



**Dear Chorus Colleagues,**

Welcome back! We hope your school year has gotten off to a successful start!

**A Call for Help!** We, your Division Chairs, work tirelessly to get these programs off the ground, but we cannot do it alone. We are always in desperate need of Conductors, Site Hosts, Accompanists, Rehearsal Conductors and most importantly **MANAGERS**. We give as much help as we can but we need NJSMA members to step forward. We understand; everyone is busy. We're busy, you're busy, your students are busy. We have no problem divvying up the load, but we need volunteers to step forward. New members this is your chance. Veteran teachers, maybe it's been a while since you've stepped forward. This organization cannot continue without your help. PLEASE, Step up and offer even a little bit of your time. Please note the NEW E-MAIL for getting in touch with us

**The High School Choir Concert** is scheduled for January 30<sup>th</sup>, 2016 at 4:00PM. We are proud to say that this year, conducting the High School Mixed chorus is Dr. Christopher Thomas, of Rowan University. The Women's Choir will be under the baton of Mrs. Jessica Pomeroy of Hackettstown High School. The all-day rehearsal on January 28<sup>th</sup> will be hosted by Chuck Linnell at Kinnelon High School, and the rehearsals and concert are tentatively being held at Morris Hills, by Anna D'Achille.

**The Junior High Choir Concert** is scheduled for Sunday, March 20, 2016 at 3:00 PM. Conducting the Mixed Chorus this year is Adam Aguanno. We are still waiting for final confirmation on our Treble Choir Conductor. The weeknight rehearsals will again be hosted by George Glock in Fair Lawn. We are currently searching for a location for the Saturday rehearsal and concert. If your school can host, please let one of us know.

**High School Choral Festival.** NJSMA will host three high school festival dates during the first week of December. The dates are Dec. 1-3 and will be hosted by Chatham, Montclair State University, and a Teaneck High School. Please check the website for specific venues and dates. The registration fee is \$125.00 per chorus and application forms will be posted on the Region website. The postmark deadline is Wednesday, November 4, 2015, but the festivals will fill up on a first-come, first-served basis. AS OF THIS MAILING THE MONTCLAIR SITE IS FULL. The choral festivals are designed to be non-competitive and positive. Schools may perform whatever music they are preparing, including holiday music. The festivals are meant to provide valuable feedback to students and directors through written and taped adjudication as well as an onstage clinic. Some of our adjudicators this year will include Jason Bishop of Drew University and Heather Buchanan of Montclair State University.

**Junior High School Choral Festival** We are planning on bringing this back this year. We know that PARCC testing is a big headache for all as far as planning spring activities. We are looking at a day in mid to late May. If your school would be interested in hosting, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Austin Vallies and Irene Lahr,  
Chorus Division Co-Chairs  
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