



**Albany Pro Musica's 20th Annual High School Choral Festival
With Renowned Conductor
Darrell Bryan**

Sunday, January 19, 2020

Dear High School Choral Director,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your school year thus far making music with your wonderful students. We are excited to present the 2020 Albany Pro Musica High School Choral Festival as an opportunity for you and your choir. This festival will continue to offer the experience for choirs across the capital region to perform in historic Troy Music Hall. This year we are thrilled to offer the opportunity for students to work with conductor Darrell Bryan (<http://www.darrellbryan.com/>). Darrell is an instructor at Queen's University where he leads the choral program, in addition to teaching voice, conducting, and music theatre. He is also the artistic director of the highly acclaimed Kingston Chamber Choir (<https://www.kingstonchamberchoir.ca/>).

THE 2020 FESTIVAL

Please take a look at the preliminary schedule for the festival:

12:30-1:00pm	Students arrive
1:00pm	Welcome, instructions, etc
1:10pm	Group vocal technique / Warm Up session – students seated in auditorium
1:30pm	Rehearsal with Darrell Bryan & Dr. José Daniel Flores-Caraballo – students seated in auditorium
2:30pm	Alternating Onstage Sound Checks / Snack Breaks for each school – this is a chance for groups to practice entering/exiting the stage as well as brief sound check
3:30pm	Dress Rehearsal with Darrell Bryan & Dr. José Daniel Flores-Caraballo
5:00pm	Concert Begins

The combined students will rehearse and perform the following music:

- Will You Fare On - Sheldon Rose (<https://cypresschoral.com/composers/sheldon-rose/will-you-fare-on-my-song/>)
- Ambe - Andrew Balfour (<https://cypresschoral.com/composers/andrew-balfour/ambe/>)
- Sure On This Shining Night - Morten Lauridsen (https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=ZnmjP_wAAEM)
- Gamelan - R. Murray Schafer (<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=BaOZzsqOqM8>)

The first half of the concert will feature each ensemble performing their own selections. These performances should be limited to 10 minutes for each ensemble.

Choral directors will be expected to chaperone their students and/or provide additional chaperones. At a later date we will forward you important guidelines for rehearsing and performing in Troy Savings Bank Music Hall.

You will be expected to provide your own music for the combined chorus pieces.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL FESTIVAL:

1. Fill out the enclosed application form and return it by email to Brendan@albanypromusica.org.

2. On your application please include the names of awards, distinct performances, or choral honors received in the past year, e.g. NYSSMA levels and ratings your auditioning chorus has earned during the 2018-2019 school year.
3. If you have NOT performed at the APM HS Choral Festival recently, **submit ONE digital recording of your choir** singing a single unedited performance of a song. *Record it in a digital format, like an mp3 format, or an unedited video with digital audio that can be emailed. Email your file, or a URL link, to Brendan@albanypromusica.org. This file will be reviewed by a panel of APM conductor-singers as part of your application process for participation in 2020. If you have performed in a recent APM Choral Festival we have audio of those performances so you do not need to submit an audio or video file.

***AUDIO RECORDING SPECIFICATIONS**

Submit a digital recording of one of your 2018-2019 songs performed in a concert, rehearsal, or other performance. The piece should be approximately one to six minutes in duration. A recording device like an iPhone, a smartphone or an MP3 recorder should suffice. If you have a video file, please send the complete and specific URL address that you may have uploaded to YouTube, Dropbox, or Google Drive.

Due to staging space we will limit the combined-chorus size to 200 students. Ensembles will be accepted on the basis of an evaluation of your newly submitted or archived audition file, by an evaluation of your performance experiences as seen or listed on your application, and by previous experiences in the Festival. Consideration will also be given to schools and ensembles who have not yet participated in an APM High School Choral Festival.

There is an **Entry Fee of \$100** to be paid to Albany Pro Musica **AFTER** you are accepted.

We look forward to reviewing your application and the opportunity to make music with you and your students in the coming school year!

Sincerely,

Brendan Hoffman, Director of Education
Albany Pro Musica
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Dr. José Daniel Flores-Caraballo, Artistic Director, and Executive Director
Albany Pro Musica
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