same ensemble led by the same director; live in-concert performances are preferred.

   e. Videos may not have any post-production enhancement or engineering.

   f. Videos should reflect repertoire similar in complexity and style to the program proposed for the conference performance, but they need not be pieces on the proposed program.

2. **PERFORMANCE REQUIREMENTS:** If selected to perform, directors are responsible for providing and managing all equipment needed for their ensemble's performance. This includes but is not limited to: Platform risers, Microphones & extension cords, any other special equipment required for a cappella, jazz, or show choirs. Set up and tear down for all equipment must be included within your allotted performance time. Additionally, please be aware that risers may not be accommodated in the performance space due to space or logistical limitations. We recommend planning accordingly and preparing an alternative presentation if platform risers cannot be used.

IV. Screening Process

● All auditions are "blind;" that is, the Adjudication Committee will not know the identity of the choir or conductor. No person submitting performance audition materials for the 2026 Conference may serve on the Adjudication Committee.

- Every effort will be made to represent a broad range of excellent performing ensembles from as many R & R areas as possible.
- **Evaluation Rubrics**

All materials listed below will be available to submit and upload through the online platform at https://my.acda.org/s/calls. Help desk support is available until 5:00pm central time on May 21, 2025. After that time, no support will be provided, even if technical issues are encountered. Applicants are encouraged to plan ahead to ensure they can complete the submission process.