



October 1, 2019

Dear Nebraska High School Choral Directors:

As the school progresses quickly toward the autumn season, I wish to remind you that the **Hastings College Honor Choir** is scheduled for February 6-8, 2020 on the Hastings College campus. As always, I expect a vibrant and educational opportunity for you and your choral students as they participate in Nebraska's premiere college-based honors music program.

This year's choral clinician will be Dr. Bret Amundson, Director of Choral Activities and the Director of General Education at The College of St. Scholastica in Duluth, MN. At St. Scholastica, Bret directs the St. Scholastica Concert Choir and Bella Voce, and oversees the college's general education program, including the first year program. Under Bret's direction, the choirs perform several concerts a year, and annually tour both nationally and internationally.

*High School Juniors and Seniors are eligible to audition for membership. **We will only be accepting online registrations; that information is included with this letter.*** Online registrations must be completed **no later** than November 20, 2019.

Please follow the instructions for recording and submitting the audition. This includes having students introduce themselves, sing a prescribed scale exercise to demonstrate voice range and quality, and sing one prepared vocal solo (preferably something worthy of a music contest or festival). As always, complete audition instructions are included with this letter and may also be found online at **www.hastings.edu/hboc**.

No audition fee is required, but those who are selected will pay a non-refundable participation fee of \$45.00 due at the time of registration. We will provide students and directors music, lunch and dinner on Friday, and lunch on Saturday. Breakfast is not provided.

PLEASE NOTE: For legal reasons, Hastings College will no longer be able to provide housing and/or transportation for the Honor Music Festival. Lodging options are available on our website.

Students and Directors must register online at www.hastings.edu/hboc.

Notification of accepted students will be posted on our website by early December. Directors will receive *music* and rehearsal notes for all participants during the first week of January 2020.

Sincerely,

Dr. Louie Eckhardt
Assistant Professor of Music
Chair, Department of Music and Theatre

PLEASE SEE REVERSE



Hastings College Department of Music

2019 Nebraska High School Honor Choir

Recorded Audition Guidelines

Here are the requirements (and a few common-sense tips!) for making a successful audition recording that will represent you at your best:

1. Experiment with placing the recorder closer to the singer than to the accompaniment. (For instance, don't put the recorder ON the piano, then step away 10 feet to sing!) Also, please experiment with the recording level to avoid distortion at high volume or in your high range.
2. At the start of the recording, prior to singing, please identify yourself to the selection committee: a) State your name, b) Your current grade in school, c) Your school, and d) the voice part for which you are auditioning (SI, SII, AI, AII, TI, TII, BI, BII).
3. Next, to demonstrate the quality and "useful range" of your voice, have the piano sound the pitch "g" in the middle of your range, then *without accompaniment*, sing UP a legato scale slowly on the neutral vowel "ah." (When you reach the top of the octave, keep right on going, if you are able. Don't worry if the top notes get squeaky or shrill or crack; we would rather hear more notes, rather than to be left wondering if you have "good" notes above the octave scale.)
4. Again, sound the "g" in the middle of your range, then *without accompaniment* sing DOWN a scale slowly on "ah." (Again, demonstrate beyond the octave, if you are able.) **NOTE:** Please do not substitute singing the quick octave scales and arpeggios that are required in the Nebraska All-State audition for these slower, sustained demonstrations we ask you to sing.
5. Next, announce the title of the piece you will sing for your audition, and begin singing.
6. Sing one complete solo that best showcases your voice (a "district contest" art song or other appropriate solo). We want to hear YOU sing as much as possible in the time available; please shorten lengthy piano introductions, interludes, and endings. Please limit simple strophic songs to no more than two verses.

7. After you record each segment of the audition, LISTEN to be sure it represents you at your best!

Again, thanks for auditioning for the 2020 Nebraska High School Honor Choir; send us your best, and we'll hope to see you here at Hastings College in February!

**Online registration must be completed no later than November 20, 2019 at
www.hastings.edu/hboc.**