

Midwest Children's Choir Festival ~ Friday, March 31, 2023

Dr. Derrick Fox, guest conductor

Stephens Auditorium, ISU, Ames

The Midwest Children's Choir Festival (MCCF) was created in 1996. In 2001, MCCF became a biennial festival that provided the opportunity for young Iowa singers to hear and perform with acclaimed choirs, performers and conductors. The festival has featured renowned composer/conductors, Bob Chilcott (2007), René Clausen (2009), Rollo Dilworth (2011), Weston Noble (2013), Sandra Snow (2015), Susan Brumfield (2017) and Elizabeth McFarland (2019).



Dr. Derrick Fox, the 2023 guest conductor, is the Director of Choral Activities and Distinguished Associate Professor of Music at the University of Nebraska-Omaha. Dr. Fox has taught at the middle school, high school and collegiate levels. His conducting experiences have included singers from upper elementary choirs through collegiate and community choirs. Dr. Fox has conducted all state choirs, led international, national and regional choral concerts/residencies and presented professional development workshops across the United States and internationally. His professional workshops focus on assessment in the choral classroom, building classroom community, rehearsal strategies, choral conducting techniques and shape note singing in the African American community. In 2019, he conducted the National ACDA Middle School/Junior High Mixed Honor Choir and traveled to South Africa as a 2019 ACDA International Conductor Exchange Fellow.

The festival will include an afternoon of rehearsal (12:30-5:00 pm) and an evening performance (7:00 pm) for the public in Stephens Auditorium at the ISU Center, Ames. Approximately 350 select singers (treble voices) will participate in the festival. The concert will feature three guest choirs on the first half of the program and a mass choir of 350 singers including select singers from Iowa schools and community choirs in grades 5-7 on the second half of the program.

Midwest Children's Choir Festival Guidelines

The MCCF Mass Choir can accept approximately 250 select Iowa singers (**boys and girls with treble voices, grades 5-7**) from school, church and community choruses. Please use the following guidelines as a basis for your decisions regarding participation in the festival and your selection of singers.

- Each chorus director may select **up to 12 singers** to participate in the mass choir using the following criteria for selection:
 - singers should **be able to sing 2-part music successfully**
 - selected singers **should be evenly divided as Part 1 and Part 2 (soprano and alto)**
 - singers must **have the music memorized** before coming to the festival
 - singers are expected to perform all of the selections for the festival
 - singers must attend the entire festival from the first rehearsal (12:30 pm) through the conclusion of the evening concert (8:30 pm)
- Each director is responsible for ordering music for their choir.
- Each director is responsible for rehearsing his/her singers so that the music is learned successfully and **memorized before** the festival.
- Each director must accompany their singers for the duration of the festival including sitting with the singers during the rehearsal and the concert and assisting with getting the mass choir in position for the concert.
- Each director will receive a complimentary ticket to the concert. (Additional adults accompanying the singers will participate at their own expense.)
- Each singer will pay a participation **fee of \$30.00** for the festival, which includes the rehearsal and performance in Stephens Auditorium with Dr. Derrick Fox, a festival t-shirt, a snack, and a box supper.
- Singers will wear the provided festival t-shirt + their own nice blue jeans during the performance.

Midwest Children's Choir Festival Pre-Registration

Applications will be accepted on a first-come basis. This is only pre-registration. Singer registration forms, festival schedule, and festival music information will be sent in November to those who have pre-registered.

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Chorus Director's Name _____

Phone # _____

Chorus Director's E-mail _____

School Name _____

School Address + Zip Code _____

I will bring _____ singers to the festival (equal # S & A) Grades _____

To pre-register your singers, submit the above information in one of three ways:

Google link: <https://forms.gle/gXqyijq4hEq3JPyd6>

E-mail: info@ameschildrenschoirs.org

Mail to: Ames Children's Choirs - MCCF, P.O. Box 1965, Ames IA 50010

Questions? Phone: 515-290-1422 or Email: info@ameschildrenschoirs.org