

October 15, 2023

Dear Colleagues:

It is my privilege to invite you and a select group of your students to participate in the **2024 Honor Choir Festival** hosted by the School of Music at Southern Adventist University! **Registration will take place Wednesday, February 7 from 3–6 pm. Our first rehearsal begins at 7 pm, and the Festival concludes with a 4 pm concert on Sabbath, February 10.** Future correspondence will provide many additional details including repertoire, a rehearsal schedule and housing forms.

Festival Clinician

After missing two Festivals due to the pandemic I am especially looking forward to serving as clinician for our 2024 Festival! Southern's I Cantori Chamber Choir will serve as a demonstration choir, and they will also sing some of the repertoire with your students. This master class element is a unique addition, and excellent student conductors will assist me as in the 2020 Festival.

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 and give them the tools to return as stronger leaders for your full ensembles.

Criteria for Student Selection

Inform your students that there will be requirements to meet for Festival participation. This will be a powerful motivational tool for the entire ensemble! The specific criteria are left to your good judgment. In addition to high musical standards, students should be expected to make consistent and positive contributions to your 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 do I get music for the Festival?

Please confirm that you plan to attend the Festival by sending an email to gkibble@southern.edu at your earliest convenience, or by Monday, October 30. Please include in your email the *approximate* number of students that 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.

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.

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

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

What are the costs involved?

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

Registration The registration cost for each student and 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.

I trust that the above paragraphs have answered most of your preliminary Festival 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 30 confirming your plan to attend the Festival and the approximate number of students that will attend.**

Rich blessings to you and your singers as you prepare to inspire your community with music for concerts, church services, Thanksgiving and Christmas!

With a Voice of Singing,

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