June 2018

Hello everybody!

Looking ahead as you make your plans for fall, we will be happy to welcome back all returning singers and we extend a special welcome to all students coming to Western for the first time this fall. We’re looking forward to a rewarding year of music making with all of you. Here’s a list of the most important information you need to know before school begins.

AUDITIONS:
All university choral ensembles are open to all WWU students. Concert Choir and Advanced Treble Chorale require an audition; University Tenor-Bass Choir and University Treble Choir require a simpler vocal diagnostic process. Auditions for Concert Choir and Advanced Treble Chorale will be held in Room 16, Lower Level 2, of the Performing Arts Center and an accompanist will be provided. Specific audition requirements are listed below. University Choir vocal diagnostics will be held during class time. For Concert Choir and Advanced Treble Chorale auditions, come by the bulletin board next to the choral office (PA 43--across from Room 16) and sign up for an audition time. Students who audition for Concert Choir and Advanced Treble Chorale must be willing to commit to the ensemble for the entire academic year (exceptions will be made only for mid-year graduates and teaching interns). All vocal music majors and minors MUST audition, even freshmen who are presently enrolled in University Choir, as this is also your placement audition for voice lessons.

ENSEMBLES:
University Tenor-Bass Choir: A large ensemble that performs repertoire in a variety of styles, as well as mixed-voice repertoire with the University Treble Choir. Singers who would like to perform in this ensemble should come to class on Wednesday, September 26. A simple vocal diagnostic is used to determine your placement in choir. Vocal Diagnostics will be given during class on Wednesday and Thursday, September 26 and 27, or by arrangement. The vocal diagnostic includes a simple range test and providing information about your choral/vocal background. Enroll in MUS 271; class meets at 2 p.m. WRF.

University Treble Choir: A large ensemble that performs repertoire in a variety of styles, as well as mixed-voice repertoire with the University Tenor-Bass Choir. Singers who would like to perform in this ensemble should come to class on Wednesday, September 27. A simple vocal diagnostic is used to determine your placement in choir. Vocal Diagnostics will be given during class on Wednesday, September 26, or by arrangement. The vocal diagnostic includes a simple range test, and providing information about your choral/vocal background. Enroll in MUS 271; class meets at 2 p.m. MTW.

Advanced Treble Chorale: Highly select ensemble of 30-40 singers that performs challenging choral music from all style periods for women’s voices. Auditions will be held Sunday and Monday, September 23 and 24 for returning students, and Monday and Tuesday, September 24 and 25 for new students. Your audition will consist of the performance of one prepared song, vocalization, pitch matching, and sight reading. (The prepared song should be a memorized classical art song, an aria, or a folksong arrangement.) Enroll in MUS 271; class meets at 1:00; MTWR.
Concert Choir: Highly select ensemble of 40-60 singers that performs a variety of challenging choral music from all historical periods. Auditions will be held **Sunday and Monday, September 23 and 24 for returning students, and Monday and Tuesday, September 24 and 25 for new students.** Your audition will consist of the performance of **two** prepared songs, vocalization, pitch matching, and sight reading. (The prepared songs should be memorized classical art songs or arias; one may instead be a folksong arrangement or musical theater selection.) Enroll in MUS 471; class meets at noon MTWRF.

**MAJOR FALL DATES:**

- Fri., Oct. 5: Fall Concert Choir Retreat 4-10 p.m. (Concert Choir)
- Fri., Oct. 26: HS Treble/Tenor-Bass Festival 9 a.m.-3 p.m. (ATC, UTC; CC 2-3)
- Tues., Nov. 6: Fall Choral Concert I 8 p.m. (Concert Choir)
- Tues., Nov. 13: Invitational Choral Festival 9 a.m.-6 p.m. (Concert Choir)
- Sat., Nov. 17: “A Light in the Darkness” Concert 7 p.m. (Concert Choir)
- Sun., Nov. 18: Fall Choral Concert II 3 p.m. (ATC, UTC, UTBC)

All dates are mandatory. Speak to your employers NOW to clear possible conflicts. Plan to arrive one hour ahead of all concert start times.

**CONCERT ATTIRE:**

Women: Ankle-length black choir dress as assigned, nylons and shoes, small jewelry only.
Men: Black tuxedo (with white shirt and black bow tie), black socks and shoes.
(Ordering information will be available for concert attire on the first day of class.)

**STUDIO ASSIGNMENTS:**

Voice majors, your ensemble audition is your audition for applied voice instruction as well. Studio assignments for students enrolled in applied voice will be made AFTER Wednesday’s auditions and will be posted on the board outside PA 43. Weekly voice master classes will continue to be REQUIRED for all students enrolled in lessons. This is a fantastic opportunity for all voice students to perform more frequently--the surest way to improvement!

If you have questions, feel free to call or e-mail. We look forward to seeing you soon!

Sincerely,

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