



CHORUS AMERICA - GUIDE TO AWARDS 2020

About

Chorus America is the advocacy, research, and leadership development organization that advances the choral field. We support and serve choral conductors, administrators, board members, and singers with tools, training, peer networking, and access so that choruses are better able to contribute to their communities.

More than 1,500 choruses, individuals, businesses, and organizations are members of Chorus America and have access to a wide array of programs, publications, research, and personal services developed for their benefit. These services strengthen their ability to build strong organizations that foster quality choral performances.

Members of Chorus America are eligible to participate in an awards program that honors artistic excellence, artistic growth, creative and adventurous programming, education and outreach, selfless service, and generous philanthropy.

Awardees are recognized at our annual Conference, not only to honor the recipients and celebrate their accomplishments in the company of friends and colleagues, but also to encourage the choral field to continually strive for excellence in management, service, and performance.

Award winners are profiled in the fall issue of the *Voice* magazine each year, and recent winners of selected awards are profiled in tribute videos.

Table of Contents

- About Page 2
- Eligibility Requirements Page 3
- Award Programs Page 4
- Application Process Page 6
- Application and Work Samples Page 7
- Contact Us Page 8

Eligibility Requirements

Each award specifies individualized criteria that applications must meet in order to be eligible. All award nominees must be members in good standing with Chorus America at the time of the application submission (deadline, Thursday, January 23, 2020) and the awards presentations (June 18 and 19, 2020).

To check on the status of your membership, please contact us at membership@chorusamerica.org

{IND} *Individuals* may apply for the following awards:

- Chorus America Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award
- Louis Botto Award for Innovative Action and Entrepreneurial Zeal
- Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art
- Chorus America Distinguished Service Award

{ORG} *Organizations* may apply for the following awards:

- Chorus America/ASCAP: Adventurous Programming Award
- Chorus America/ASCAP: Alice Parker Award
- Chorus America Education and Community Engagement Award
- Chorus America Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award
- Dale Warland Singers Commission Award
- Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence

Chorus America also recognizes generous philanthropy with two awards that do not have an application process. These awards are nominated by the Chorus America Board and the current host chorus of the Annual Conference, and include:

- Michael Korn Founders Award for Philanthropic Contribution to the Arts
- Chorus America Philanthropy Award

Brief descriptions of each award can be found on the following page. If you have questions about eligibility, please contact us at membership@chorusamerica.org.

Award Descriptions

Listed below are brief descriptions of each award. Full descriptions and requirements can be found at www.chorusamerica.org/awards.

{ORG} The **Chorus America/ASCAP Award for Adventurous Programming** recognizes member choruses that demonstrate a commitment to fostering and promoting new music. There are two categories for this award: Category #1: All adult choruses (professional, volunteer, symphony/opera) and Category #2: Children and youth choruses. *The winner receives an engraved plaque and a cash prize of \$1,000.*

{ORG} The **Chorus America/ASCAP Alice Parker Award** honors Alice Parker for a career that has spanned almost six decades and has been devoted to the creation of works for the human voice. This award recognizes a member chorus for programming significant recently composed music that expands the mission of the chorus and challenges the chorus's audience in a new way. *The winner receives an engraved plaque and a cash prize of \$1,000.*

{IND} & {ORG} The **Chorus America Brazeal Wayne Dennard Award** honors the life and achievements of educator, conductor, and arranger Brazeal Dennard. This award recognizes individuals or organizations whose work builds on Dennard's commitment to diversity, inclusiveness, and furthering African American choral traditions and other diverse choral music traditions through performance, research, or the creation of new compositions of significance. *The winner receives an engraved plaque and a cash prize of \$2,500.*

{IND} The **Louis Botto Award for Innovative Action and Entrepreneurial Zeal** is given to a conductor who has been involved with a professional or professional-core ensemble for 5-10 years. *The winner of this honorary award receives an engraved plaque.*

{ORG} The **Dale Warland Singers Commission Award** is presented by Chorus America in partnership with the American Composers Forum. It recognizes a chorus entering into an artistically meaningful and mutually beneficial partnership with a composer of their choice to contribute a new work to the choral repertoire. The 2020 Dale Warland Singers Commission Award will recognize **an adult volunteer chorus**. *The winning chorus will receive a cash award of \$10,000. \$7,500 is designated towards the commissioning fee (paid directly to the composer) and \$2,500 is designated towards travel to support in-person engagement with the project composer, production costs to present the project, and promotion costs for the concert and work.*

{ORG} The **Education and Community Engagement Award** is given by Chorus America for outstanding programming in education outreach. Criteria vary from year to year, as stipulated by Chorus America’s Education Committee, in order to highlight specific aspects of this important field. The 2020 Education and Community Engagement Award will recognize the **best collaborative program**. *The winner receives an engraved plaque and a cash prize of \$2,500.*

{ORG} The **Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence** is given in memory of Margaret Hillis, founder of the Chicago Symphony Chorus and its conductor for 37 years, for her more than 40 years of professional achievement and outstanding contributions to the choral art. This award is presented to a member chorus that demonstrates both artistic excellence in the performance of standard repertoire and a strong organizational structure with financial stability for a significant period of time. The awardee also exhibits a commitment to outreach, education, and/or culturally diverse activities. The 2020 Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence will recognize a **children/youth chorus**. *The winner receives an engraved plaque and cash award of \$5,000.*

{IND} The **Michael Korn Founders Award for Development of the Professional Choral Art** was established in 1978 to honor an individual with a lifetime of significant contributions to the professional choral art. *The winner of this honorary award receives an engraved plaque.*

{IND} The **Distinguished Service Award** is given by Chorus America to a member whose long-term service to the choral field is judged to have significantly furthered the organization’s mission “to build a dynamic and inclusive choral community so that more people are transformed by the beauty and power of choral singing.” *The winner of this honorary award receives an engraved plaque.*

Application Process

The 2020 award program guidelines are available at www.chorusamerica.org/awards. Chorus America utilizes an online application portal (CAAP) apply.chorusamerica.org. **Deadline to apply for awards is 5PM Eastern Time on Thursday, January 23, 2020.** Incomplete or late applications, or applications which do not follow the instructions, will be ineligible for review. Chorus America will not accept mailed, emailed, or hand-delivered copies of award applications.

Award Application Procedures:

1. Review the 2020 Guide to Awards and all the awards guidelines thoroughly to determine eligibility and application requirements;
2. Go to the [Chorus America Application Portal](#) (CAAP) and [register for an account](#). You will need to provide your full name, email address, a unique password, and your time zone. **The CAAP log-in is *not* your chorusamerica.org log-in; however, you may choose to make it the same when registering;**
3. Once you have registered you will receive a confirmation email from FluidWare (CAAP platform). You need to click on the embedded link to finalize your registration (this email may go to SPAM);
4. Once fully registered, please select the desired award and begin crafting the application*;
5. Complete the application questions and upload all required documents, supplementary materials, and work samples;
6. **Submit the application by 5PM Eastern Time on Thursday, January 23, 2020.**

**If you are applying for multiple awards you will need to complete separate applications per award.*

The application process is competitive and applicants are fully responsible for the content of their application. Submission does not guarantee an application's eligibility or recommendation for awarding by the Advisory Review Panel. Chorus America staff is not permitted to make corrections to applications on behalf of applicants. Incomplete applications will not be forwarded to the Advisory Review Panel for consideration.

All applications are scored according to the award program's specific criteria. Chorus America selects Advisory Review Panelists for each award program to make recommendations to the Chorus America Board of Directors. All eligible applications will be forwarded to the Advisory Review Panelists for evaluation and scoring based on the published criteria. Panelists will conduct a thorough review of all applications and convene as a group to discuss the applications and finalize scores. Panelists are anonymous and the review is confidential.

Applicants will be notified of awards results in writing by Tuesday, March 31, 2020. Due to the confidential nature of our review panels, we are not able to give individual feedback to applicants.

Application and Work Samples

When creating an application, Chorus America recommends considering the following:

- Each award requirement is different, so be sure you read each award description, eligibility, and how to apply information.
- Download each award's one-page summary to refer to throughout the application process, and share it with anyone else who is working on the application.
- Make sure to answer all questions in the application and provide the requested work samples. These answers and support materials help the Advisory Review Panel ensure your application receives a fair review.
- Some awards require letters of recommendation. Those nominating will request the letter through the CAAP system as part of the application. Recommenders who receive the request then upload the letters directly into the CAAP system.
- Contact Chorus America if you are having questions on the application, CAAP, or process.

When preparing work samples and support materials, Chorus America recommends considering the following:

- Select recent, high quality samples that relate as directly to the application as possible.
- Uploaded pictures should be JPEGs with the resolution of at least 72 dpi.
- Uploaded audio files should be MP3s.
- The file upload limit is 80MB. If your work sample is larger than this, we encourage you to provide a link rather than compromise the quality of the work sample
- Less is more. Oftentimes, adding more than the recommended number of work samples to your application will weaken the application.
- Advisory Review Panelists are required to review each applicant's work samples; therefore, each work sample and document must be labeled clearly so that panelists can identify what they are reviewing.
- Digital File Format: All files should be labeled in the appropriate file extension (jpg, pdf, etc.)
- Do not send promotional work samples (e.g., highly-edited booking tapes).
- Do not send dark work samples or samples with poor visibility.
- A website is not a sufficient work sample. Only submit a website that is an essential part of the project.
- Provide all passwords or include any necessary information required to view your work sample such as plug-ins or navigation paths.
- Be sure that the links to websites or online materials are fully functioning and maintained throughout the year. An inoperative link to a website containing your work sample may negatively affect your application.

Contact Us

For general questions, please contact Chorus America at membership@chorusamerica.org. For program, policy, and technical questions not covered in this Guide, please contact:

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