

December 14, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

I wish I could have attended each of your Christmas concerts! Last weekend our choirs and orchestra presented the Christmas portion of Handel's *Messiah*, and it was such a blessing to work with a new generation that will continue the legacy of studying and performing this great work. Please read on for a ton of details regarding our 2024 Honor Choir Festival. Most important for now, please note our repertoire list with pieces that you can download, print and have ready to go for your students to prepare when rehearsals resume in January.

FESTIVAL CLINICIAN I'm thrilled to announce that Carrie VanDenburgh has agreed to serve as our guest clinician. Carrie is serving in her eighth year as the choir teacher at Berrien Springs Middle and High School where she teaches seven ensembles. Her choirs consistently receive superior ratings at the district and state levels, and they have traveled and performed in New York, Washington D.C. and Walt Disney World. Carrie is a member of *The Three Divas of Southwest Michigan*—a group that uses their background in opera, musical theatre and jazz to entertain and inspire. She is also the choir director at Harbert Community Church. Carrie is an outstanding music educator, and you and your students will enjoy and benefit from her insights.

FESTIVAL REPERTOIRE You'll be able to access all the scores below immediately since they are either available as digital downloads (click on each link to purchase and print the pdf/e-print), or as free scores attached to this message. **My best advice is to start on the SATB pieces first (the pieces are in the order I think works well for you to learn them), then the SA & TB.** We will teach the *Sanctus* round when they come, so don't worry if you are unable to review it before you arrive. Performances of all of these can be found online.

Undine Moore, [Daniel, Servant of the Lord](#) SATB divisi
Elaine Hagenberg, [I Will Be a Child of Peace](#), SATB
Martin Shaw, [With a Voice of Singing](#), SATB
Ola Gjeilo, [The Ground](#) SATB
Antonio Vivaldi, **Laudamus Te**, SA (see attachment)
Dan Davison, [Laudate Dominum](#), TB
Clemens non Papa, **Sanctus**, Unison/Round (see attachment)

Your students **must have their own folder and a copy of each piece of music**. We will supply pencils. Please label folders and all music with the name of your school and/or ensemble, and bring a few extra copies in case replacements are needed. *We will not be able to supply music or make copies during the Festival.*

REGISTRATION Registration will be held Wednesday, February 7 from 3–5 pm in the Ackerman Auditorium lobby at the School of Music (J. Mabel Wood Hall). The cost for Festival participation is \$75.00 per student. This low rate includes housing and meals from Wednesday supper through Sabbath lunch. Please present either cash or a check for the total amount (payable to Southern Adventist University) during registration.

FESTIVAL SCHEDULE Our first rehearsal will be on Wednesday, February 10 at 7 pm in Ackerman Auditorium following registration and supper. Rehearsals continue Thursday and Friday, ending with a late afternoon dress rehearsal on Friday. The Festival concludes with Sabbath services and our concert at 4 pm. *A detailed rehearsal and performance schedule will be available at registration.*

STUDENT SELECTION Select students who have demonstrated the ability and willingness to go beyond the average requirements. You may decide to audition students based on criteria set earlier in the school year. Whatever your method, choose the most balanced part grouping within the maximum number (see guidelines sent in the first letter) your school is allowed. We also need to highlight the importance of good citizenship. *Remind your students that there will be no tolerance for taunting, bullying or any other forms of disrespect.*

SOLO OPPORTUNITIES Your students will have the opportunity to audition for solo parts in *Daniel, Servant of the Lord*. Soloists must have your recommendation, be well prepared, and have the solo part memorized before the Festival.

SECTIONAL REHEARSALS Southern student conductors and accompanists will lead out in sectional rehearsals, but I may need to call on a few of you to fill in here and there. Thanks in advance for being prepared and willing!

HOUSING FORM A housing form requesting the names of participating students and sponsors will be available soon and will be due no later than Monday, January 22.

DIRECTOR/SPONSOR HOUSING One complimentary hotel room will be provided for each school if needed. The cost for any additional rooms will be your responsibility.

MEALS Student meals (Wednesday supper through Sabbath lunch) are covered in the registration fee. Meals for directors and sponsors are complimentary. This includes a special supper on Thursday just for directors!

CONCERT ATTIRE Students should plan to wear your school's performance attire for the Sabbath services and afternoon concert.

FESTIVAL WEBSITE For your convenience, correspondence and Festival information will be posted under **Special Events** at www.southern.edu/music.

We are really looking forward to making music with you and your students! Please contact me (e-mail is best) if you need further clarification or assistance.

With a Voice of Singing,

Genevieve Brown-Kibble
Director of Choral Activities
Southern Adventist University
President, TN-ACDA