



CALL FOR PERFORMING GROUPS

The Northwest Division Conference Planning Committee is pleased to announce a call for PERFORMING GROUPS who may offer unique contributions to our theme of *re-imagining the choral arts*. We seek to represent the primary ACDA Repertoire and Resource areas—Youth, Collegiate, Lifelong, and Repertoire-Specific (Men’s, Women’s, Jazz, Ethnic, Contemporary/Commercial)—with a diverse, broad representation of our 21st-century choral art, and we invite audition recordings from choirs of all age levels, specializations (e.g. Gospel, Barbershop), or renown, but particularly ensembles that represent underserved populations and/or diversities. Innovative and inspiring programming reflective of the choir’s strengths should be the cornerstone of the proposed program.

Performance considerations:

- The primary performance venue is First Congregational Church in Portland. “Stage” space is limited to 35 feet wide by 17 feet deep, or 5 four-step risers. Please keep this in mind when considering repertoire and movement.
- Choirs who are interested in demonstrating and sharing who they are and what they do in a performance/interest session format should apply here.
- ACDA and the Northwest Division will not assume any financial responsibility for travel, food, or lodging for the performing groups. An application for performance implies that the group is prepared to travel to, and perform as scheduled, during the conference if selected.

Applications for performance at the 2018 Northwest ACDA Conference will be submitted online, beginning March 30, 2017. **The deadline to submit applications is May 15, 2017, at 10:00pm PDT.** Online applications may be found at acda.org/events.

ELIGIBILITY

- Conductors must be current members of ACDA. Membership may not expire on or before the last day of the 2018 conference (March 10, 2018).
- The director of the ensemble must have been employed in the same position for no less than three consecutive years.
- **No ensemble or director may appear at consecutive division conferences.** Choirs, or their directors, who performed during the 2016 ACDA Northwest Division Conference are not eligible to apply for performance in 2018. *Exception:* Directors and their ensembles that appeared as a demonstration choir are exempt from this rule.

- The Conference Program Chair (Division President-elect) and Conference Chair (Division President) are not allowed to apply for performance.

PREPARATION OF AUDITION MATERIALS

Recordings

- Submissions must feature *live, unedited* recordings by the same conductor and the same ensemble.
- Submissions should include representative examples of the choir's performances over the past three years: one selection from the 2016-17 academic year (September-August); one selection from the 2015-16 academic year; and one from the 2014-15 academic year, *all led by the same conductor*.
- All recordings will be uploaded in MP3 format.
- Recordings may not be enhanced or engineered in any way.
- Recordings should reflect repertoire similar in complexity and style to the program proposed for the conference performance, but they need not be pieces on your proposed program.
- No recorded accompaniment may be used in any audition recording or in performance at an ACDA conference.
- Recordings should include complete pieces. If a longer work must be excerpted, up to five (5) minutes should be devoted to it on the MP3.
- The total length of the three recordings should be no more than fifteen (15) minutes.

PDFs of Programs

Representative examples of your choir's live performances, one from each of the last three academic years (2014-15, 2015-16, 2016-17), will be uploaded in PDF format. Longer documents may be abridged (e.g., eliminating advertisements, donor lists, etc.), but all programs should indicate the date of performance, selections performed, and the conductor.

Proposed Performance Program

A proposed program, including TITLE, COMPOSER, PUBLISHER, and APPROXIMATE DURATION for each work, will be uploaded in PDF format. **No ACDA Conference performance may run longer than 25 minutes.** Ensembles that submit a program longer than 25 minutes will not be considered; performing groups who exceed 25 minutes on stage will not be allowed to continue beyond the scheduled time.

Only recordings prepared in compliance with specifications listed, and accompanied by the requested program information and application fee (\$50) will be considered.

AUDITION PROCEDURE

An evaluation committee selected by the Conference Chair and Program Chair will review all audition recordings. Application materials will be distributed to the committee in a manner that ensures a "blind", impartial audition. No person applying for performance consideration will serve on the evaluation committee. Choirs that appeared during the 2016 ACDA Northwest Division Conference are not eligible for performance in 2018. A numeric score will be assigned by each panel member (10 = high; 1= low) based on the following rubric:

- **10—Pride of the Northwest.** Deserves a spotlight performance assignment for the conference.

- **9—Exceptional Choir.** Among our very best, recommended for a concert assignment.
- **8—A Superior Rated Choir at contest.** Worthy of consideration for a concert assignment.
- **7—A Choir of Outstanding abilities.** Worthy of consideration for concert or interest session assignment.
- **6—An Excellent representation from the NW Division.** Worthy of special consideration for an interest session.
- **5—An Excellent representation from this state.** Worthy of consideration for an interest session.
- **4—This choir has unique offerings.** Consider for an interest session, even with flaws.
- **3, 2, 1—Choir may be among the best at the state level.** But not recommended for a Division conference.

The Conference Steering Committee will also evaluate the diversity of choral representation, style of music, and fit within the conference theme and program. Innovative and inspiring programming reflective of the choir's strengths will be considered. The rankings and comments of the adjudicators will not be shared with anyone except the NW ACDA Executive Committee.

The Program Chair will email audition results to all applicants in July 2017.

SCHEDULE

- May 15, 2017—Application must be uploaded by 10:00pm PDT (Midnight Central Time).
- June 2017—Screening by Evaluation Committee, final selection of the invited choirs
- July 2017—Results emailed to applicants
- August 15, 2017—Deadline to accept the invitation to perform.
- September 30, 2017—Deadline to submit the confirmed program, choir bio and picture, conductor bio and picture to the Program Chair.

ADDITIONAL INFORMATION

Contact Conference Program Chair Brian Galante (galante@plu.edu), with questions regarding the audition process.