

MTVA Choral Festival 2018

Hello Directors!

This letter will briefly introduce you to the process of registering for this year's MTVA Adjudicated Festival. The High School dates are **February 26-March 1** with a snow date **March 2**. The Elementary/Middle School dates are **March 5-7** with a snow date **March 8**. The chairperson for the event is Laura Coppage (coppagel@rcschools.net). Connie Marley (marley.connie@gmail.com) is the On Site Coordinator for both events. She will be the person to whom you should address your logistical questions. The event will be held at the **First United Methodist Church in Murfreesboro**.

Step One: Review the MTVA Handbook for the festival guidelines. There is a link to that information on the MTVA website under "Event Pages" then "Choral Adjudication Festival" along with other important information.

Step Two: Get registered. **KNOW YOUR DEADLINE!!!** This year the registration deadline for both events is **January 19, 2018**. At registration you will need to know how many singers are in each ensemble you enter. You must pay for a minimum of 21 singers. Groups smaller than that are encouraged to participate in the Solo/Ensemble festival (see separate section), or they may participate in this event as long as you are willing to pay for the minimum of 21 singers.

Registration is ONLINE. Your registration is **NOT COMPLETE** until your payment is received and it must be **POSTMARKED BY THE DEADLINE**.

If you have any **special requests** for scheduling, you **MUST** include that information when you register to avoid problems later. We cannot guarantee we can schedule your special request if it is not included on your registration form. If it is included with the online registration, we will do everything we can to accommodate your special request. Be aware that **MOST** schools request between 10:00 AM and 2:00 PM due to bus schedules. If your location and available transportation allow you to be flexible outside those times please note that on your registration form.

Step Three: Prepare your groups. Look at the sample judging form so you'll know how the judges will be scoring your group. Review the Handbook guidelines for what selections may **NOT** be performed, as well as when you can repeat selections you have done in the past. If you're not sure about one of your selections, **ASK!!!** There is a sample sightreading packet to help you prepare for the sightreading portion of the event as well as a sightreading judge's form.

Step Four: Make your field trip arrangements based on your school/school system requirements. There is NO SPACE in the church for groups to change attire. Students should arrive dressed for performance. If you have multiple groups performing on the same day and you cannot be with your students because you are conducting another group please arrange for another teacher/administrator to accompany you to the event to help chaperone.

The complete schedule for the festival will be sent to you as soon as it is available. If your group arrives 30 minutes prior to your performance time you can plan on being at the event approximately an hour and a half. This is allowing 20 minutes for warm up, 15 minutes for performance and 15 minutes for sightreading.

Step Five: The day of the event! You will want to arrive at least 30 minutes prior to your scheduled time. You will check in at the registration desk upon arrival and turn in your judge's music along with your completed registration form (**four copies**, one for each judge and one for the announcer). You must have **three ORIGINAL copies** of all your music with measures numbered for the judges. **NO PHOTOCOPIES ARE ALLOWED.** Use of photocopies may disqualify your group and will cause great stress for you. Failing to number measures may affect the score your group receives.

Choirs are encouraged to come earlier/stay later than your performance time to allow your students time to hear some of the other groups as they are performing in the sanctuary. Please discuss concert etiquette with your students prior to the event. Audiences may enter/exit the sanctuary only when there is NOT group on stage. Everyone MUST be completely silent in the Narthex while waiting to enter/exit the sanctuary or moving to the sightreading area. First United Methodist Church has been gracious to allow us to be their visitors, so we ask that Directors take responsibility to make sure your students behave appropriately and pick up after themselves in the sanctuary, warm up areas and restrooms. There is **NO FOOD OR DRINK** allowed in the sanctuary. Period. We want to be welcomed back to this lovely facility in the future.

As of this writing there will be no group pictures at the event this year. If this changes we will send out an e-mail. No choirs are allowed on the steps in the Narthex for pictures.

If you have questions that have not been covered, please contact Connie Marley so she can assist you.