September 5, 2019

Dear Director:

The Western Colorado University Department of Music would like to invite your school to participate in the 2020 Western Slope Choral Festival. The dates of this year’s festival are March 5-7 (Thursday afternoon through Saturday afternoon concert). The audition information in Word documents and information on guest conductors can also be accessed from the “Honor Festivals” links on our web site at www.western.edu/music. This year’s Treble Choir conductor is Dr. Abby Musgrove from Illinois College and this year’s Mixed Choir conductor is Dr. Scott Glysson from California Polytechnic State University.

All of the following audition information is included in this packet.

- Audition requirements that can be given to students
- Recorded audition procedures, information for choir directors, labeling instructions
- Audition form to duplicate and complete for each student
- Melodic sight reading, aural recall materials, and a chorale excerpt

This year we would prefer all auditions electronically, MP4 or WAV files through email, Google drive (not Google docs) or a Dropbox link (please make sure the link can be shared). Dr. Beth Robison of Adams State University and I have coordinated our audition requirements and recording procedures to simplify the process for those directors who have students planning to audition for honor choirs at both universities. You can record a student once and simply copy for the second school. Please note that each school does have its own fee requirement and audition form.

Audition forms should be submitted by Monday, October 28. Late submissions will not be accepted. Please be certain to mail the $5 audition fee for each student. We plan to complete the evaluations and mail results with repertoire information to each school no later than December 15th.

Please contact me at any time if you have questions. We wish you the best for a successful 2019-2020 academic year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Heather Roberson
Director of Choral Activities
Department of Music
Western Colorado University
1 Western Way
Gunnison, CO  81231
970-943-3034; 970-943-2329 (fax);
hroberman@western.edu
AUDITION REQUIREMENTS
2020 Western Slope Choral Festival

(This page may be given to students to help them prepare for the recording.)

1. RANGE: Please indicate the student’s usable range. Do not include vocal fry, squeaked high notes, or falsetto.

2. MELODIC and RHYTHMIC SIGHT READING: Sight read two (2) short melodic and rhythmic exercises using solfege syllables, numbers or “la.” Piano will give a I-IV-V-I chord progression in the key.
   Student will be allowed one try only after a few seconds (5-10) to look at the example—no “practicing.”
   Student will not be allowed to see or hear the example before the audition recording.

3. AURAL RECALL: Three (3) short examples will be played twice each and the student must sing it back on a neutral syllable such as “la.”
   Student will not be allowed to see or hear the example before the audition and will not be allowed to see the examples during the audition recording.

4. CHORALE EXERCISE: Sing the appropriate voice part of the chorale exercise using “noh.” The instructor may play one other part, either the bass line or the soprano line while the student is recording this exercise. Play the bass line while soprano, alto, or tenor is sung. Play the soprano line while bass is sung. Do not play the voice part the student is singing. You may prepare this exercise ahead of time before you record it.

5. A CAPPELLA SINGING: Please have the student sing “My Country Tis of Thee” without piano accompaniment. Give the student his/her starting pitch as indicated below.

   Soprano/Tenor: Starting pitch G (Key of G)
   Alto/Bass: Starting pitch F (Key of F)

*Students must complete all of the above in order for the audition to be accepted. PLEASE double check your recordings for all audition materials.
2020 WESTERN SLOPE CHORAL FESTIVAL
Recorded Audition Procedures and Information for Choir Directors

(1) **Electronic Audition, MP4 or WAV files:** Email, Google Drive, or Drop Box link are acceptable for the recorded audition. Please make a sound check for placement of microphone relative to the singer and piano so that the balance allows the singer to be easily heard.

(2) **State the student's name and voice part very clearly on the recording before each audition.**

(3) **Submit a complete audition form for each student.** You may email these as well. Please put the audition forms in order of performance on each recording. This will make certain we match up the student and audition form without any errors.

(4) **Please submit the audition fee ($5) for each student.** Checks for audition fees should be made out to Western Colorado University or WCU. One check for all the fees is simplest for our accounting; however, you may do whatever works best for your situation. We cannot accept credit cards.

(5) **Please record each student’s audition without other students in the room.** There should be one try only for all sight reading and aural recall—no practicing.

(6) Continue running the recording between sections since students should not be given time to "practice" the sight reading—just have them look it over quickly (approx. 10 sec).

(7) **Please record audition requirements in the following order (also see “audition requirements” page):**

   (1) **Range**
   (2) **Melodic and rhythmic sight reading**—Give I-IV-V-I in the key of the sight reading example.
   (3) **Aural recall**—Piano plays each short idea (measure) twice and student sings back immediately without looking at the sheet.
   (4) **Chorale Exercise**
   (5) **“My Country Tis of Thee” a cappella** (as listed on "requirements" page)

Auditions, audition sheets and registration fees due by October 28 to:

Dr. Heather Roberson
WCU Department of Music
1 Western Way
Gunnison, CO 81231
e-mail: hroberson@western.edu;
970-943-3034; 970-943-2329 (fax)
2020 WESTERN SLOPE CHORAL FESTIVAL AUDITION FORM

PLEASE TYPE OR PRINT CLEARLY THE INFORMATION REQUESTED ABOVE THE DOUBLE LINE. The name should be spelled as it will appear in printed program if chosen for an honor choir so please help us spell it right the first time!

If you have participated in previous Western Slope festivals please list which choir and which year.

Women’s _____ Year (s) ___________ Mixed _____ Year (s) ___________

VOICE PART (chose one only): ___________________ (S1, S2, A1, A2, T1, T2, B1, B2)

NAME _______________________________________
(Please print your name legibly.)

STUDENT EMAIL ________________________________

GRADE: 9 ____ 10 ____ 11 ____ 12 ____.

HIGH SCHOOL __________________________________

CHOIR DIRECTOR (First and Last Name) ______________________________

DIRECTOR EMAIL ________________________________

RANGE

\[ \text{(To be completed by adjudicator)} \]

SKILLS (75 points)

Melodic (30) _______ _______ _______
Aural Recall (15) _______ _______ _______
Chorale (20) _______
A cappella (10) _______

ADJUDICATOR’S INITIALS _________ TOTAL: __________