

2014

Choir Information: Selection, Expectations, and Opportunities

MS/JH Conference Host Site: College of Music, University of North Texas, Denton, Texas 76203

Date: Friday (p.m.) May 2 and Saturday, May 3, 2014

The goal:

- Number of middle-level mixed choirs to receive presentation invitations: 3
- Number of middle-level male choirs to receive presentation invitations: 3
- Number of middle-level female/treble choirs to receive presentation invitations: 3

Per school limits:

- Two classroom choirs of different make-up: female/treble; male; mixed.

A description of the choirs selected to perform:

- Classroom choirs with high-level of musical achievement.
- Size: 20 singers and above.
- Grade distribution: By April 2014, a **majority** of each classroom choir is comprised of students in grades 7 and/or 8, a **minority** of each choir **may** include students in grades 6 and/or 9.



Letters of support and recommendation:

- Letter 1: 2012-2013 MS/JH School Principal
- Letter 2: Noted Choral Music Professional

Selection committee:

• A minimum of five experienced middle school choir directors and two college professors with a strong adjudication background in middle school choral music will be asked to rank the CD's submitted. In a blind listening session, each recording will be scored (1, lowest)-(10, highest). Recording scores, support and recommendation letters, and broad divisional representation will be used to determine overall scores. Notification of results will be no later than August 15, 2013.

Male choirs:

- As a part of the Cambiata Composition Initiative, invited choirs with single gender male voices may be asked to program one of the "winning" selections composed specifically for this conference. The work will be written in 2-part (Cambiata/Tenor and Baritone) or 3-part (Cambiata I/Tenor I, Cambiata II/Tenor II, and Baritone).

Performance overview:

- Each choir will be provided a 15 minute stage sound check on the day of the performance.
See Schedule Overview.

- Each choir will be allotted a total of 30 minutes. The first (18-22) minutes will include the choir's introduction and entrance, performance and applause. The conductor, assistant conductor, (or a conductor approved clinician) will be encouraged to instruct the conference attendees, using the remaining 8-12 minutes to demonstrate particular strength of the choir or a set of special techniques and strategies that influence the development of music skills related to vocal technique, pitch reading, rhythm reading, sight-singing, or other, such as a simple question/ answer period. This forward-looking presentation format is open for discussion and negotiations on a per-invited-choir basis.

- To the degree possible, choirs will be offered the opportunity to hear each other perform in or outside the conference host site.

Permission to record:

- The conductor and the parents of each member of each invited choir will be asked to sign a waiver, giving the Cambiata Institute permission to film and record conference performances. Recordings will be used for archival purposes as well as pedagogical projects to promote choral music in our middle and junior high schools.

Church and or Synagogue connections:

- At the conductor's written request, connections between the visiting choir and area host churches can be arranged.

Additional performance opportunities:

- At the conductor's written request, connections between the visiting choir and area school districts can be arranged.

