

2004 Adjudication Festival Memo – 3-16-04

Great News! Record participation in the adjudication festival again this year. We have 68 choirs from 40 schools. That is 10 more choirs than last year. Now what?

First, let me invite any MTVA members who would like to assist me and David Spencer with the operation of the festival to contact me. It has become difficult to staff the festival adequately with student workers. This is also an opportunity to learn the inner workings of the process and to hear some choirs. Whether for one or both days, your help would be very valuable. Lunch will be provided for any workers.

Secondly, to directors with choirs in the festival, it is critical that choirs arrive on time and stay on schedule. We are making adjustments in the Sight-Reading process to keep it running on time. If you arrive in your Warm-up room late, you will not receive your full warm-up time, but must leave according to the schedule.

Also, if you have choirs sit in and listen to other choirs, they must be supervised by adults that will enforce proper concert etiquette. We have had problems with talking and other distracting behavior during performances. Please take adequate steps in advance to avoid this problem with your students. Likewise, discourage students from bringing extra "stuff" that must be watched over, as well as food and beverage, other than bottled water. Please leave facilities as clean or cleaner than you find them :-)

Directors - Read the guidelines in the handbook, especially concerning copies of music with measures numbered, and the prohibition on Illegally Photocopied music. Failure to follow rules can result in lowering of grades and/or expulsion from the festival. As stated in the Handbook, there are no refunds for withdrawal.

ABOUT THE SCHEDULE - I believe that all special requests for scheduling have been addressed. While everyone did not get EXACTLY what they may have requested, given the record number of choirs, we have come VERY close to meeting all requests. Thus, PLEASE DO NOT ASK FOR CHANGES. It simply is not feasible for me to teach and arrange for the other festival details while trying to re-create this very crowded schedule. Unless you have done this before, you may not be able to fully understand what it is like to make seemingly "simple" adjustments, with so many variables in play. If you wish to broker some swaps with other choirs, PLEASE follow these guidelines. I must receive e-mail or written confirmation from ALL PARTIES involved, or the deal is not official. If you are asked to change your schedule, do not feel that you must do so, especially if it is not good for you and your students. If you are OK with the change, no problem. DEADLINE for any necessary changes is April 9. Let me reiterate, I will not make changes to the schedule, unless it is due to an error on my part. We will study the feasibility of an additional day for future festivals.

If you receive a "Superior" rating in performance, you qualify for the State Choral festival the following week. The Nashville day is Thursday, April 29 at Belmont Heights Baptist Church. Due to the quick turn-around, please be prepared to fill out an application BEFORE YOU LEAVE the regional festival. There are also 2 other days. Wednesday (4/28) is in Jackson and Friday (4/30) is in Knoxville. Look for an application on our web site later in the week, or ask me to e-mail you one.

Finally, let me congratulate each director and choir that has made the decision to be part of a process that can provide objective and constructive feedback for the purpose of growing musically. Best wishes as you continue to prepare your groups for this event.

Robert King – Festival Co-Chair