



# 2026 Rio Rancho Convention and Visitors Bureau State Choir Contest



**Tuesday & Wednesday April 14-15, 2026**

**V. Sue Cleveland High School  
Rio Rancho, New Mexico**

## Guidelines

### Qualification and Eligibility:

1. The NMAA Choir Contest is open to all NMAA Member High Schools and Junior High/Middle Schools/Mid Highs. NMAA scholastic eligibility requirements must be adhered to by all participating members. All performers must be eligible student participants of the choir in which they are performing; adults are not permitted to perform (with the exception of one school recognized piano accompanist).
2. Participating high school ensembles must have received an average score of 90, and middle schools must have received an average score of 85 or above at the most recent NMMEA district MPA. Ensembles that received an average composite score of 90 (high school) or 85 (middle school) or better in the previous year's state contest are automatically eligible for the contest. **If at least five participating schools have not qualified, the school(s) with the next highest current year MPAs will be invited to fill the class.**
3. Interested participating schools must submit registrations by the requested deadline for scheduling. It is easier to remove an ensemble from the schedule than to add one. If a choir qualifies at a district festival held after the entry deadline, they may still be considered for entry into the contest by contacting Zac Stevenson at the NMAA and the NMMEA Choral Vice President within 24 hours after their district performance. Late entry is subject to availability.
4. All ensembles must participate in their most recent district MPA prior to the State Contest to be eligible. If their district MPA occurs after the State Contest, the ensemble must be registered to participate in their district MPA. The NMAA/NMMEA officials may make exceptions. These situations will be reviewed on a case-by-case basis. Any ensemble wishing to perform at the State Contest that is not able to participate in their District MPA must file a petition with the NMAA to be approved by the NMMEA Advisory Committee prior to the registration deadline.

### Classifications:

1. There shall be four classes of performance for the State Choir Contest: A-3A, 4A, 5A and a combined A-5A Treble. Middle School/Junior High/Mid High will participate on the first day. **A school may enter a concert choir in its competitive class as well as a treble choir. An individual may only be eligible for both ensembles if formally enrolled and participating with both ensembles.** The NMAA staff will check the eligibility rosters to verify that students are enrolled in both the concert and treble choirs. Any violations will result in disqualification from the state contest.
2. Ensembles must compete in the same classification level in which their school declares athletic participation in Boys Basketball.
3. Ensembles will be scheduled by classification by the NMAA for the purposes of consistent adjudication. All schools in the same class will perform without the mixing of classifications but could be split over two days. There will be awards assemblies at the end of each classification. The NMAA Event Director will determine the timing of the awards assemblies once the registrations for the contest are received, and the schedule is built.

### Performance Specifications:

1. Ensembles must adhere to a 20-minute time limit on stage (first student on to last student off). Once the first student has stepped foot onto the stage, any adjustments made to the riser arrangement will be part of the ensemble's recorded time. The warm-up time includes time in and out of the warm-up room. The last five minutes of warm-up is for movement to the stage.

2. Ensembles exceeding this time limit will be assessed a two (2) point penalty, taken from their final averaged competitive score.
3. Each ensemble must meet the following performance requirements:
  - a. a minimum of three (3) pieces
  - b. a minimum of one selection performed **fully** a capella
  - c. a minimum of one selection in a foreign language
  - d. requirements b. and c. can be satisfied with one selection
  - e. all pieces must be memorized
4. Each ensemble shall provide three sets of original scores of the selections they are performing with measures numbered on all three sets of scores. If three sets of scores are not provided, the ensemble may perform but will not be adjudicated. If scores are provided but do not meet the requirements as stated, there will be a two point deduction off the final averaged competitive score. Disqualify for non-approved photocopied music.
5. Photocopying of scores can only be done with permission of the publisher, and written documentation granting permission must be submitted as well. Ensembles providing photocopied scores without proper documentation will be disqualified.
6. Recorded accompaniment will not be permitted. **Penalty for violation is disqualification. An ensemble can perform but will not be adjudicated.**
7. A concert piano will be provided for use during warm-up and performance.
8. Additional accompaniment is optional and limited to four instruments performed by eligible students from the same NMAA member school, provided it is written in the original score of the piece.
9. All commentary prior to and after a performance shall be made by the contest Master of Ceremonies. ***Spoken words shall be confined to student performance of spoken text included in the musical score.***
10. Directors should prepare their musical selections with the understanding that this is a Choir Contest and is not meant to showcase the theatrical abilities of an ensemble.

#### **Requirements at Check-In:**

Upon arrival at the host facility, directors must check-in at the designated registration area. The following items must be turned in at that time:

1. Three original sets of scores, with measures numbered. Directors must ensure that three original sets of scores are presented and measures are numbered. Once they are handed in, they will not be given back to directors for verification.
2. Payment, if not already submitted.
3. Eligibility form and roster, if not already submitted.

#### **Judges:**

1. Judges will be selected to meet the following requirements.
  - a. Judges must be selected from the database of qualified judges compiled and maintained by the NMAA, upon recommendation from the NMAA Choral Advisory Council.
  - b. All three judges will be from out-of-state, if possible.
2. Every effort will be made to secure judges who have not adjudicated the NMAA State Choir Contest for at least three years.

### **Trophies and Awards:**

1. Ensembles will be rated and ranked according to the NMAA State Choir Contest scoring.
2. There shall be 1<sup>st</sup>, 2<sup>nd</sup>, and 3<sup>rd</sup> place trophies in each of the following:
  - High School Classes A-3A, 4A, 5A, and A-5A Treble.
  - Middle School - Junior High - Mid High (6<sup>th</sup> through 9<sup>th</sup> are all one class)
3. ***If a class has less than four participating schools, only first place will be awarded.***
4. An NMAA Championship Banner and Championship medals will be presented to the High School State Champions (A-3A, 4A, 5A and A-5A Treble).
5. All ensembles will be provided electronic adjudication sheets, recorded comments, and a recap of overall scoring.
6. No State Championship trophy or banner will be awarded in the MS/Junior High/Mid High Competition as per rule 9.8.3 in the NMAA Bylaws. However, the ensemble that places first will be given a banner and trophy specific to non-high school ensembles.
7. In the event of a tie, the tiebreaker will be determined by comparing the two groups in question judge-to-judge (Judge I vs. Judge I, Judge II vs. Judge II, Judge III vs. Judge III):  
Example:       Group A receives 98, 94, 90 for an average of 94  
                  Group B receives 94, 93, 95 for an average of 94  
In this example, Group A wins based on the fact that two out of three judges have awarded Group A higher scores. If the score remains tied across all three judges, then the tie remains and one ensemble receives the trophy, the other receives the banner and both ensembles receive individual medals.

### **Participant Code of Conduct:**

Each participant; student, director, chaperone, worker, etc., is expected to act in a mature and responsible manner. ***Submitting registration to compete is confirming acceptance to adherence of the code of conduct.***

**Ensembles are subject to contest disqualification, by the NMAA and the NMMEA Executive Director, for non-adherence to the above stated policies and guidelines.**

**Please submit the following via the google registration:**

1. Completed registration form
2. Music Selections
3. Seating chart.
4. NMAA Verification of Eligibility Form, authorized by a school administrator.
5. Check or PO (payable to NMAA) for \$250.

**PLEASE COMPLETE REGISTRATIONS NO LATER THAN  
DECEMBER 21, 2025**

***The schedule will be based on random draw and will be released at the All-State Conference in January.***

<b><u>USE THIS GOOGLE FORM: <a href="https://forms.gle/kkYLXFKHhjw5PX557">https://forms.gle/kkYLXFKHhjw5PX557</a></u></b>
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**(NOTE: Items 2-4 may be revised at any time prior to event check-in)**

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