



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.

The High School Choir Concert is scheduled for January 27th, 2017 at 4:00PM. The mixed conductor this year is renowned Composer/Arranger and Conductor Dr. Russell Robinson. The Treble Choir will be under the baton of Ms. Jamie Bunce of Columbia High School. The all-day rehearsal on January 25th will be hosted by Chuck Linnell. Additional rehearsals will need a host location.

The Junior High Choir Concert is scheduled for Sunday, March 18th, 2017 at 3:00 PM. Conducting the Mixed Chorus this year is tentatively Dr. J. Donald Dumpson. The Treble choir will be conducted by Mary McGuire. 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 last week of November. The dates are November 28-30. Please check the website for updated information. The registration fee is \$125.00 per chorus and application forms will be posted on the Region website. The postmark deadline is Wednesday, November 8, 2017, but the festivals will fill up on a first-come, first-served basis. 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, Brandon Williams of Rutgers 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 mid to late May. If your school would be interested in hosting, please let us know.

Sincerely,

Austin Vallies and Deana Larsen,
Chorus Division Co-Chairs
chorus@njsma.com