September 8, 2017

Dear High School Choir Director,

The Adams State University Music Department is pleased to invite your school to the “Top of the Nation” Honor Choir Festival at the Adams State University campus from Thursday, February 15 through Saturday, February 17, 2018. We will sponsor two High School Honor Choirs, a mixed ensemble and a treble ensemble, for which students are accepted by audition. Approximately eighty students from around the state will be admitted to the mixed choir and about sixty to the treble choir. Dr. Eric Foley, Director of Choirs and Music Education from Corban University in Oregon, will be conducting the Mixed Choir and I will be the clinician for the Treble Choir.

Please encourage your students to participate in this wonderful opportunity as they will enjoy a variety of valuable experiences during their time at our beautiful campus. In addition to preparing for their own concert, participating students will have the opportunity to attend a course taught by ASU faculty members, see performances by the ASU Chamber Choir and vocal jazz ensemble, 68 West, and meet new students from different areas. The directors will also have the opportunity to earn one graduate credit for attending the sessions. The weekend will culminate with the Honor Choir Concert on Saturday afternoon at 2:00 p.m.

Information concerning audition requirements and the audition materials are included in this packet and can be downloaded online at: http://www.adams.edu/academics/music/honor_choirs_information.php. **Applications will be accepted via Google Forms this year. Students may assist with the first part, although the second part is only for the directors, and only the directors should ultimately submit the form.**

Here is the link: https://docs.google.com/forms/d/e/1FAIpQLScqjnBUwk7qL3sKh6q4J9CQCuV7lcrQYYJdTnfH8biaNHT-aw/viewform?usp=sf_link

There is no fee to audition although there is a $30 fee per accepted student for the festival. **Please make sure that students are available for the festival BEFORE they audition. Electronic auditions or CDs must be submitted or postmarked no later than Friday, October 27 to be considered,** and you will be notified of the results by December 11. For your convenience, Dr. Heather Roberson from Western State Colorado University and I will continue to use a uniform audition process for both of our choir festivals.

Thank you for your time and hard work in this process! Without your help, this opportunity for your students would not be possible. If you have any questions, please contact me at (719) 587-7703 or brobison@adams.edu. I look forward to working with you and your students!

Best wishes for a wonderful school year.

Sincerely,

Dr. Beth Robison
Music Department Chair
Director of Choral Activities
Adams State University
(719) 587-7703
brobison@adams.edu
AUDITION REQUIREMENTS
2018 Adams State University
“Top of the Nation” Honor Choir Festival

(This page may be given to students to help them prepare for the recording.)

1. RANGE: Sing the descending range exercise, proceeding downward by half steps to the lowest key listed on the audition sheet. Sing the ascending range exercise, proceeding upward by half steps to the highest key listed on the audition sheet.

2. SIGHT READING: Sight read two (2) short sight reading exercises using solfege syllables, numbers or “la.” Piano will give a I-IV-V-I chord progression in the key.
   *Student will be allowed one try only after no more than 30 seconds to study the example. Student will not be allowed to see or hear the example before the audition recording.*

3. CHORALE EXERCISE: Sing the appropriate voice part of the chorale exercise using “noo.” The instructor may play one other part while the student is recording this exercise. Play the bass line while soprano, alto, or tenor is sung. Play the soprano line while bass is sung. Do not play the voice part the student is singing. You may prepare this exercise ahead of time before you record it.

4. AURAL RECALL: Three (3) short examples will be played twice each and the student must sing it back on a neutral syllable such as “la.”
   *Student will not be allowed to see or hear the example before the audition taping and will not be allowed to see the examples during the audition taping.*

5. A CAPPELLA SINGING: Sing “Happy Birthday” without piano or other accompaniment. Piano will give the starting note and/or chord to establish key.
   *Students must complete all of the above in order for the audition to be accepted. PLEASE double check your recordings to make sure that all auditions are complete.*
2018 Adams State University “Top of the Nation” Honor Choir Festival
Recorded Audition Procedures and Information for Choir Directors

(1) In order to centralize all of the auditions, I am requesting that they be submitted as an mp3, mp4 or WAV file via Google Drive. If this is not possible, please let me know and you can send in CDs. Please make a sound check for placement of microphone relative to the singer and piano so that the balance allows the singer to be easily heard. Please listen on a CD player (not computer) to make certain everything was audibly recorded and was finalized on the CD.

(2) Please use a separate folder in Google or CD for each of these voice classifications/groupings:
   - Sopranos
   - Altos
   - Tenors
   - Basses

(3) State the student's name and voice part very clearly on the recording before each audition.

(4) Include the student’s name and voice part on the file name in the Google voice part folders. Write on the CD cover the names of the students in the order they are heard on the tape.

(5) Please work with your students to complete and submit an audition form for each student via the Google form link.

(6) Please record each student’s audition without other students in the room. There should be one try only for all sight reading and aural recall—no practicing.

(7) Continue running the recording between sections since students should be given minimal time to study the sight reading – (no more than 30 sec).

(8) Please record audition requirements in the following order (also see “audition requirements” page):
   (1) Range
   (2) Sight reading—Give I-IV-V-I in the key of the sight reading example.
   (3) Chorale Exercise
   (4) Aural recall—Piano plays each short idea (measure) twice and student sings back immediately without looking at the sheet.
   (5) “Happy Birthday” a cappella (as listed on "requirements" page)

If using CDs, please mail to:
   Dr. Beth Robison
   Adams State University
   Department of Music
   208 Edgemont Blvd.
   Alamosa, CO 81101
   e-mail: brobison@adams.edu; 719-587-7703; 719-587-7094 (fax)