September 22, 2016

Dear Choral Educator,

Welcome back to another year of encouraging our youth to include choral singing in their busy schedules-and maybe even in their future plans as they face “real life” as adults!

As the new member of the choral faculty at UMD, I am excited to be planning the Senior High Honor Choir day and to meet you and your students. I am enthusiastic about the potential of this day to offer a festival choral experience for high school singers; individual voice lessons with voice faculty; and a chance for dialog among your teaching colleagues and between your colleagues and the voice faculty at UMD. After discussions with Stan Wold about the festival this year, we decided that I will serve as the clinician for the student festival this year, in order to introduce students to the new direction in the UMD choral program and so that I can better get to know you and your students. The repertoire is now selected and we are ready to implement the plan – which is:

**Recommended:** a balanced quartet or octet by the deadline (which is October 5), wait for a quick confirmation from me about the numbers accepted, **acquire the five pieces** (three mixed, one SSA, one TBB), use the accompaniment tracks which will be provided to assist your students in **learning the music**, and finally, make the trip to the UMD campus on **Monday, October 24, the festival day**.

A quick overview of the day’s schedule: 8:15 registration; 8:30-11:50 rehearsals (some sectionals and breaks); 1:00-3:30 rehearsals and “dress;” 4:00 Festival concert, including some UMD choral ensembles as well.

Attached to this email you should receive a page about the repertoire and a bio about the clinician. To nominate your students online, please go to [http://sfa.d.umn.edu/departments/music](http://sfa.d.umn.edu/departments/music) and click on "News & Events.” You will find the link to our "Choral Events" and the "Senior High Honor Choir Festival" from there you should be able to navigate to the nomination page. If you would prefer a paper nomination, please email Dee Charles at dcharles@d.umn.edu.

If it has been a while since you’ve come up to the UMD Senior High School Choral Festival, please do join us this year!

Yours in ongoing choral service,

Elizabeth Fisher, Coordinator
UMD Honor Choirs, 2016-2017