

ALBANY
40th PROMUSICA
ANNIVERSARY SEASON

Albany Pro Musica's 21st Annual High School Choral Festival
with Composer-in-Residence Bradley Ellingboe

Dear High School Choral Director,

I hope this letter finds you well. Amid a variety of school plans from in-person to virtual, we have all been hard at work adapting our programs to meet these new challenges and create meaningful opportunities for students. We continue to reimagine our world of choral music education while navigating a sea of constant change and uncertainty. At Albany Pro Musica we have had to adapt as well, and are preparing an entirely virtual concert series for this season. We are thrilled to be offering our annual **High School Choral Festival**. As with many other aspects of our programming, we have had to reimagine our festival, which has led to some exciting new opportunities for both students and teachers.

This season's festival will be **virtual** and will offer all involved the opportunity to take part in the creation of the world premiere of *Hate Has No World*, a new composition by our Composer-in-Residence Dr. Bradley Ellingboe. This powerful new work with text by Wendell Berry speaks to so much of what we are experiencing in the world today. Here are some highlights and details of this festival:

- Participants will study this **new work** through the resources made available in a secure space online.
- There will be **guide tracks for each part**, which will include videos of the conductor, accompaniment, and APM singers modeling the piece.
- We will feature **sectional and rehearsal videos** that review pitches and rhythms, and important musical elements for this new work.
- There will be featured videos from the composer, Dr. Ellingboe, and APM's Opalka Family Artistic Director, Dr. José Daniel Flores-Carballo, offering **insights into the composition and important performance aspects**.
- **Video forums** will allow choral directors to discuss the various aspects of virtual choir projects and share experiences.

Students will video-record their part for the piece and submit to us in our secure, online space. Our team of professional audio and video engineers will compile the videos and create a **"virtual choir"** performance. This video will be **premiered** at the culminating event of the festival, on **Sunday, February 7, 2021** for all participants. This online event will act as a "release party" for the final video which will then be available to share with the world.

To learn more about this season's festival, please visit albanypromusica.org/education/high_school_festival. There, you can register for the festival and access all the music, resources, and instructions on how to participate in this incredible program.

We are so thrilled to pilot this new format, and to open up the festival to **any interested high-school students from across New York State, free of charge** (the virtual choir will include the first 300 student submissions). The unique circumstances surrounding this year present a tremendous opportunity to engage more students than ever through our online programming, and we look forward to working with you and your students this season. If you have any questions, don't hesitate to reach out to me directly at Brendan@albanypromusica.org.

Sincerely,



Brendan Hoffman
Director of Education



José Daniel Flores-Carballo
Opalka Family Artistic Director