Dear Choral Director,

The choral area of the UMD Music Department is happy to invite you and a select group of your choral students to the 2016 UMD Middle Level Honor Choir Clinic on **Tuesday, January 26**. **Sue Gilsdorf, vocal music teacher at Stillwater Jr. High School**, will serve as our guest conductor/clinician. Please see her biography in the accompanying materials.

Following is a brief summary of the Honor Choir format:

1) **Nominate** a maximum of two balanced quartets. Upon receiving the acceptance form, procure the music (see attached repertoire list) in time to prepare your students thoroughly on the festival music.

2) The **fee** is $10.00 per student. Instructions for payment will be sent upon acceptance of your student singers.

3) The **schedule** for the day includes:
   - 8:15 a.m. Registration
   - 8:30 a.m. Seating
   - Rehearsals throughout the day (one hour for lunch)
   - 4:00 p.m. Festival Concert in Weber Music Hall (UMD Choirs, Honor Choir)

   The concert is early enough to provide ample travel time so no school group has to be concerned about an overnight cost.

4) **MEALS**: Directors are invited to a luncheon with the clinician and School of Fine Arts guests on campus.

   Students should **NOT** leave the campus to eat. To do so raises some real issues about liability and about teacher supervision during a school event. In a reserved area of the Kirby Student Center, our catering office will be offering a choice of hamburgers or grilled cheese for prepaid student tickets. Another student option would be to eat at UMD's food court or "vend den."

   Concerning the **SELECTION PROCESS**: Our festival maximum attendance is approximately 200 students. Consequently, participant acceptance may have to be limited according to the following process:

1) The first quartet from each school whose electronic nomination form has been **received** by the deadline will be accepted. **That deadline is: noon, December 11.**

2) The second quartet (or portions thereof) will be accepted **according to the order in which the forms are received** until the maximum is met, keeping a numerical balance among sections. The intent is to allow as many different schools to participate as possible without jeopardizing the balance.

3) **Acceptance notices** will be e-mailed to you on the morning of **December 15, 2016**. That should provide time to order the music **before** Christmas break.

   —continued—
STUDENT PREPAREDNESS: If you are contemplating sending students to this event who you know are not really qualified (will not be able to sing at least 80% of their respective parts correctly BEFORE they arrive at UMD), please do not nominate them! Sincere music students and discerning directors would appreciate it very much! We would rather have you recommend a numerically unbalanced set of vocally worthy, musically prepared nominees (thereby allowing another school to make up the difference) than to send a quartet which only "backs up" two qualified voices in it. By continuing to cooperate in this way, we can maintain and improve the integrity of this event for all participants.

Please complete the attached nomination form fully. Indicate your plan regarding the noon luncheon and observe the deadline date. All registration fees should be completed before on-campus registration, which then is much more efficient. (Again: instructions to be sent with the acceptance notices.)

We hope to hear from you with a positive response!

Sincerely,

Stanley R. Wold, Professor of Music
Director of Choral Activities
Coordinator, UMD Honor Choirs

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