



**Funding Request Form FY2025**

*Department should complete one form for each individual request*

**Department:**

Music Activities

**Program, Service or Operation Requested:**

New Staff Position – Assistant Director of Choral Activities

**General Description:**

Create a new Assistant Director of Choral Activities position to meet the increasing student participation in the Choral Activities choirs. If approved, with this position would create new choirs and new opportunities (the first increase since 1979) to meet the increasing need and demand for choirs at Texas A&M and reduce the new problem of turning students more and more students away without an opportunity because supply is not meeting the demand of the Texas A&M University students.

**Request Type:**

Full       Increase       One-Time       Partial/Matching

**Type of Funds Requested:**

UAF       Other

**General Questions**

***How does this address an important need and/or positively impact students?***

This position would continue to expand music (fine arts) offerings at Texas A&M University. One of our Music Activities goals has always been to offer adequate music opportunities to support all interested students and without these new choirs we find ourselves unable to do this.

***What department/Division strategic plan item does this support?***

Enrich Student Learning Experience

***Please provide data, evidence, and/or input (student faculty, staff, other) you gathered to help you determine the need for additional resources.***

The need for this new position represents a reoccurring discussion by MUSA staff in recent years due to the increasing number of student participants and incoming freshmen auditions that we have experienced. Furthermore, the new Texas A&M School of Performance, Visualization, and Fine Arts begins their new Music Degree offering in FY25 with an anticipated music degree size of 500 students. Many of those (guestimate is 25% based on staffing hires and offerings being made) will want (and need) to participate in a choral ensemble to meet their degree requirements creating even more demand than we are currently facing.

FY24 at a glance:

Century Singers (107 members) – optimal size of choir is 74

Women's Chorus (106 members) – optimal size of choir 80

Singing Cadets (66 members) – optimal size of choir is 60

Students Waitlisted for an opening - 35

Total: 314 either in choir or waiting for an opening

Current total of 53 seniors in 3 choirs (anticipate ~40 leaving with 35 already on wait list) which leaves NO ROOM FOR ANY NEW FRESHMEN TO JOIN IN FY25 IN ANY OF THE CHORAL PROGRAMS WITH BEYOND OPTIMUM SIZE CHOIRS. All of the class of 2028 would be waitlisted with no opportunity. And that does not take into account any of the new music majors coming to start at Texas A&M.

AUDITIONS LAST TWO YEARS - We auditioned 185 new people for FY24 and 164 for FY23

#### HISTORICAL GROWTH AND DEMAND FOR CHORAL ACTIVITIES

FY21 – 176 Students Total

Century Singers – 76

Women's Chorus – 44

Singing Cadets – 56

FY22 – 188 Students Total

Century Singers – 82

Women's Chorus – 47

Singing Cadets 56

FY23 – 214 Students Total

Century Singers – 83

Women's chorus – 78

Singing Cadets – 53

FY24 – 314 Students total

Century Singers – 107

Women's Chorus – 106

Singing Cadets – 66

Waitlisted – 35

FY25 – Projected Returning Students – 274

Projected Auditions – 180+

Number of Students Waitlisted – 180+

We currently have two full-time directors for choirs. We have not added an additional director since 1979. We must make staffing changes to meet the changing size of Texas A&M University and the documented demand from students.

- Texas A&M University 1979 Enrollment – 31,331
- Texas A&M University 2023 Enrollment – 75,000+Click to enter text

**What actions have you implemented or discontinued internally to address the identified need?**

We have enlarged all of our choirs far beyond an optimal number and when we ran out of room in our rehearsal space in our new Music Activities Center Choral Rehearsal Hall we started a waitlist.

**If funding is granted, what metrics will you use to evaluate success of this program/service/operation?**

The number of students that audition and sing in all of our choir and the student demand/need for more choirs and more spaces for students to sing as well as audiences that come and hear these students sing.

**Have other sources of funding (fundraising, sponsorship, reserves, etc.) been considered? Please explain.**

This is a permanent full-time staff position. It needs permanent funding. There are no other sources of permanent funding.

**Total Estimated Cost**

<b>Funding Description</b>	<b>Amount</b>
New Staff Position – Assistant Director of Choral Activities (\$60,000 salary + \$29,100 benefits)	\$89,100
<i>Less Estimated Partial/Matching Funds (if Applicable)</i>	
<b>TOTAL INCREASE REQUESTED</b>	\$89,100