CHORAL MUSIC AT NIU: AUDITION INFORMATION

For the 2019-20 academic year there are three curricular choirs at NIU. Two auditioned ensembles, (Concert Choir and Chamber Choir) and one open to all with no audition needed, University Chorus (info on each below). Auditions for Concert Choir and Chamber Choir be held on Sunday August 26, 2:00-5:00 PM and Monday August 27, 11 AM-3:30 PM. Once you move onto campus, you should head over to the music building to schedule an audition time. There will be a signup sheet posted in the hallway outside of the large ensemble office.

The required audition material consists of an excerpt from Mozart’s Vespers, Laudate Pueri. Please prepare to sing your voice part (Sop, Alto, Ten, or Bass), your choice. The audition will consist of three elements:

1) Singing the required choral excerpt
2) A short sight-reading exercise
3) Vocalese to get a snapshot of the range and tessitura for your voice

One word of advice, as you work out your course schedule, please notice the choral rehearsal times. If, for example, you are auditioning for Concert Choir, it would wise to keep the rehearsal times open in your schedule. It is possible to move classes around after you get to campus, but easier to do it up front.

Choral Ensembles

1) **University Chorus**: Tue/Thur 4:00-5:15 PM. This is a non-auditioned choir. This group is a mixed ensemble of 40-50 singers. Many of the singers in this choir were in HS choral programs and just want to keep singing in college.

2) **Concert Choir**: Mon/Wed/Fri 2:00-3:30. This is the large ensemble auditioned choir. The group has both music majors and non-majors with stronger music skills. Many of the non-music majors come from strong HS choral programs and they are looking for the challenges and rewards of advanced choral music. Concert Choir often performs for area high schools and short run out concerts. In the spring Concert Choir will be performing a large choral orchestral work with the NIU Philharmonic.

3) **Chamber Choir**: Tue/Thur 12:30-1:45. This is a select mixed vocal ensemble of 16-20 singers that focuses on advanced ensemble repertoire. Personal performance expectations are high as singers are often assigned one or two voices per part. Chamber Choir often performs off campus events representing the university as various official functions. Enrollment is open to all NIU students through the audition process, but there is a high degree of music reading proficiency and outside class independent work expected.

If you have any questions, please email me at ejohnsn@niu.edu. Looking forward to meeting you this fall!!!!

Peace,
Dr. J.