



# DAKOTA *Choral* UNION

Dear Choir Directors and Vocal Instructors,

Once again, the Dakota Choral Union will be hosting the Young Vocal Artist Competition which will be held Saturday, March 21, 2026 at South Canyon Lutheran Church, 700 44<sup>th</sup> St, in Rapid City. The competition will begin at 9:00 a.m. with a break for lunch at 12:00 p.m. There will be two competing categories auditioning concurrently - the lower division for 9<sup>th</sup> and 10<sup>th</sup> grades and the upper division for 11<sup>th</sup> and 12<sup>th</sup> grades. However, if a student in the 10<sup>th</sup> grade wishes to compete in the upper division, they may do so. Each student will be required to perform two pieces of contrasting styles; both pieces are to be memorized, at least one of which will be in a foreign language. Broadway showtunes or popular music are not permitted. Students will need to provide their own accompanists.

First, second and third place winners from the upper division will be featured on the Dakota Choral Union spring concert, April 19 at 3:00 p.m. at South Canyon Lutheran Church. Monetary awards in the amount of \$750 for first place, \$500 for second place and \$250 for third place will be given to the winners in the upper division and an honorable mention will be awarded to the highest score in the lower division.

These are open auditions. Students are encouraged to listen to each other's auditions. Each student will have 8 minutes to perform their two pieces, after which the student will have a 5-minute mini-lesson with one of the judges. We want this to be an educational experience in a supportive and positive environment.

After lunch there will be a group session of vocal warm ups and exercises led by one of our vocal professionals. Announcements of the winners will follow the group session.

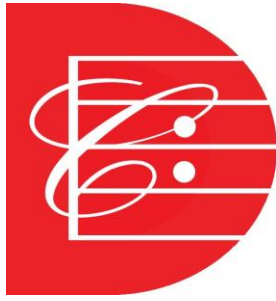
The registration fee is \$40. If your student is planning on staying for lunch, there will be an additional \$5 fee that will be payable the day of the competition.

Please mail the applications and the registration fees by March 2, 2026 to:

Dakota Choral Union  
Attn: Young Vocal Artist Competition  
PO Box 9083  
Rapid City, SD 57709

Thank you - we look forward to hearing your students!

Ellen Shirley  
Artistic Director and Conductor  
Dakota Choral Union



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## Application for the Young Vocal Artist Competition 2026

Please type or print legibly

<b>Name and email</b>	
<b>Voice Part</b>	
<b>Year in School</b>	
<b>School</b>	
<b>Choir Director</b>	
<b>Private Vocal Instructor (if applicable)</b>	
<b>Accompanist</b>	
<b>Title of 1st piece, Composer, and Language</b>	
<b>Title of 2nd piece, Composer, and Language</b>	
<b>In which category will you be competing?</b>	_____ 9th/10th    _____ 11th/12th

**Please bring a copy of your selections for the judges on the day of the competition**