

Choir Information: Selection, Expectations, and Opportunities

MS/JH Conference Site: Booker T. Washington School for the Performing and Visual Arts
2501 Flora
Dallas, Texas 75201

Date: *February 29, 2012*

Preceding: Southwest American Choral Directors Conference
February 29 (p.m.)-March 3, 2012
Dallas, Texas

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

- Fundamental description: Classroom choirs with high-level of musical achievement.
- Size: 20 singers and above.
- Grade distribution: By February 2012, 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 : 2011-2012 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 serve on the 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 July 15, 2011.

Male choirs

- As a part of the Cambiata Composition Initiative, invited choirs featuring male genre voices will be asked to program one selection composed specifically for this conference. Composed by a noted composer with a national/international reputation for writing for this age group, 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/Synagogue connections

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

Additional performance opportunities #1

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

Additional performance opportunities #2

- Conductors of MS/JH choirs, who are members of the **SWACDA** division, may want to submit audition materials to SWACDA to repeat your performance in the on-going Dallas Conference (February 29 [p.m.]-March 3, 2012).

Audition materials deadlines are different for each ACDA Division. For updated details, go to the specific website for your division.

- **Southwest:** May 21, 2011
- **Central:** April 25, 2011
- **Southern:** May 15, 2011
- **Eastern:** March 19, 2011
- **Northwestern :** May 15, 2011
- **North Central:** May 1, 2011
- **Western:** April 9, 2011
- **Northeast:** TBA

Audition materials deadlines are different for each Music Educators Association (MEA) state conference. For details, go to the specific website for your state.

