



## WHAT HAPPENS THE DAY OF CHORAL FESTIVAL COMPETITION?

Cultural Arts Center will be hosting all the choirs, show choirs, and soloists at our center for two days of choral festival competition before 3 judges who will score your students in accordance with the Alabama High School Choral Competition guidelines (See [Adjudication forms on our website](https://www.theculturalartscenter.org/choral-festival) for High School, Middle School, Elementary School, Show Choirs, and Soloists: <https://www.theculturalartscenter.org/choral-festival> ).

**GETTING SCHEDULED SO WE CAN PLAN:** Once you register for the festival we will sort through everyone's needs and set up a schedule for arrival and performance. Your registration form is due by September 11<sup>th</sup>, 2026. You will be notified by September 30, 2026, of your scheduled arrival, warm up, and performance times. This way you can schedule your buses, vans, or cars for the trip.

**TRANSPORTATION ARRANGEMENTS:** Be sure to share with your bus driver(s), van driver(s), or cars/parents the sheet that has directions to our center as well as parking arrangements.

- Be sure to allow enough drive time to arrive at least 45 minutes BEFORE YOUR WARM UP TIME so that there can be bathroom breaks, check in by Choral Directors and Accompanists, changing clothes is necessary, and getting your armbands on and everything perfect.
- Parking for buses is on the backside of the Cultural Arts Center playground parking lot so that they can back in and pull forward to leave. You will pass the front entrance to the building and go to the large sign marked CULTURAL ARTS CENTER PARKING LOT buses included. DO NOT GO INTO THE FRONT DRIVE WAY WITH A BUS OF ANY SIZE. The slope of the entrance and exit has caused many buses to get hung and unable to move unless we call a tow truck to pull the bus out at the school's cost.

**UPON ARRIVAL WHAT TO DO:** Choral Directors and Accompanists upon arrival will be taken straight to registration so they can check in and turn in any CD's, other paperwork, checks and more. Then they will be reconnected with their group.

- Sheet music, all copies, will be turned in and measures must be marked.

- Any pre-ordered tickets will be given to you here for distribution to parents and chaperones. Bus Drivers do not need tickets.
- If you arrive early to watch the choir perform, we will take you and your students to the Auditorium and seat you together where there is room. Students can be dressed or not, but if they are not dressed, your Choral Handler will be sure to pull you early to get you dressed and ready for warm up time. If you are dressed, encourage your students to leave their bags on the bus until they finish competing and then they can go get their bags and change.

**HEY MY PARENTS AND CHAPERONES NEED TICKETS:** If you did not pre-order tickets on your order form, tickets will be sold at the box office window located at the front of the lobby area. Cash or debit cards please. **The cost of tickets are \$5 each**

**WARM UP ROOMS WHAT TO EXPECT:** Once you are taken to a warmup room, you will find you have a tuned upright piano or a CD player for you to use. Should you have brought your own Bluetooth speaker to send music to from your phone, you are welcome to connect to our wireless internet using the password provided in each room on the wall: **Arts1234123** . Warm up rooms are various sizes, and you are assigned a room based on your choir size. From the warmup room you will be pulled for performance.

**GETTING TO THE STAGE TO PERFORM:** Depending on where your warmup room is located, your Choral Handler will pull you to line up and go to the backstage loading dock where you will enter through the backstage doors and line up on the choral risers located on the stage. If you are a show choir, you will be performing with no risers on stage, but we need to know whether you plan to enter the stage BEFORE you begin your performance or after the music starts. Please let the emcee know.

- Once you have finished performing, you will be led off the stage, onto the backstage dock, and out into a hallway where you can talk quietly amongst yourselves related to your performance. At this point, you will be able to locate a bathroom to change in, and with your director's permission and some parental/chaperone leaders accompanying you, you may return to the bus and get your bags to change your clothes.
- Directors, Parents, Chaperones please check behind your students in the bathroom for any lost or left behind personal items. We are always mailing items back to

schools that we have located including complete tuxedos for men that boys leave behind, LOL. Let's make sure your students have their stuff when they leave.

**LEAVING THE FESTIVAL:** Once you have performed it is your choice to remain and watch others, or to leave and return to your schools. Those going to the National Peanut Festival, note that the gates to the fairgrounds does not open till 4 pm. Buses will be assisted in pulling out on to S. Saint Andrews Street with our Bus Loader volunteers, and cars will be parked in a manner so they can easily access the exit points.

**LEARNING WHERE WE PLACED OVERALL IN COMPETITION:** Final score tallies will take place after the last performance and the festival has ended. Scores have been recorded throughout the day in each division, and awards will be announced the day after the festival by email to all choral directors. From there we will order awards and trophies and upon receipt, we will ship them to you so that you can proudly display them at your school.

- We will publish a list of the winners and participating schools on our Facebook page, our website and an article will go to the local *Dothan Eagle* newspaper.
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**See You In November!!!**

**Ann Cotton, Director**

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**<https://www.theculturalartscenter.org/choral-festival> website link where all forms and information is kept for you to see.**