October 7, 2024

Dear Colleagues:

It is my privilege to invite you and a select group of your students to participate in the **2025 Honor Choir Festival** hosted by the School of Music at Southern Adventist University! **Registration will take place Wednesday, February 12 from 3–6 pm. Our first rehearsal begins at 7 pm, and the Festival concludes with a 4 pm concert on Sabbath, February 15.** Future correspondence will provide many additional details including repertoire, a rehearsal schedule and housing forms.

**Festival Clinician** I’m thrilled to announce that Jeffrey Dean will serve as our Festival Clinician! Jeffrey is a singer-conductor with a passion for sacred music. He leads an active musical life as a classroom music teacher, conductor, cantor, and bass-baritone soloist. He is enthusiastic about early music, having recently conducted Handel's *Messiah* with the Chadakoin Chamber Ensemble in Jamestown, NY, as well as having transcribed and conducted Delalande’s *Regina coeli laetare* for his graduate recital. His recent solo engagements include Mozart's *Requiem* with the South Bend Symphony Orchestra, Handel's *Messiah* with the Festival Baroque Orchestra, Rossini’s *Petite messe solennelle* with Concordia Vocal Ensemble, and the role of Seneca in Opera ND’s production of Monteverdi’s *The Coronation of Poppea*. A fully certified Kodály teacher, he currently leads the choral program at Ooltewah Middle School. Jeffrey earned a Master of Sacred Music degree in conducting from the University of Notre Dame, and he holds a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education from Southern Adventist University.

**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 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.

Total # of students in your choirs **Maximum\*** allowed for Festival

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 gbkibble@southern.edu at your earliest convenience, but no later than Monday, October 28.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 28 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 continue to inspire your school and community with uplifting music!

*With a Voice of Singing,*

Gennie

Gennevieve Brown-Kibble

Director of Choral Activities

Southern Adventist University

President, TN-ACDA