



South Dakota Music Educators Association
Elementary Chair

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Dear Vocal Directors,

I want to thank you for submitting audition tapes/CDs for the Fall 2010 Honor Choir to be held in Aberdeen on the NSU campus on October 30th. I am happy to say that 216 tapes/CDs were submitted. Congratulations to you and your singers, if you are receiving this mailing it means you had singers selected for the 89 student Honor Choir. Please publish the accomplishments of your singer(s) in your school newsletter and/or local newspaper. This is truly an honor and a great accomplishment for them!

Please check the spelling of the student's names to make sure they are spelled correctly. Let me know of any corrections as soon as possible. If you have a student who is unable to attend, please let me know as soon as possible so an alternate may be contacted. **Also please let me know if you as the auditioning teacher will not be their teacher in the fall.** This affects the names on the program. Please let me know your replacement as you receive contact information for them.

Our concert will be held on the main stage of the Johnson Fine Arts Center. Concert attire will consist of nice blue jeans (please no skirts) and the Honor Choir T-Shirt each singer will be given that day before the concert. Please have your singers wear comfortable nice shoes, tennis shoes are acceptable. The t-shirts, music, snacks, and lunch are included in their registration fee of \$50.00. **Please send \$50.00/student made out to SDMEA for each school after school starts, but no later than September 15th. Please send it to my home address: 506 South Feyder Ave, Hartford, SD 57033.** SDMEA is cutting down on the amount of checks that board members have to collect. **Only send ONE CHECK for all of your participating students. Do not send individual checks for each student.** The entry fee is NON-REFUNDABLE. Additional t-shirts may be purchased for \$10.00 per shirt; sizes are adult S-M-L-XL-XXL. Please send sizes and payment for the extra t-shirts along with your student registration fees. Money for extra t-shirts may be submitted separately from entry fees.

I am going to send out the music in August and trust that every teacher will be responsible for collecting the money and mailing it to me by September 15th. You should receive in your packet: music for each singer and yourself, a rehearsal CD which you duplicate for your singers. Rehearsal notes from the director, a list of which students will sing the division of parts on the SSA music, maps, and a schedule can all be found online. Please continue to watch the SDMEA website for up to date information. www.sdmea.net

ALL music must be memorized upon arriving that morning. It is your responsibility to make sure your students know it!

Rehearsals will be held in the Choir Room of the Johnson Fine Arts Center. Parking will be available on the east side of the Johnson Fine Arts Center or in the Barnett Center Parking Lot (south of JFAC). We will be moving to the main stage to rehearse after lunch, but that is in the same building. There will be pictures available for you and parents to purchase the day of the concert in the lobby. There will be DVDs available from SDPB. Due to the popularity of the DVDs SDMEA will no longer be selling CDs. There will be admission for the concert. \$5.00 for adults; students and kids are free. Seating is still on a “first come” basis and “tickets” will not be sold in advance. **Please advise parents and take note that the dress rehearsal is CLOSED to EVERYONE.** The least favorite part of my job has been to ask people to leave during that time.

I will **not** need volunteers to help supervise during rehearsals, entertain kids after lunch break, and hand out t-shirts this year. Many college MENC groups are coming to the conference to help work at the many events that are taking place! Please feel free to attend the conference events or stay and watch rehearsals. However if someone has some really great “get to know your neighbor” activities I would like for you to “do” a few of them in the morning rehearsal based on feedback by member teachers.

If you are having trouble finding lodging please contact those listed in the All State Chorus and Orchestra Hotel Guidelines letter located at www.sdmea.net. For a list of hotels click on Conference Exhibit Information; Scroll down to the third page until you find the housing information. Please advise parents to make reservations before All-State Chorus and Orchestra parents make them in the fall.

I am looking forward to this year’s choir. Charlotte Morey has some wonderful literature selected for the choir and is really excited about working with our young singers. Please feel free to e-mail or call me if you have questions or concerns. Please note that my e-mail address will be changing to beccaassmus@hotmail.com.

I am always open to your feedback and your concerns and take them very seriously. If you are happy with what SDMEA is doing for you and your students please tell your colleagues and invite them to get involved and get their students involved. If you have suggestions please tell me or a board member so we can evaluate what we are doing and make changes for the better of our membership. Please plan to attend the upcoming events and spread the word to those that my not know about them:

- 1) The 2nd Annual Elementary Festival Choirs—Beresford, Mobridge-Pollock, and Sturgis in March 2011
- 2) 2011 Elementary Honor Choir 2011 in Sioux Falls with (tentatively) Henry Leck guest directing!

Sincerely,

Rebecca Rasmussen