



HONOR CHOIR | BJÖRLING MUSIC FESTIVAL | GUSTAVUS ADOLPHUS COLLEGE

Frequently Asked Questions

When and where is does the honor choir festival take place?

The festival will take place on Monday, May 2 on the beautiful campus of Gustavus Adolphus College. Gustavus is located in St. Peter, Minnesota, which is about 40 minutes south of the Twin Cities. Rehearsals will take place in the Schaefer Fine Arts Building and the culminating concert will take place in Christ Chapel, which is one of the finest spaces for choral performances in the upper Midwest!

Who is eligible to participate in the honor choir?

The festival is open to any singer currently in grade 9, 10, 11 or 12.

How are students selected for the festival?

Students must be nominated for the festival by their high school choir director or private voice teacher. After the nomination process is closed on April 18, Gustavus choral and vocal faculty members carefully review each nomination and select the top 100 students for the festival. Selection is based on teacher recommendation related to musical skills and attitude, along with the balance needs of the festival choir.

When and how are accepted students notified?

The results of the selection process will be sent directly to the nominating teacher on Monday, April 25. All results will be sent to the email provided during the nomination process.

What will the students be doing at the festival?

Our priority is to provide each student with a high impact educational experience. Much of our time together will be spent in full group choral rehearsals as we prepare to sing a concert on Monday evening. Additionally, students have the opportunity to participate in a vocal masterclass led by Dr. Anna DeGraff from Gustavus and to interact directly with nationally renowned choral composer, Dr. Jeffery Ames from Belmont University. Our dedicated team of Vocal Music Assistants (VMAs) and Vocal Music Education majors will organize a few opportunities for students to socialize with each other and help make some lasting friendship connections. The Grand Finale Concert will feature performances by the festival choir, the St. Michael-Albertville HS Choir, the Gustavus Choir, and select vocal soloists.

How do meals work?

Students will eat meals in Gustavus' award-winning Market Place. The food options available will cover any and all special dietary needs. Monday lunch will be provided by the festival at no additional charge. Festival participants should plan to pay for dinner while at the festival.

What is the cost of the festival?

The cost is \$20 per student. After being selected for the festival, the fee will be payable by check or online.

What do the students wear for the concert?

Festival participants should plan to dress as they would for their own high school performances (e.g., robes, concert tux/dress, etc.). The mixed ensemble appearance adds to the audiences' understanding of bringing students together from so many different high school music programs.

I have more questions! Who do I contact?

Please reach out to Dr. Brandon Dean, conductor of the Gustavus Choir and Honor Choir festival director. You can email him at bdean@gustavus.edu