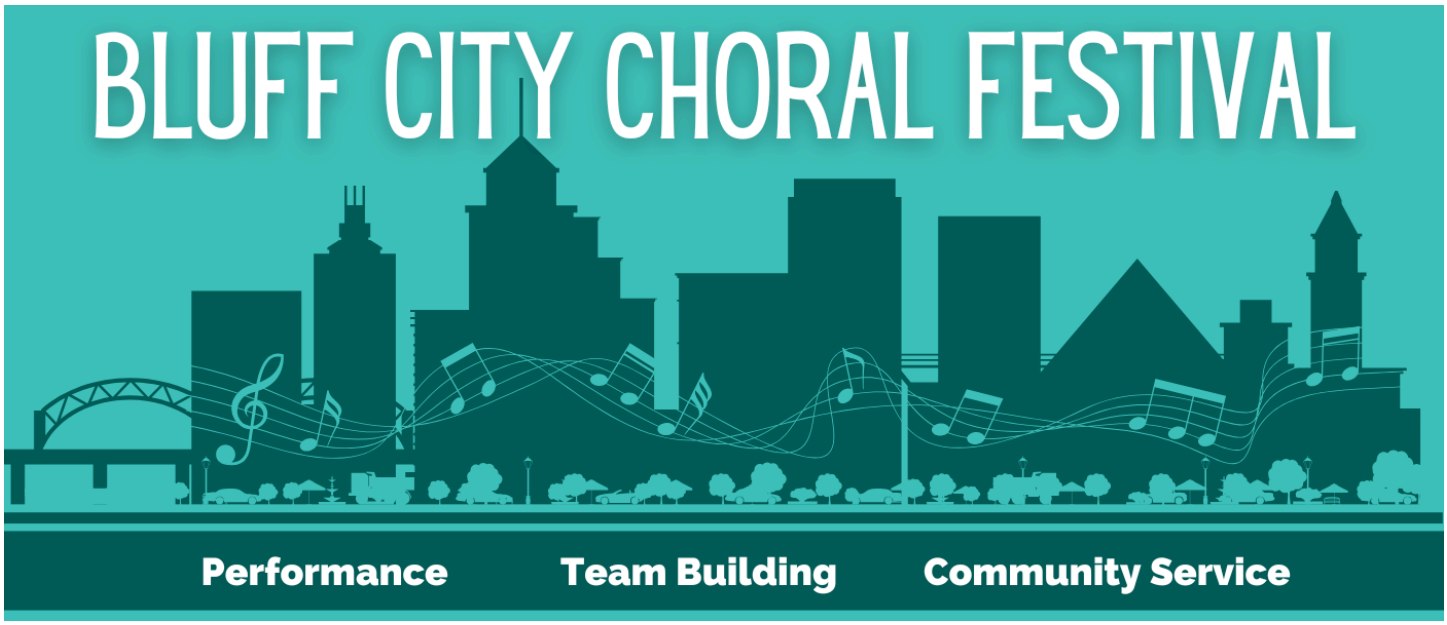


Festival Information Guide 2027

Performance:

Choirs will bring 2 prepared pieces to the festival to be adjudicated for competition. Each choir may elect to bring a third piece for the clinic that will have no impact on the scoring. Directors will prepare three judges packets, the contents of which are explained on the adjudication form. Each choir will be given 30 minutes for their performance and clinic. Choirs will receive written or oral comments from each of the 3 adjudicators on their 2 prepared pieces.

After the performance, at least one of the adjudicators will clinic the group for the remainder of their time. The optional third piece may be performed during the clinic portion at the judges' discretion but will have no impact on the scoring. This year's performances will take place in the sanctuary of Maples Memorial United Methodist Church in Olive Branch, MS.

Team Building:

After registration, the festival coordinator will contact registered choirs with information on how to break up their members into teams. In the case of a school with multiple ensembles with overlapping students, the director will work with the festival coordinator to determine if the ensembles will compete separately or as a school. Choirs will participate in a team building session consisting of various activities in which they will be scored and ranked across the day. (I.E. Washington High Singers pop 12 balloons and Hamilton High Chorale pops 14 balloons, earning Hamilton 20 points for first place and Washington 18 points for second place.) At the conclusion of the event, the placement points for each ensemble will be combined to give a final total score that will be used for competition.

Community Service (Optional):

Each choir will be given a 15 minute time slot to present a community service project to a panel of three judges (not the clinic adjudicators). Choirs should prepare three adjudication forms *and select two to four representatives** to present the project. Community service projects should be completed by participating choirs prior to arrival at the festival during their 2026-2027 school year (July 2026 -April 2027); the 15 minute time slot is for the participating choir to present the results of the project and answer any questions the judges may have about the project.

Community service projects can be completed by all participating choirs from a school or by individual ensembles; in the case of multiple ensembles participating in the same community service project, the director will indicate the total number of students in each ensemble and the total number of students who participated on the adjudication form.

**The total number of students who participated should include the students who participated in the project, not just the two to four students who present the project. As our presentation rooms cannot accommodate entire choirs, please only send the representatives to present the project.*

Projects and presentations can be as creative as the students wish. A projector and Bluetooth speaker will be available for the students to use; directors are asked to contact the festival coordinator by April 12th if additional equipment will be brought or needed for the presentation.

NOTE: Although the community service aspect of the festival is optional, only ensembles that choose to complete this portion of the festival will be considered for the Grand Champion Award.

Awards:

Choirs will be separated into middle and high school divisions and will compete on separate days. First, Second, and Third place trophies will be given in each division for each category: Performance, Team Building, and Community Service. Additional Best in Class awards will be given to the choir with the highest average Performance score in each voicing category, provided that there are two or more ensembles competing in that category.

The Spirit of Bluff City award goes to the school program who best displays the qualities the Bluff City Festival seeks to promote: sportsmanship, encouragement of your fellow man, team spirit, and courtesy. All festival staff and volunteers contribute to determining the Spirit of Bluff City award.

The Grand Champion Award will be given to the choir in each division with the highest combined Performance, Team Building, and Community Service score - no additional points are awarded for Best in Class or Spirit of Bluff City winners. Awards generally take place around 5:30-6:30 pm, depending on the number of choirs participating.

Registration:

Ensembles/Choirs with 15-30 members will pay a $40/person registration fee. Choirs with 31 members or more will pay a $35/person registration fee. The fee includes a 30-minute performance/clinic slot, team building session, activity park admission, community service adjudication, and t-shirt for each singer.

Directors should indicate a voicing category for each ensemble/choir on their registration form. For the Middle School and High School divisions, categories include Ensemble, T/B Choir, Treble Choir, and Mixed Choir. The Middle School Ensemble category is limited to ensembles with 2-20 singers regardless of voicing, but directors may choose to register them according to their voicing instead of their size if they prefer. The High School Ensemble category is limited to ensembles with 2-16 singers regardless of voicing, but directors may choose to register them according to their voicing instead of their size if they prefer.

Clarification on additional ensembles:

Every singer attending must pay a registration fee, which covers one performance in one ensemble. If you wish to bring multiple ensembles in which singers overlap, the following guidelines apply:

1. **If the additional ensemble has 15 or more singers that were not registered with the first ensemble, the per person registration fee applies for only those singers that do not overlap choirs. There is no additional charge for the singers already registered with another group.** (For example, you want the 12 women from your Mixed Chamber Choir of 24 to sing with your Women's Choir of 30 other singers. You would register your Mixed Chamber Choir of 24 at $40/person registration fee. You then register your Women's Choir of 42 and pay $40/person registration fee for only the 30 singers who were not already registered with the Mixed Chamber Choir.)

2. **If the additional ensemble has less than 15 singers that were not registered with the first ensemble, the per person registration fee applies only for those singers who do not overlap choirs, in addition to the $400 additional ensemble fee.** (For example, you register your mixed choir of 60 but also want to split them into men's and women's choirs for adjudication. You have eight women from your intermediate choir that you want to sing with your women's choir. You would register your Mixed Choir of 60 at $35/person and receive a time slot for the mixed choir performance. Then you register the additional eight women at $40/person and pay a flat rate of $400 each for your men's and women's choirs to receive a performance/clinic slot.
3. **If the additional ensemble is completely made up of singers from an already registered ensemble, there is no additional per person registration fees, only the $400 additional ensemble fee.** (For example, you register your 60 voice mixed choir at $35/person registration fee, and wish to pull 16 students from this choir for a mixed chamber ensemble. All these singers are already registered, so you would just need to enter them as an additional ensemble for $400 to receive the performance/clinic slot.)

Dress:

Choirs will wear their BCCF t-shirts for the entire festival, performance included. Sizes will be due to the coordinator by **February 28, 2027** along with registration forms and downpayments. The rest of the choir's attire is up to the director. Whether choirs elect to wear jeans, uniform pants/skirts, or athletic bottoms, the attire will have no place in performance scoring. Please keep in mind that other activities throughout the day can be physical in nature and the festival coordinator cannot guarantee time to change in the schedule.

Other Festival Activities:

Each choir will be given time at a local activity park (i.e. skating rink, trampoline park, etc). Links to release forms will be sent to registered choirs. Directors are responsible for sending those links out to their parents for completion prior to arrival at the activity park.

Choirs are encouraged to sit in the auditorium to observe at least one other choir performance/clinic at the festival (this is a great opportunity to learn by watching a clinic and to encourage other schools in their performance!). Depending on the number of performing choirs, some choirs may have downtime on their schedule. It is up to the director to decide what to do with that time, but the festival coordinator can offer ideas as needed.

Choirs are welcome to eat a picnic lunch outside on the grounds of Maples Memorial UMC, or at any of the many restaurants nearby in Olive Branch or Southaven, MS. There will be a variety of food trucks available in the parking lot between Maples Memorial UMC and the Olive Branch YMCA for your convenience. The festival coordinator will send menus to participating directors closer in April so that students can plan ahead. The festival coordinator can assist in giving ideas to the director on places to eat, but cannot coordinate food for performing choirs. It will be a full day of activities, so choirs should plan to be in DeSoto County for the entire day of the festival.

Please contact Amy Touchstone at 601-209-7669 or cororio@gmail.com with any questions.