

June 9, 2026

Dear Colleagues:

It is my privilege to invite you and a select group of your students to participate in the **2027 Honor Choir Festival** hosted by the School of Music at Southern Adventist University.

My name is Rina Ritivoiu, and I serve as Director of Choral Activities at Southern Adventist University. I am honored to be this year's clinician, and I look forward to collaborating with talented high school singers and directors and creating a meaningful and inspiring musical experience together.

**Registration will take place Wednesday, January 20 from 3–6 pm. Our first rehearsal begins at 7 pm, and the Festival concludes with a 4 pm concert on Sabbath, January 23.** Future correspondence will provide many additional details including repertoire, a rehearsal schedule, and housing forms.

### **Festival Clinician**

I am honored to make music with your dedicated singers as this year's festival clinician. Please allow me to briefly introduce myself.

Rina Ritivoiu is an Assistant Professor and Director of Choral Activities at Southern Adventist University. She is a conductor, collaborative pianist, and composer originally from Gwangju, South Korea. With over two decades of experience, she has directed choirs at the secondary and university levels, including teaching at the University of Southern California and serving as assistant conductor and pianist for the Los Angeles Zimriyah Jewish Chorale. A Carnegie Hall-premiered composer, her artistic perspective has been shaped by distinguished mentors such as Morten Lauridsen and former National Endowment for the Arts Chair Dana Gioia. Her versatile portfolio includes arranging and producing the first Christian children's album for the Navajo Nation. Her professional practice reflects a lifelong commitment to the healing ministry of the Creator and Savior through choral art.

Dr. Ritivoiu holds a Bachelor of Music in Music Education from Sahmyook University in South Korea, a Master of Music in Conducting from California State University, Sacramento, and a Doctor of Musical Arts from the University of Southern California. At Southern Adventist University, she directs the University Choir, Bel Canto Women's Choir, Die Meistersinger Male Chorus, and I Cantori Chamber Choir, and teaches Choral Conducting and Introduction to Music and Health, with additional contributions as a guest lecturer for Stories, Structures, & Song.

**Why an Honor Choir Festival?** The **Honor Choir Festival** is designed for those of your students who demonstrate the capability for more advanced choral work. They will have the opportunity to experience rehearsal and performance at a level that will challenge their abilities.

**Criteria for Student Selection** Inform your students that specific requirements must be met for Festival participation, which can serve as a strong motivational tool for your ensemble. The selection criteria are left to your discretion; however, in addition to maintaining high musical standards, students should consistently demonstrate positive engagement and contribution within the ensemble.

**How can I make efficient use of rehearsal time if only some students can attend?** Consider teaching some or all the Festival repertoire to your full choir. The repertoire can then be used for your own concerts following the Festival. If you have a select ensemble that meets separately, you may choose to teach the music to that group alone. Whatever you decide, please plan to devote sufficient rehearsal time to ensure that your students come well prepared! This will allow us to use rehearsal time for communicating techniques and shaping the music.

**How many students can I bring?** In order to achieve optimum musical benefits, we are inviting a select number of students from each school. The maximum number of students that can attend is based on the total number of singers in your current choirs. I know that selecting only some students can be challenging, but please stay within the maximum numbers indicated below so it will be fair for everyone.

<b><u>Total # of students in your choirs</u></b>	<b><u>Maximum* allowed for Festival</u></b>
30 or less	8
30–60	16
60–90	24
100+	30

**\*Select the most balanced SATB part grouping possible within the numbers allowed.**

**How do I get music for the Festival?** Please confirm that you plan to attend the Festival by sending an email to [rinar@southern.edu](mailto:rinar@southern.edu) at your earliest convenience, but no later than Monday, October 5. Include in your email the approximate number of students you plan to bring based on the maximum allowed as shown below. I will respond to your confirmation by sending you the repertoire list and other updates.

**What are the costs involved?**

Music: Each school is responsible for purchasing their own music. As always, our goal is to choose repertoire that will make great additions to your choral library.

Registration: The registration cost for each student and non-director sponsor is \$75.00. This low cost includes hotel lodging from Wednesday through Friday night, and meals beginning with supper on Wednesday and ending with lunch on Sabbath. There is no registration cost for directors. Directors and sponsors will be encouraged to room together where possible. We are happy to arrange Saturday night housing for schools that are coming from a long distance. If you choose this option, your school will be responsible for the cost of Saturday night housing.

I trust that the above paragraphs have answered most of your preliminary questions. Please feel free to contact me by e-mail if there is anything I can clarify. I'll be looking forward to your email as soon as possible, but no later than October 5 confirming your plan to attend the Festival and the approximate number of students that will attend.

Have a wonderful and well-deserved summer. May rich blessings be upon you and your singers as you continue to inspire your school and community through uplifting music.

With gratitude,

Rina Ritivoiu

Director of Choral Activities

Southern Adventist University