



LMEA CHORAL STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AWARD

Rules, Procedures, and Guidelines

Purpose

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

The responsibility for the selection process of **LMEA STANDARD OF EXCELLENCE AWARD** lies solely with those selected by the chairman.

Requirements

1. Must be a member of LMEA/NAfME to participate.
2. Must have participated in the current year's LMEA District Large Ensemble Performance Assessment for ratings.
3. 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.
4. Entry forms must be filled out completely and have proper membership documentation and required signatures.
5. Recordings must be from a "Live" setting.
6. Recordings must be submitted in mp3 format.
7. Recordings cannot exceed **20** minutes in length.
8. Recordings must include selections with contrasting styles.
 - a. Recordings should be separated and submitted as individual mp3 files.
9. 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:

- Multiple recording (recording the same selection or a part thereof more than once in a given concert).
- Splicing within a single composition
- Any engineering, editing, or tampering in any way with the recording after the performance.
- 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:

- Editing to eliminate excess time between choral pieces.
- Editing to eliminate audience applause.
- Movements must be combined in the same order the movements were performed.
- Combined movements must be from the same recording.
- Editing/matching of volume from track to track.

Payment Procedures

Directors submitting recordings will pay an Entry Fee of \$150 (per ensemble) payable to LMEA. Checks must be mailed or hand-delivered, with the entry form, to the appropriate Chair.

Guidelines for Listening Panel

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

Ranking Procedures

1. The Chair 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 top 3 choirs chosen will be comprised of the lowest composite rankings.
4. In the event of a tie, the Chair can either:
 - a. Award more than 3 ensembles the award; or,
 - b. The majority of the panel selecting one over the other can determine the tiebreaker.
5. The 3 ensembles 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.

Middle School Choral Ensembles can submit on EVEN numbered years. High School Choral Ensembles can submit on ODD numbered years.

Those receiving the award must wait one cycle until 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.