

## ChoDA Discussion 4-24-09

1. President – Welcome and Introductions
2. Regional/All State SS '10
  - a. Board is already doing/looking into
    - i. Take out “silently” from script
    - ii. 2 times through Block & Contrapuntal (B&C) and take the best score, not average
    - iii. Give tonic pitch – open for discussion
    - iv. Preview examples (example – quick tempo this year)
  - b. Comments from members
    - i. Must have better communication for SS instructions and information around the state, perhaps a read receipt or response is necessary to verify instructions were received and clear – spam mail, blocks, or full inbox are a concern
    - ii. Parts must be equally difficult in B&C (example – alto part '09 was more difficult than others)
    - iii. Why do B&C twice? Data shows that first time is generally the higher score and it's a shorter example and takes more time in audition process to do it twice.
    - iv. Solo score sheet needs to be revised for Regional auditions so that it DOES NOT have the -5 points for memorization which is not required at the Regional level
    - v. Judges concerns – must have specific detailed instructions, should not be making comments such as “well, I hope you can sight sing” or should not ask about student info (school, teacher, etc.) All judges should attend judges training and judges meeting prior to adjudicating. Possible DVD or internet training video for all judges to review and sign that they've viewed. Strongly encouraged that members immediately report hearing of inappropriate judges comments to chair person at auditions so it may be addressed or after so they are not rehired
    - vi. Not all regions reported back to ChoDA with feedback from regional constituent meetings and therefore concern was raised about everyone providing input prior to some decisions already being made (example – 2 times through B&C and taking best score)
    - vii. Other concerns regarding SS – tedious process, difficult for judges to mark scores, added expense in adding judges, longer audition /wait times, time restraints on students singing examples when instructions say to “set your own tempo”, judges did not use consistent markings on score sheets, does the score sheet have to be out of 100?, difficult to make a cohesive composition in 16 measures
    - viii. Positive aspects regarding SS - kids had a more positive experience, less crying seen by judges, less anxiety, some scores did increase, great information / teaching tool coming back from SS auditions, focus on what's in the student's best interest, possibility to provide tonic or starting pitch as would be done in a choir class?

- ix. Requested that email be sent to ChoDA members prior to the board voting on changes so that members may provide input also discussion to begin a choral blog or online surveys to gather information from all members
3. Conference 2010
- a. Conference Chair report on '09
    - i. Thank you for all support and help with conference
    - ii. Past conference themes: beginning choirs, and vertical spectrum
  - b. Conference '10
    - i. Send in ensemble recordings to choose for performance sessions, especially junior high & elementary programs
    - ii. Submit session ideas or offerings early, most of conference offerings are set by September, a link is available on AMEA website, [www.azmea.org](http://www.azmea.org)
  - c. Concerns & discussion regarding conference
    - i. Preference to a broad range of topics & performing groups rather than a specific theme
    - ii. More advocacy themes – how to continue a music program in financial crisis, etc. or inclusion or invitations to political parties, administrators, board members, etc.
    - iii. Performance venues are of concern, difficult to hear, is it possible to borrow shells to help with Superstition? Other performance venues were offered – Jeff Harris and First United Methodist Church in Mesa could allow for better performance venue, larger facility could allow for collaboration and larger ensembles, possible payment for shuttle (optional) or walk/carpool
      - 1. ChoDA board redirect – board feels that Superstition is a suitable performance space, concerns with scheduling and having a farther site for performances, concern with audience attendance and distance
    - iv. Reading sessions with in-state people were good but is it possible to buy music packets from reading sessions similar to ACDA?
    - v. Question was raised whether people would rather add more performances or more workshops to convention, would check comments for feedback
    - vi. Some placement issues raised concerning key note speakers and large HS sessions at the same time
    - vii. Length of conference, sessions passed 12 on Saturday, was discussed but falls under AMEA decisions
    - viii. Jazz/Show Festival discussion – logistical concerns, rehearsal and performance space, perhaps teachers still won't attend conference because of added substitute days in the week, will convention fees still be discounted for participating directors, positive to increase attendance at rehearsals and performance for non-participating directors, more concerns were encouraged to be emailed as the reformatting decision was just recently made by AMEA
4. ChoDA Festival SS
- a. 16 measure SS component added at festival is consistent with Reg/All State auditions
  - b. Overall valuable festival addition however would prefer different examples and different difficulty levels
  - c. Suggested to have a 2 part, 3 part (written all treble, and treble bass for SSA or SAB choirs) and SATB all different compositions with possibly 2 examples for each voicing

- d. Would prefer not to have two graduate students judging
  - e. Many directors showed an interest in bringing beginning level ensembles and therefore validates having a 2 part SS option
  - f. Questions were raised concerning the qualifying aspects of the fall vs. spring festival, many directors prefer the spring as a festival time and are unable to attend in the fall, concern was deferred to ACDA who oversees spring state festival
5. All State Clinicians
- a. Listed in order of preference from member vote at meeting
    - i. Rick Bjella – Lawrence University
    - ii. Geoffry Boers
    - iii. Jeffery Redding – West Orange HS, FL
    - iv. Scott Lietheld - Kokopeli
    - v. Craig Jessop – Utah State
    - vi. Mack Wilburg, Anton Armstrong, Josh Haberman – equal number of votes
    - vii. Joe Miller - Westminster
    - viii. Dirk Garner, Eric Whitacre, Francisco Nunoz, Diane Loomer – equal votes
    - ix. Paul Smith, Simon Carrington – equal votes
    - x. Bill Weinert
    - xi. Others mentioned: Sandra Snow, Vance George
6. Solo Repertoire for Regional and All State Auditions
- a. Comment from earlier discussion – is it possible for student results to be published on website? Concerns for publishing student names on internet, AMEA decision to stop, possibility to publish under teacher log-in?
  - b. Student solos should be featured in solo & ensemble venue and audition solos should be standardized – even currently there is no consistency between judging S&E vs. regional auditions, some comments thought there would be more S&E participation if separated, if together with auditions using standardized solo may have even less S&E participation due to students not being able to perform the same thing, S&E numbers have been declining around the state for the past 5 years
  - c. Feedback on approved solo repertoire in Wisconsin, leveled A, B, C system of varied difficulty, language and period of music, by the end of participation over multiple years students have a variety of repertoire that could be used for college auditions, if adopted to our state system perhaps leveled system each contains a max score depending on which category a solo was selected from
  - d. Concern regarding the 2 minute time restraint would limit the options available for standardized solos
  - e. If solos are standardized the list should be broad enough, or have multiple selections, so that a director could still pick an appropriate song for the level and ability of the singer, this was voiced again as needing two levels or options, one for beginning students one for more advanced students
  - f. If the system isn't broken, why fix it? – repeated 3 times, happy with results and positive feedback from clinicians, but concern raised that just because it's good for some is not good for all or doesn't mean it can't improve, must be representative of the entire state
  - g. Judges scores are subjective based on solos, not comparing “apples to apples”

- h. Should have consistency in festival audition process – Jazz & Show is standardized solo, band and orchestra use specific etudes, do we want to open up discussion for individual solos in Jazz & Show festival?
- i. Students play the “game” in the audition process, which solo will I score the best with? and notice the difference/inconsistency between Jazz & Show auditions vs. regional/All State auditions
- j. Questions regarding the purpose of the festival and original objectives in offering regional/All state concert choir vs. Jazz & Show choir may warrant different audition processes
- k. Is the point of the audition to be selected as a soloist or selected for a choir? Similar opinions were voiced whether we’re selecting the best voices or the best literature/repertoire being performed or if we’re selecting the best singers or best overall musicians, standardized solo for Jazz & Show allows us to pick the best All state choir in those areas with great results, why not here as well?
- l. Suggested that regardless of standardized or selected solo judges should be using a specified rubric to aid in consistency and less subjectivity in scores, Bart Evans has a bass judge who’s drafted something that’s been useful/successful
- m. Solos are a logistical nightmare, particularly due to accompaniment, a standardized solo and accompaniment track would assist with this and also not allow for schools with financial resources to have an advantage over those who do not, accompanists can cover mistakes and lead the students, other concerns were voiced that recorded accompaniment lessens the art and musicality being assessed
- n. Solo categories need to be revisited as judges feel the student deserves a particular score but has to “adjust” category scores in order to get the score where they want it
- o. Directors should be able to choose the best solo to fit each individual student
- p. Possibility to change the regional level audition and keep All-State as is
- q. Could judges be provided with a CD of “student samples” demonstrating different scoring ranges to create bell curve? May help with objectivity
- r. Question pertaining to how directors audition for their advanced school choirs, standard solo or student selected? Should that be reflected here as well?
- s. Possibility of standardizing with repertoire from festival so students audition sing excerpts from the selected repertoire similar to Pennsylvania, Iowa, Texas and others
- t. Two philosophies were being presented “I want my students to win” vs. “I want my students to learn” and it would be embarrassing to have a student ask for their starting pitch at a college audition (revisiting earlier SS discussion regarding starting pitch)
- u. Is it possible to have multiple judges sit in audition and student receives average of the scores, similar to a festival format, to aid in subjectivity?
- v. Hire accompanists to play in each solo room so that way schools with financial resources do not have an advantage over schools who cannot afford an accompanist
- w. Concern whether the comments raised in discussion were the opinions of few or many, whether the situation required change or remediation
- x. Suggested that an online survey be sent to total membership regarding this topic to assess the concerns/reactions of the entire membership throughout the state

## ChoDA Info Meeting 4-25-09

### 1. Officer Reports

- a. President, Jen Wortman
  - i. Addition of 9<sup>th</sup> region, not going into effect for '10, AMEA changed decision due to membership feedback and current budgeting problems, may not happen at all, will hear more from AMEA VP of HS Activities
  - ii. Thank you to Jeff Harris & Marcy Spencer for sectionals on 1<sup>st</sup> night of festival
- b. President-Elect, Greg Hebert
  - i. Next year Renee Clausen as All State clinician, other choices on hand for 2011
- c. VP HS Activities, Chris Jackson/Matt Henry
  - i. All State Auditions went well, 0 wait time for SS with extra judge and rooms assigned by voice, directors please be more aware of solo hallway – cannot be flexible with time slots, accompanists, Bass and Tenor room got behind
  - ii. Earlier start time on Fri. must be aware of schools still in session
  - iii. Directors/board members run tables not students
  - iv. Points removed for measures not numbered in final section must be communicated to directors, on score sheet and in handbook
  - v. Directors please read and follow the handbook
  - vi. CPDL is OK or purchased online, make sure judges are aware and students aren't punished
  - vii. Time slots will be honored, if you are late/miss your spot you will move to the end of the day
  - viii. ChoDA HS Fall Festival – about 42 ensembles participated, Flagstaff site had scheduling issue with district – hoping to fix conflict with more pre-planning this year, day and a half in Phoenix and Tucson, sites and dates picked info at calendar meeting, if you have district conflicts please contact ASAP to clear up potential problems, building festival around the state, please read handbook prior to attending to be consistent
  - ix. Suggestion, ChoDA board recommend ensembles to perform at conference that are heard at festival for following conference year
- d. VP, ES/JHS Activities, Ted Gibson
  - i. Festivals went very well
  - ii. Concern that HS festivals fall under AIA and can get transportation more easily than ES/JHS
  - iii. 2 full sites for fall motivational festival with good attendance, Phoenix numbers down for spring festival
  - iv. Try to help/encourage ES/JHS to attend
  - v. Thanks to Ted for stepping in as Julia was moved to conference chair
- e. VP, Jazz/Show Choirs, Andy DeValk
- f. Secretary, Matt Henry – Festival info
  - i. Must have contingency plans for workers for the concert
  - ii. Will Call 4pm – Clydene Balke, Rita Schultz
  - iii. Programs 6pm– Simms, May, Jill Brown

- iv. Stage Crew – Troy Meeker, Rick Ross, Kristen Olds, Ross, Shry Bernaduci, Greg Hebert, Jeff Harris, Bart Evans
- v. Everyone please help for dress rehearsal transition
- g. Treasurer, David Waggoner (given by Jen Wortman)
  - i. Similar to last year, though less was spent on conference due to hiring in-state people
  - ii. Still negative in Jazz & Show but less than before, budget was created, instrumentalists shared, fewer judges for auditions
  - iii. Make money in fall festival and will make money with All-State tickets
  - iv. Overall year ending positively, Joyce Bertilson coming in as new treasure with budgets for all festivals – may save money '10 now that sharing a site with convention, question to be asked at calendar meeting
  - v. Why is Jazz & Show in the hole, good student audition numbers?
    - 1. Response – expensive festival to run, perhaps participation cost should be raised, breakdown has been done, festival has never broken even, possible to share judges for scales/solo auditions in jazz, possible to sell tickets at festival
- h. Conference Chair, Julia Higgins
  - i. Running of conference and filling sessions went smoothly, comments are still being reviewed
  - ii. Please submit proposal ideas for this coming conference and recordings for group considerations for performance
  - iii. Email Julia Higgins with suggestions or comments for conference – sessions, presenters, headliners, etc.
  - iv. Friday morning sessions with Jazz & Show clinicians to present at conference prior to departure
  - v. Judges selections from Fall Festival to perform at conference
  - vi. ES/JHS festivals also select groups for following year conference performance – please encourage feeder directors to apply for performance at conference
  - vii. Announce festival clinicians on the website for upcoming festivals
  - viii. Concern with conflicting school breaks and festivals – JHS spring festival is moved later next year to aid with conflicts
- i. Past President, Teresa Irwin
  - i. Thank you for 6 year commitment, final term of service
  - ii. Retiree award to Amy VanWinkle '09 at Friday night of conference, ideas for next year retiree write a blurb for candidates, please list on website past recipients of awards
- j. Frank Sargent, ACDA President Elect
  - i. Comments were considered regarding qualification for spring state festival to increase participation
  - ii. Think ahead to June 18-20, 4 Corners at NAU, registration form has hotel info for Radisson & Fairfield ask for convention rate – make reservations prior to June 1st
  - iii. Craig Jessop coming to 4 Corners and teachers singing in choir with Craig Jessop through preparation of music
  - iv. March 2010 Western ACDA convention in Tucson, AZ – all 3 University choirs will be participating, Weston Nobel – collegiate, Jeffery Aims – HS

- v. Marcy Spencer 2011 HS Honor Festival Choir Coordinator for National Convention in Chicago
- 2. Old Business
  - a. Website
    - i. Still working on improvements, more is coming to communicate on a regular basis, send out an email for updates, goal to update monthly
    - ii. Blog and survey ideas from yesterday are great and will be worked on
  - b. ChoDA Database
- 3. New Business
  - a. Performance Groups Conference '10
    - i. Please send in and encourage ES/JHS
  - b. New Officers
    - i. One contested position – President Elect, will be notified on website as well as AMEA positions, less than 50 ChoDA members voted
    - ii. Not all members received ballot, please post on website they've been sent, contact if you did not receive, David Waggoner also sent email that ballots had been sent, AMEA voting as a whole was not great
  - c. Other New Business
    - i. Communication is problem, handbooks are in writing please take time to read them and thank you for the time you spend on those areas
    - ii. Convention for '10 ChoDA needs to be visible to the public/community and performance sessions should be advertised to the public , possible to charge or free will donations?
    - iii. Thank you to Jen & ChoDA to discuss ACDA in these sessions, should be a collaborative effort between both groups, some confusion between fall and spring festivals – Fall is organized by ChoDA, Spring is organized by ACDA so please consult those websites regarding festivals, possible links back and forth to make sure info is correct
    - iv. 4 Corners registration and hotel information online at [www.azacda.org](http://www.azacda.org)
    - v. Deadline for submission of tapes at Western 2010 ACDA conference already passed