

2016 MS/JH National Conference for Choral Music
Cambiata Institute

Choir Information: Selection, Expectations, and Opportunities

**Host Site: College of Music, University of North Texas,
Denton, Texas 76203**

Date: Friday [p.m.] May 6 and Saturday, May 7, 2016

The goal:

- Number of middle level mixed choirs to receive presentation invitations: 2-3
- Number of middle level male choirs to receive presentation invitations: 2-3
- Number of middle level female/treble choirs to receive presentation invitations: 1-3

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: 20-80 singers
- Grade distribution: By April 2016, 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: 2015-2016 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 MP3'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, 2015.

Performance Overview:

- Each choir will be provided a minimum of a 15 minute on-stage sound check on the day of the performance. See Schedule Overview
- Each choir is allotted a total of 30 minutes of on-stage time. The first (18-22) minutes will include the choir's introduction and entrance, performance, and applause. Using the remaining 8 minutes, the conductor, assistant conductor, (or a conductor approved clinician) is encouraged to share with conference attendees the strengths of the choir, or a set of techniques and strategies that influence the development of music skills related to vocal development, 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.

