# WELCOME

We are delighted you are considering chartering an American Choral Directors Association Student Chapter on your campus. Choral programs around the country have found an ACDA Student Chapter to be an invaluable component of a high-quality choral offering. We think you will agree!

This Student Chapter "Starter Kit" comes complete with everything you need to get your ACDA Student Chapter up and running. Included in this kit you will find:

- A checklist for forming an ACDA Student Chapter
- An Application for ACDA Student Chapter Status
- A sample ACDA Student Chapter Constitution
- A summary of recent ACDA Student Activities
- Answers to frequently asked questions about ACDA Student Chapters
- Membership forms (you may make copies)
- And information detailing how to become an author for the Student Times section of the ACDA official publication--the Choral Journal!

Now . . . just add some interested students and a touch of imagination and in no time at all you will have a productive ACDA Student Chapter!

For additional information on ACDA Student Chapters, contact:

Dr. Jeffrey Carter, National Chair
ACDA Youth & Student Activities Committee
Webster University Department of Music
Saint Louis MO 63119
314.968.7033 (office)
jrc@jeffreycarter.us

**Checklist for Chartering an ACDA Student Chapter**

- [ ] 1. Discuss interest in starting an ACDA student chapter with your choral conductor. Identify a faculty advisor.
- [ ] 2. Review goals of the choral program and assess the advantages of forming an ACDA student chapter
- [ ] 3. Obtain a "Student Chapter Starter Kit" from the National Chair for Youth & Student Activities.
- [ ] 4. Encourage students to join ACDA. Membership forms may be found on the ACDA website (acdaonline.org). Send membership forms and dues directly to the National Office in Oklahoma.
- [ ] 5. Complete the constitution (sample may be found in the "Student Chapter Starter Kit") to fit your own special needs and obtain the approval of college officials to become a recognized student organization on your campus.
- [ ] 6. Send completed constitution and application for student chapter status to the National Chair for Youth & Student Activities.
- [ ] 7. Receive confirmation via return mail from the Y& SA National Chair of official status as an ACDA student chapter.
- [ ] 8. Send your annual report to the Y&SA National Chair **by May 15** of each year (you will be notified regarding forms in early April).

The American Choral Directors Association

*Promoting and Presenting Choral Music to the World since 1959*

Date:_____

## Application for ACDA Student Chapter Status

Name of School_____

Address_____

City/State/Zip_____

Chapter Advisor_____

Phone Numbers of
Chapter Advisor: Work_____ Home_____

Email Address of
Chapter Advisor: _____

Chapter President_____

Number of Members_____

Brief Summary of Chapter Activities_____

_____

_____

Signed:_____
Chapter President

_____
Chapter Advisor

Complete and Mail along with
Constitution to:

Dr. Jeffrey Carter, National Chair
ACDA Youth & Student Activities Committee
Webster University Department of Music
Saint Louis MO 63119

# Benefits
# of an
# ACDA Student Chapter

•Expands the choral curriculum beyond the classroom and provides practical experience for students as conductors and choral educators.

•Provides assistance to the choral professor and the choral program: recruitment, choir activities, concerts, receptions, clinics, festivals, etc.

•Identifies at an early stage the vocal student as a choral musician, and relates the student to ACDA as his or her future professional organization.

•Encourages students to join ACDA as student members and to attend state divisional, and national conventions. As members, they receive a subscription to the **Choral Journal** which includes a section dedicated to student membership titled **Student Times**. Other student membership benefits include lowered student registration fees for workshops and conventions.

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# *CONSTITUTION*

**Date:_____**

## ARTICLE I
## NAME

**The Name of this organization shall be the [ ] of the American Choral Directors Association.**

## ARTICLE II
## AFFILIATION AND CO-ORDINATION

**This Student Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association is an integral part of the National American Choral Directors Association, and shall be governed by the professional and financial policies laid down in the National Constitution of the American Choral Directors Association. Its official insignia shall be that of the National American Choral Directors Association.**

## ARTICLE III
## PURPOSE

**The purposes of this organization shall be those as set forth in the National Constitution of the American Choral Directors Association, and are state as follows:**

1. **To foster and promote choral singing which will provide artistic and spirited experiences for the participants.**
2. **To foster and promote the finest types of choral music to make these experiences possible.**
3. **To foster and encourage rehearsal procedures conducive to attaining the highest level possible in musicianship and artistic performance.**
4. **To foster and promote the organization and development of choral groups of all types in schools, colleges, and churches.**
5. **To foster and promote the organization and development of choral societies in cities and communities.**
6. **To foster and promote the intelligent understanding of choral music as an important medium of artistic expression.**
7. **To foster and promote significant research in the field of choral music.**
8. **To foster and promote composition of superior quality in both music and text for all choral combinations.**
9. **To cooperate with all organizations dedicated to the development of musical culture in America.**
10. **To disseminate professional news and information about choral music.**

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Date:_____

**Re-activation Application for ACDA Student Chapter Status**

Name of School _____

Address _____

City/State/Zip _____

Chapter Advisor _____

Phone Numbers of
Chapter Advisor: Work _____ Home _____

Email Address of
Chapter Advisor: _____

Chapter President: _____

Number of Members_____

Brief Summary of Chapter Activities_____

_____

_____

Signed: _____
Chapter President

_____
Chapter Advisor

Complete and Mail along with
Constitution to:

Dr. Jeffrey Carter, National Chair
ACDA Youth & Student Activities Committee
Webster University Department of Music
Saint Louis MO 63119

# Answers to Frequently Asked Questions About ACDA Student Chapters

**"What is an ACDA Student Chapter?"**
Student chapters have been established for colleges and universities by the American Choral Directors Association to provide opportunities for future choral directors to be directly involved with their professional choral organization while in college. The National Chair of Youth and Student Activities recognize them as members of the Repertoire & Standards Committee of ACDA, and they receive guidance and encouragement from the Division and State Chairs of Y&SA.

**"What are some of the benefits of a chapter to a choral program?"**
It depends on your goals and individual situation. Many feel that a student chapter provides an incentive for students to become more committed to the art of choral conducting at an early age in the important formative years as they prepare to graduate. A chapter provides learning opportunities outside the classroom and beyond the usually limited time available in choral conducting and methods courses. It can also provide useful services to the choral area and music department, and it encourages student leadership and direct experience with "peer-motivated" discovery of the choral art; conducting, repertoire, preparing for a job, etc.

**"Does a student 'join' an ACDA student chapter?"**
No. It is not another organization to join, per se! Students join the national organization of the American Choral Directors Association as student members ($35 per year national dues); as members they receive the Choral Journal and the Student Times (ACDA's student news-journal) and enjoy the benefits of ACDA membership. A student chapter encourages choral students to be more directly involved with the ACDA on campus.

**"How much 'organization' is involved with a student chapter?"**
As much or as little as you wish. A successful chapter in one where the students determine how they want to function, guided by their faculty advisor (usually the choral director). The key is how the chapter directly relates to the choral program in providing encouragement and opportunities for the student outside the choral rehearsal and classroom. This is one reason why an ACDA student chapter does not "compete" with other

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# Suggestions for Student Chapter Activities

**By far, the most popular and customary activities are hosting/ managing a choral festival, and attendance at state/regional/national conventions. From the 2005-2006 annual reports submitted by chapters from across the USA, here's a list of possible chapter activities:**

<u>Ideas for activities</u>

- Host a "Campus Idol" competition
- Host a college choral festival for invited high school choirs
- Attend local and area community choir and professional choral concerts
- Choral Techniques master class
- Conducting workshop
- Tai Chi workshop
- Musical theatre workshop
- Host a "Messiah" Sing-In
- Sponsor a concert
- Host a local high school choir for an exchange concert
- Host a reading session for area choral directors
- Host a 'future teacher' workshop for all music majors
- Attend rehearsals at other colleges to observe conductors; follow up with pizza with their choirs
- Black History Month concert
- Workshop on choral score study and preparation
- Host a composer on a campus visit
- Join with a local AGO chapter for a meeting
- Organize a city-wide choral festival with school and church choirs
- Invite a foreign student or scholar to teach about indigenous or ethnic music of her/his country
- Sponsor 'Discovery Day' featuring a particular piece or composer (designed for the entire music department)
- Kick-off barbeque
- Movie night/informational session as kick-off event (from the Chair: how about The Chorus/Les Choristes [2005] as a great kick-off movie?)
- Attend orchestral/choral concert
- Host a January session on "What Not to Miss at Convention"

More ideas on the next page . . . .

The American Choral Directors Association

# The Student Times

**Published by the Youth & Student Activities Committee in the *Choral Journal***

## *Authors needed for the Student Times!*

The ACDA ***Student Times*** is currently seeking bright young students of music to write articles for publications.

## *What is the Student Times?*

The ***Student Times*** is a section of the ***Choral Journal***, the official monthly publication of the American Choral Directors Association. It is produced for the benefit of ACDA student members and student chapters and edited by the National Chair of Youth & Student Activities. The goal of ***Student Times*** is to provide substantive articles that address concerns specific to the student membership, while providing our colleagues-in-training with the opportunity to have their thoughts published in a national forum. **The *Student Times* is written BY students, FOR students.**

## *Who reads the Student Times?*

The ***Choral Journal*** is distributed to approximately 20,000 members of ACDA. The ***Student Times*** section of the ***Choral Journal*** is devoted to approximately 5000 choral music students and advisors, specifically addressing topics that interest that particular membership.

## *Why should I write for the Student Times?*

Choral conductors are also choral scholars. Writing an article for the ***Student Times*** will help you get started on a lifetime of scholarly involvement, assist your choral résumé, and give you a tangible professional accomplishment. There are many facets of a truly fine choral conductor and, therefore, there are many topics of interest that will help every choral conductor grow. You have the opportunity to create new ideas and to fill what might be a void in published research. Student Times authors also earn the respect of their peers, professors, and choral conductors across the country.

## *How do I become a Student Times author?*

All you have to do is write an article and send it to the editor of the ***Student Times*** via email. The editor will review your work; she will immediately contact you, perhaps with suggestions for making it even stronger.

## *What should be the topic of my article?*

While uncertainty over an article topic is quite common, don't use this as an excuse for not writing. Here are a few topics to get your creative juices flowing.

- Writing a Good Résumé
- A Step By Step Approach to Score Study
- Checklist for a Successful Choral Concert