CALL FOR INTEREST SESSION PROPOSALS
DEADLINE MAY 21, 2025 @ 11:59pm CENTRAL TIME

The Midwestern Region of ACDA welcomes submissions for innovative, applicable, and inspiring interest sessions for our 2026 conference. We encourage sessions of all types that address the diversity of our membership (including student members) and actively engage participants.

Session content should include a connection to the conference theme, **Reflections of Us**. All topics will receive consideration and will be evaluated for scholarly content, variety, innovation, value, pedagogical strength, and relativity to current trends in the choral profession. Conference attendees are looking for high-level content that opens their minds to new possibilities for how they grow in their profession and how they connect back to the field.

I. Eligibility

Presenters must be current members of ACDA and willing to grant ACDA rights to record their presentation and allow ACDA to use such recordings to advance the mission of ACDA. Please note that all accepted presenters are expected to meet ALL posted dates and deadlines. ACDA reserves the right to make adjustments to any session that does not meet deadlines.

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 presenter(s) & panelists will obtain the necessary funds to travel and present at the conference if accepted.

III. Application Process

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. An incomplete upload of the application materials listed below will not be considered. Late submissions will not be accepted.

Individual presentations, panel sessions with no more than four presenters, and sessions featuring a demonstration choir are acceptable.

Please submit no more than two proposals.
We suggest that you first develop your submission in word first and then copy/paste into the system.

The following is the list of requirements for the application:

1. Session Title: The title should be carefully crafted, brief, reflective of the session's content, and be no longer than 10 words.

2. Session Abstract: A succinct thesis that clearly addresses: (1) a topic that will be helpful and/or inspire the membership, (2) a clear description of the session, and (3) learning outcomes. Please submit the following:

   a. No more than an 1800-character description, which will be used in the conference app.

   b. No more than a 900-character description, which will be used in the Choral Journal announcement

   c. A brief outline in bullet points or a standard outline of your session (limit 2 pages; PDF upload)

3. Indicate if this session would require a demonstration choir. If you choose to bring a demonstration choir, please clearly highlight how the ensemble would support the session goals and pedagogy.

   a. If you wish to bring your own demonstration choir, submit the following:

   Three audio submissions that include representative examples of the choir's performances in each of the last three academic years (September through August), and each submitted recording must be conducted by the applicant conductor. Each recording should be complete and no more than 3-5 minutes in length. The file format for uploads is mp3.

      1. One selection from the 2024–25 academic year or 2025 calendar year
      2. One selection from the 2023–24 academic year or 2024 calendar year
      3. One selection from the 2022–23 academic year or 2023 calendar

   b. If you want MWACDA leadership to assign a choir to serve as your demonstration choir you can indicate that in the application. There is a possibility that we will be unable to provide you a demonstration choir and if so, you would need to do your session without a choir.

4. Headshot(s) of presenter(s) in .jpg format, 3" x 5", high-res minimum 300 dpi

5. Biography or biographies of presenter(s) in 900 characters or less each

6. Indicate the primary and secondary R&R audiences this session would target.
   a. Children and Community Youth
   b. Junior High/Middle School
   c. Senior High School
   d. Two-Year College
   e. Four-Year College or University
   f. Contemporary A Cappella
   g. Show Choir
   h. Vocal Jazz

      i.   Community
      j.   Music in Worship (choirs who primarily serve/perform in worship rather than concert settings)
      k. Professional

IV. Screening Process

Submit interest session abstract along with headshots and bios (150-word maximum) for all presenters and panelists by May 21, 2025, through the online application Application platform at https://midwesternacda.org/ or at https://my.acda.org/s/calls.

Each submission will be reviewed by the ACDA Midwestern Region Conference Interest Session Sub-Committee. Notifications pertaining to application status will be sent in June 2025.

Applications may be submitted online through the application platform at https://midwesternacda.org/ beginning no later than April 1 (check the website often for updates). The application deadline is May 21, 2025.

Any questions can be directed to Libby Hainrihar, Interest Session Chair, at libby_hainrihar@yahoo.com