



The North Carolina American Choral Directors Association (NC ACDA) and the North Carolina Music Educators Association (NCMEA) insist that choral music education continue throughout the COVID-19 pandemic. NC ACDA and NCMEA discourage school leadership from taking positions that will undermine or negatively affect choral and instrumental music offerings.

While research continues on the spread of COVID-19 through group singing, it is the belief of NC ACDA and NCMEA that choral music education can and should continue through the pandemic. We know that choral music may be taught in a variety of instructional settings. The ACDA [COVID-19 Response Committee Report](#) was developed by a team of choral professionals from across the country. These recommendations list guidance for risk reduction while teaching choral singing in an online, hybrid, or restricted in-person setting.

Currently, researchers at the University of Colorado and the University of Maryland are studying the rate of aerosol transmission through singing, playing instruments, and acting, and are measuring the effects of such transmissions on the spread of COVID-19. The study is the first of its kind and is financially supported by numerous arts organizations throughout the world.

Our national counterparts, the National Association for Music Education (NAfME) and the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), and NCMEA have contributed to the study that will provide much needed insight for those participating and teaching in the performing arts. The results from this study will be released in late July. Until then, we recommend the included response papers, position papers, and support resources provided by our organizations to help prepare and inform choral directors, K-12 school administrators, collegiate and professional conductors and administrators, community choirs, and places of worship.

NC ACDA and NCMEA stand in solidarity against the elimination or suspension of any music program offerings during the 2020-2021 academic year.

Resources for Choral Music During COVID-19

[ACDA Advocacy page](#) issued by ACDA, as well as information on the University of Colorado and the University of Maryland study on aerosol rates.

[ACDA COVID-19 Response Committee Webinar](#) A review of the resources and guidelines in the [COVID-19 Response Committee Report](#), which outlines in-person, hybrid and online instructional models for classroom, community choirs, music in worship and collegiate settings. The document contains many resources, guidelines, and sample lesson plans.

[ChorAmor https://www.choramor.com](https://www.choramor.com) A coalition of conductors, teachers, and singers founded in the opening days of the 2020 COVID-19 epidemic in order to

1. Continue **rehearsing and performing** together,
2. Provide **resources and training** for choral conductors, and
3. Provide **advocacy** for choral music.

This coalition opens the door to singing in the midst of difficult circumstances and provides resources for conductors, teachers, and students who need help finding their way in this new and challenging environment.

[Recommendations for Arts Education as North Carolina Reopens Schools](#) A list of recommendations for arts educators and administrators. These were written by the Arts Education Leadership Coalition (AELC) that includes leaders from NCMEA. The document offers guidance for all K-12 arts classes. This is a living document that will be changed throughout the summer as research is released. Currently, the high school choral and middle school choral sections of NCMEA are working to add specific information regarding approaches to teaching chorus in an online, in-person, and hybrid setting.

[NCCO: Virtual Choirs in Higher Education \(Summary for Administrators\)](#)

[NCCO: Virtual Choirs in Higher Education \(Full Position Paper\)](#) The National Collegiate Choral Organization affirms the capability of our members to determine the combination of in-person and remote learning appropriate for their environment, and we celebrate their creativity in developing new uses for technology in choral education.

[Music Education and Social Emotional Learning \(Scott Edgar\)](#)

[NAfME "Music Education and SEL" pamphlet](#)

[SEL: ARTS \(New Jersey\)](#)

Choral music educators have the unique responsibility of building and nurturing relationships with the same students over multiple years. These relationships are so important to our students in this time of social and cultural upheaval. NC ACDA and NCMEA believe that these relationships and the art of creating choral music will be important in developing healthy social and emotional skills in students.

NC ACDA continues to invest in the development and growth of the choral arts in NC through exceptional experiences in artistry, innovation, diversity, and leadership. NC ACDA will provide tools for choral directors to *Equip, Imagine, Immerse, & Connect* through our Virtual Conference Series [More information, including registration, can be found here](#). We encourage non-members and out of state ACDA members to join us as well. CEU's will be available.