



LMEA CHORAL STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines

Purpose

This award recognizes the results of quality teaching and exemplary performances in Louisiana high school and middle school **choral** music programs.

The responsibility for the selection process for the **LMEA STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AWARD** lies solely in the opinion of the judges selected by the Executive Director. If the judges feel that no ensemble reaches that exemplary level, the award may not be given.

Eligibility

1. The director must be a member of LMEA/NAfME to participate.
2. The ensemble must have participated in the current year's LMEA District Large Ensemble Performance Assessment for ratings.

Fees and Forms

1. The registration fee is \$150 per ensemble.
2. All registration forms should be emailed to the Executive Director at swalker@lmeamusic.org.
3. If a school is registering multiple ensembles, submit a separate form for each ensemble.
4. Fees must be paid by a school check made out to LMEA. Mail the form and check to Sharon McNamara-Horne, Interim Executive Director, 18449 Hosmer Mill Rd, Covington, LA 70435.
5. Recordings will be submitted by email to the Executive Director. A link will be supplied once an ensemble is registered.
6. Entry forms and recordings can be submitted beginning March 1. The deadline for submission is June 1. Any submissions before or after these dates will be invalid.
7. Checks must be *received* by the June 1 deadline.
8. Entry forms must be filled out completely and have proper membership documentation and required signatures

Requirements

1. Recordings must be submitted in mp3 format.
2. Recordings cannot exceed **20** minutes in length.
3. Recordings must include selections with contrasting styles.
 - a. Recordings should be separated and submitted as individual mp3 files.
4. All selections must be edited to remove any introduction of the chorus performing, comments regarding the choir, or any post-performance applause.

Some examples of unethical and unacceptable practices:

1. Multiple recording (recording the same selection or a part thereof more than once in a given concert).
2. Splicing within a single composition
3. Any engineering, editing, or tampering in any way with the recording after the performance.
4. Any other practice which could be construed as being unprofessional, unethical, or in violation of the spirit and purpose of the award.

The following are allowable edits of recording submissions:

1. Editing to eliminate excess time between choral pieces.
2. Editing to eliminate audience applause.
3. Combining multiple tracks of a multi-movement work into a single audio file for online submission.
 - Movements must be combined in the same order the movements were performed.
 - Combined movements must be from the same recording.
4. Editing/matching of volume from track to track.

Guidelines for Listening Panel

1. All recordings will be sent to a 3-member, out-of-state, listening panel chosen by the Executive Director.
2. Each person on the panel will assess the recordings and rank them according to the standards of adjudication.
3. Choirs will remain anonymous during the evaluation process.
4. Each member of the panel will receive an honorarium in the amount of \$150.

Ranking Procedures

1. The Executive Director shall compile all rankings by each panel member.
2. Individual rankings will not be made public, nor will the submitting ensembles have knowledge of rankings.
3. The choir with the lowest composite ranking, with 1 being the highest score on a 1-5 scale, will be awarded the Standard of Excellence.
4. In the event of a tie, the Executive Director must consult with the adjudication panel to determine either:
 - a. A tie breaker
 - b. To award more than one ensemble

The ensemble(s) receiving the award will be recognized at the LMEA Professional Development Conference AND at a school concert or meeting of their choosing.

The ensembles chosen will be notified at the end of July. They will also be recognized on the LMEA website.

Those receiving the award must wait four (4) years before they are eligible to submit another application.

All forms, fees, and online submissions must be submitted by the due date or the ensemble will not be considered.