



## 2026 ACDA Southern Region Conference Call for Interest Sessions

Planning is underway for the 2026 Southern Regional Conference, "Prism of Voices," **March 4-7**, in **Memphis**. We call upon our membership in all repertoire and resource areas to share their insights for a 50-minute presentation that will engage our ACDA audience. All varieties of session topics related to the choral art are welcomed. We are particularly interested in topics that align with the conference theme and sessions that meet the needs of our diverse community. We hope to receive submissions that will expand our knowledge and contribute to the professional growth of our membership.

### **I. Eligibility**

Applicants must hold life, paying life, active, student, or a retired ACDA membership. Please note that accepted presenters are expected to meet ALL posted dates and deadlines.

No applicant may present at successive regional conferences.

Applicants may submit more than one session proposal; however, if you are selected, may only participate in one session at the regional conference.

Individual presentations, panel sessions with no more than four presenters in addition to the moderator, and sessions featuring a demonstration choir are acceptable.

### **II. Registration and Travel Information**

It is understood that ACDA will not assume financial responsibility for registration, travel, food, or lodging for presenters or interest session participants. The submission of the online application implies that presenters will obtain the necessary funds to travel and present at the conference if accepted.

### **III. Application Process**

All materials listed below will be submitted and uploaded through the platform at <https://www.acdasouthern.org> no later than 11:59 pm Central on April 16, 2025. Help desk support will be available on April 16, 2025 until 5:00pm Central. After that time, no support will

be provided, even if technical issues are encountered. Applicants are encouraged to plan and apply prior to the deadline to assist with a smooth application process.

The platform assigns each submission a number to ensure confidentiality. An incomplete upload of materials will not be considered. Late submissions will not be accepted for any reason.

The following is the list of requirements for the application:

1. **Session Title:** The title should be creatively crafted, brief, reflect the session's content, and no longer than 60 characters.
2. **Session Abstract:** A succinct thesis that clearly addresses: (1) a topic that will be helpful and/or inspire the membership, (2) a clear description of the session, and (3) learning outcomes.

Please submit the following using the application form:

- a. No more than an 1800-character description, which will be used in the conference app.
  - b. No more than a 900-character description, which will be used in the *Choral Journal* announcement.
  - c. A brief outline in bullet points or a statement outline of your session (limit 2 pages). Upload a PDF in the application form.
3. Indicate if this session would require a demonstration choir. If you choose to bring a choir, please highlight how the ensemble would support the session pedagogy and goals. We will attempt to arrange a demonstration choir for your session, but this is not guaranteed. **No choral ensemble may appear at successive regional conferences as either a demonstration choir or performing choir.**
    - a. If you wish to bring your own demonstration choir, submit the following:
      - i. Three audio submissions that include representative examples of the last three academic years (September through August). Each submitted work must be conducted by the applicant, be a complete work, and no more than 3-5 minutes in length. File format for uploads is mp3.
        1. One selection from the 2024-2025 academic year or 2025 calendar year.
        2. One selection from the 2023- 2024 academic year or 2024 calendar year.

3. One selection from the 2022- 2023 academic year or 2023 calendar year.
4. Headshot(s) of presenter(s) in .jpg format, 3” x 5”, high- res, minimum 300 dpi.
5. Biography or biographies of presenter(s) in 900-characters or less each.
6. Biography of the demonstration choir in 900-characters or less (if needed for session).
7. An ensemble photo will be requested if the session is selected for the conference. The ensemble photo deadline is October 1, 2025.
8. Indicate the primary and secondary R&R audiences this session would target.
  - a. Children and Community Youth
  - b. Junior High/Middle School
  - c. Senior High School
  - d. Two-Year College
  - e. Four-Year College or University
  - f. Contemporary A Cappella
  - g. Show Choir
  - h. Vocal Jazz
  - i. Community
  - j. Music in Worship (choirs who primarily serve/perform in worship rather than concert settings)
  - k. Professional

#### **IV. Selection Process**

All adjudications are “blind.” The adjudication committee will not know the identity of the applicant. Every effort will be made to represent a broad range of interest sessions for each R&R area.

#### **V. Schedule of Dates and Application Link**

- March 3, 2025: Application Portal opens.
- April 16, 2025: Applications, uploads, and payment completed by 11:59 pm Central
- May 7, 2025: Review of applications completed.
- May 16, 2025: Applicants notified of results.
- June 16, 2025: Deadline for response by those accepted for presentation.
- August 1, 2025: Interest Sessions publicity announced.

Application available March 3, 2025 at <https://www.acdasouthern.org>

If you have questions, please reach out to the Chair of the Interest Session committee,  
Dr. Alison Mann at [alison.mann@cobbk12.org](mailto:alison.mann@cobbk12.org)