



THE DOROTHY F. SCHMIDT COLLEGE OF ARTS & LETTERS
SCHOOL OF THE ARTS
DEPARTMENT OF MUSIC
CHORAL AND VOCAL STUDIES
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August 24, 2018

Dear Colleagues,

As we anticipate our second week of classes, I know that some of you have already completed your second week. I sincerely hope you are off to a great 2018 – 2019 academic year. At FAU we are enthusiastically moving forward with all our plans, including the aspiration of not only visiting as many of you as we possibly can, at your respective schools, but also the honor of welcoming you to our Annual High School Honor Festival; the Georgina Dieter Dennis High School Choral Honor Festival at FAU. In addition, we are honored to welcome and introduce our new voice faculty, Mitchell Hutchings, baritone. Professor Hutchings comes to us from Oregon State University and Eastman School of Music (the D.M.A.). He received a Master of Music at Florida State University. We are thrilled to have him join our music faculty and look forward to the significant attributions he brings to FAU.

We invite you and your students to our 12th high school honor choral festival on November 8-9, 2018! In keeping with tradition, on the evening of the 16th, the Latin American Side-By-Side Festival Ensemble will rehearse from 6:00 – 9:00 p.m. Consider sharing with us your students and the wonderful choral opportunities they are experiencing in your rehearsal room and choral program at large. It would be our honor to work with you and them. For the sake of clarity and brevity ...

- The Mixed Festival Chorus will perform *Requiem* by Gabriel Fauré with orchestra, Patricia P. Fleitas, conductor.
- Latin American Side-By-Side Festival Chorus, Patricia P. Fleitas, conductor, will perform
 - Santafecino de Veras, Ariel Ramirez, arr. Oscar Esalada, Kjos, ED. 8804
 - Esta Tierra & Paso (This Land & Passage), Javier Busto, Walton Music, HL00117138, WW 1500
 - Canto Latino, arr. O Escalada (most likely Kjos but awaiting confirmation)
- The Women's Festival Chorus will perform selections from *Folk Songs of the Four Seasons* by Ralph Vaughan Williams with strings and piano, Stacie L. Rossow, conductor.

As is customary for our Festival, we do our best to offer a diverse program and one that will present a unique opportunity for your students. Please, consider extending this invitation to them as participants of this year's festival. They will rehearse and perform with the "Side-By-Side" festival ensembles. We will welcome the following formats but if you have more students, please include them as well!!!

- A quartet or octet comprised of mixed voices for the mixed festival ensemble and the Latin American ensemble. Those interested in the Latin American ensemble are required to be in the mixed ensemble as well.
- A quartet or octet comprised of treble voices for the women's festival ensemble.

In addition, we will continue to offer a 30-minute private voice lesson/coaching with one of the voice faculty members available. This offers us the wonderful opportunity of introducing Professor Hutchings to some of your students. The deadline to register students for the applied lessons is the same as the festival registration. The guidelines follow.

- Students must be a junior or senior.
- Students must be selected by their director and consider this to be an honor.
- Students must bring two copies of music (all original copies unless on public domain).

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On behalf of students and professors in the area of Choral and Vocal Studies, thank you for your consideration of this invitation and the continued support of our festival and program here at FAU. Those who have participated in our festival, please consider encouraging others to join us this year. You know what they say about “word of mouth!” ***Contribute to our youth’s exploration of choral music and its significant role in building communities and musical families.*** By referring to the attached brochure you will be able to access all pertinent information and discover that ***our festival is unique, affordable, informative and A LOT OF FUN.***

Please, complete the **online registration** (<http://fau.edu/music/chorusfestival.php>) by October 26, 2018. The student fees should be postmarked by November 2, 2018. **To ensure that your students are supervised during down times or in emergency situations, we ask that all schools follow their respective chaperone policy.** In addition, the university is requiring a signed release waiver for each student. It can be found as the last page of the Registration packet for you to distribute. We will collect them at check in. And, we have arranged this year for all music to be available for purchase through Beethoven & Co. to facilitate acquiring the scores. Rehearsal tracks will also be available in early October.

Once again, thank you for your consideration of our Festival invitation. Should you have any questions please do not hesitate to contact Dr. Stacie Rossow, Associate Director of Choral and Vocal Studies and coordinator of the High School Festival at srossow@fau.edu or (561) 297-4230. If you leave a voicemail, please indicate a good time for her to return your call. We look forward to hearing from you with great anticipation.

As always, our very best wishes to you and your students,

Patricia P. Fleitas

Dr. Patricia P. Fleitas, Professor
Choral and Vocal Studies, Director