

## MTVA Regional Choral Festival 2016

This year's Choral Festival event will be held for High School choirs on February 22-23, 2016 (snow day February 25), and for Elementary & Middle School Choirs on February 29 (snow date March 3). We realize that there are challenges in participating in this year's festival because of the state-mandated testing in the public schools, so please take time to check with your Administration on your participation well before the deadline of January 21.

There are many positive benefits to participating in this festival. The MTVA Regional Choral Festival event directly reflects our daily endeavors in each of our schools, and it can also serve as the ideal indicator for our teacher evaluations. It supplies us with a numeric evaluation, which helps administrations see our achievements in a quantitative measurement. More importantly though, we as directors receive direct reinforcement of our teachings from the highly qualified adjudicators, and our students gain access to unbiased feedback encouraging individual and ensemble pursuit of excellence.

For those who are returning, you will find the bulk of the event to be the same. We hope that you would do your best to encourage your colleagues in your district and neighboring private schools to come participate. For the new participants and perhaps first year teachers, the following is hopefully a bit of a helpful guide to how this event is run and what the expectations are of each ensemble/director. Please also refer back to the handbook online to ensure that you are in compliance with the updated rules and regulations.

**Registration:** Online registration is located on the website [www.mtva.org](http://www.mtva.org) and the final deadline is January 21<sup>st</sup>. To be able to register, both your school and you as the director must already be a member of MTVA. The cost is \$3/student with a minimum of 21 students. You will be able to put general time/day selections in the registration process, but please be aware that everyone is dealing with the same restrictions with transportation. We will do our best to accommodate.

**Venue:** The events will both be held at First United Methodist Church, Murfreesboro. There will be risers and piano provided; however, each ensemble is on their own to provide an accompanist.

**Process:** On the day of the event each choir will be given a 15 minute warm-up in a separate room of the church, followed by a fifteen minute performance time held in the sanctuary. This performance time is an open performance, meaning other ensembles and guests are welcome to respectfully watch. Following the ensemble's performance, they will go into a sight-reading adjudication in a separate room in the church. All choirs must sight read except for elementary ensembles, which may elect whether or not to participate in that component.

**Awards:** Each choir will be given a rating out of 12 as well as recordings of the judges' comments, both written and verbal. The scores and written comments will be available at the church within a reasonable time of the choir's completion of adjudication. Please make sure to pick these up before leaving.

Please be sure to read through the guidelines and rules for this event in our handbook. There is a link under the Choral Festival page. We look forward to having everyone there, and best of luck to you all!

*Brenda Williams and Wendy Payne, Co-Chairs*