

MISSISSIPPI ACDA COLLEGIATE HONOR CHOIR
at
MMEA/ACDA STATE CONFERENCE
March 22 and 23, 2023
Hattiesburg

“The Best Mississippi Collegiate Sight-Readers Gather”
Jerry Blackstone, clinician

NO AUDITION/NO PREPARATION

Each director chooses their participants based on the following:

2-Year Schools

4 students maximum – SATB quartet preferred, excellent sight-reading skills required

4-Year Schools

8 students maximum – 2 SATB quartets preferred, excellent sight-reading skills required

Schools with Resident Graduate Singers

12 students maximum, 3 SATB quartets preferred, excellent sight-reading skills required

Important Participation Considerations:

While we would like a balanced choir, we gladly accept incomplete quartets over students who cannot sight-read at a high level. An attempt to send equal numbers of women and men would be appreciated.

Also, in regard to the numbers recommended above, we have these thoughts:

If you have either unbalanced quartets or extra singers (a few), please call me directly.
Our goal is to have a powerful choir that reads extremely well.

Participation Fee: \$80 per singer – includes fees to offset clinician, accompanist, music, facility use, concert sessions attendance, and a social event. Does not include any transportation, lodging, or meals. **Payment should be made in the form of a check or money order made out to “MS ACDA.” Mail payments to Don Trott at the address below.**

EMAIL the forms as attachments to Don Trott at dtrott@olemiss.edu or mail hard copies

to: Don Trott
Choral Office/Music Department
P.O. Box 1848
University of Mississippi
University, MS 38677

Please submit all materials by February 18, 2023.

Participants will need an ACDA member sponsor, although the sponsor is not required to attend.

JERRY BLACKSTONE

Grammy® Award winner Jerry Blackstone is a leading conductor and highly respected conducting pedagogue. He currently serves as Visiting Professor of Music at the Wheaton College Conservatory of Music, where he conducts the Concert Choir and teaches conducting. Prof. Blackstone was a member of the faculty of the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance for thirty years where, as Director of Choirs, he led the graduate program in choral conducting, oversaw the University's eleven choirs, and upon retirement was named Professor Emeritus of Music (Conducting). In February 2006, he received two Grammy® Awards ("Best Choral Performance" and "Best Classical Album") as chorusmaster for the critically acclaimed Naxos recording of William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*. The Naxos recording of Milhaud's monumental *L'Orestie d'Eschyle*, on which Blackstone served as chorusmaster, was nominated for a 2015 Grammy® Award ("Best Opera Recording"). Opera Magazine reviewer Tim Ashley wrote: "The real stars, though, are the University of Michigan's multiple Choirs, who are faced with what must be some of the most taxing choral writing in the entire operatic repertory. Their singing has tremendous authority and beauty, while the shouts and screams of *Choéphores* are unnerving in the extreme. Their diction is good too: the occasions when we don't hear the words are Milhaud's responsibility, rather than theirs. It's an extraordinary achievement, and utterly mesmerizing."

The University of Michigan Chamber Choir, conducted by Dr. Blackstone, performed by special invitation at the inaugural conference in San Antonio of the National Collegiate Choral Organization (NCCO) and presented three enthusiastically received performances in New York City at the National Convention of the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). As conductor of the University of Michigan Men's Glee Club from 1988-2002, Professor Blackstone led the ensemble in performances at ACDA national and division conventions and on extensive concert tours throughout Australia, Eastern and Central Europe, Asia, South America, and the United States.

In 2017, NCCO presented him with its prestigious Lifetime Achievement Membership Award and, in 2006, for "significant contributions to choral music," he received the ACDA-Michigan chapter's Maynard Klein Lifetime Achievement Award. From 2003-2015, Dr. Blackstone served as conductor and music director of the University Musical Society (UMS) Choral Union, a large community/university chorus that frequently appears with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra (DSO) and the Ann Arbor Symphony and presents yearly performances of Handel's *Messiah* and other major works for chorus and orchestra. Choirs prepared by Blackstone have appeared under the batons of Valery Gergiev, Neeme Järvi, Leonard Slatkin, Hans Graf, Michael Tilson Thomas, John Adams, Helmuth Rilling, James Conlon, Nicholas McGegan, Rafael Frühbeck de Burgos, Peter Oundjian, and Yitzak Perlman.

Professor Blackstone is considered one of the country's leading conducting teachers, and his students have been first place award winners and finalists in both the graduate and undergraduate divisions of ACDA's biennial National Choral Conducting competition. His 2016 rehearsal techniques DVD, *Did You Hear That?* (GIA Publications) deals with the conductor's decision-making process during rehearsal. Santa Barbara Music Publishing distributes Blackstone's

acclaimed educational DVD, *Working with Male Voices* and also publishes the Jerry Blackstone Choral Series.

Blackstone is an active guest conductor and workshop presenter and has appeared in forty-two states as well as New Zealand, Australia, Hong Kong, Shanghai, and Sicily. In the summer, he leads the Adult Choir Camp and the Choral Conducting Institute at the Interlochen Center for the Arts.

Prior to coming to the University of Michigan in 1988, Dr. Blackstone served on the music faculties of Phillips University in Oklahoma, Westmont College in California, and Huntington University in Indiana. He holds degrees from the University of Southern California, Indiana University, and Wheaton College.