

PROMUSICA

HIGH SCHOOL
CHORAL FESTIVAL

*Presented by Albany Pro Musica and the University at Albany
with Guest Conductor Dr. Michael Lister*

**Saturday, February 5, 2022
University at Albany**

Dear High School Choral Director,

I hope this letter finds you enjoying your school year thus far making music with your wonderful students again. We are so thrilled to be able to offer our High School Choral Festival again this year, live and in person! This year's festival brings new opportunities, a new format, and a new location! We are excited to be partnering with the University at Albany, and the festival will take place on campus in the UAlbany Performing Arts Center.

This year's guest conductor is the new director of choral studies at UAlbany, Dr. Michael Lister (<https://www.albany.edu/musicandtheatre/faculty/michael-lister>). Dr. Lister is well known throughout the area, having developed a strong choral program during his time at The College of Saint Rose, collaborating with many area high-school choirs through the Masterworks and Friends Program, and bringing his choirs to NYSSMA conferences.

2022 FESTIVAL SCHEDULE, at a glance *(subject to change)*

8:30am	Arrival and check-in
9:00am	Welcome, warm-up, and first music reading (full group)
10:00am	Festival rehearsal with guest conductor
12:00pm	Students: Lunch (Campus Center) and Performing Arts Center tour High school choral directors: Talk-back lunch with guest conductor
1:30pm	Rotating vocal workshops with UAlbany faculty Honor Choir rehearsal (with APM Chamber Ensemble)
3:30pm	Break and snack
4:00pm	Festival dress rehearsal with guest conductor
6:00pm	Break
6:15pm	Call / line up
6:30pm	Concert <ul style="list-style-type: none">• APM Chamber Ensemble: 15 minutes• Honor Choir Ensemble: 5 minutes• Student Festival Chorus: 30 minutes• Combined Chorus Finale: 5 minutes

COVID-19 Safety:

The safety of our students, singers, staff, and audiences is paramount. All participants of the festival (students and adults) will be required to provide proof of vaccination against COVID-19 and to comply with all of the University's covid safety protocols (e.g. masking, social distancing).

New this year, choral directors are invited to share the Festival application with any of their students whom they feel would be interested and capable of singing at a high level, and students may apply individually. Albany Pro Musica will review all applications with an eye toward representation and balance, and will seek input from directors as needed. Directors are also encouraged to submit a [recommendation form](#) for students to participate in the festival **Honor Choir**. This will be a chamber group of 12-16 singers who will participate in a workshop with Dr. José Daniel Flores-Caraballo and APM Chamber Singers. During the workshop they will prepare a piece to perform as a featured group during the concert.

IMPORTANT NOTE: In order to accommodate social distancing on stage and within our instructional spaces, this year's festival is open to a **maximum of 60 students**.

Choral directors are encouraged to attend the festival to share in the experience with their students and serve as a chaperone. We are planning a **lunch session for all directors** in attendance to meet with our guest conductor. After students are notified of acceptance, we will forward you important guidelines for rehearsing and performing in the Performing Arts Center at the University at Albany. If you are unable to attend, please consider appointing another chaperone in accordance with your district guidelines if necessary.

There is a **Participation Fee of \$25 per student** to be paid to Albany Pro Musica **AFTER** students are accepted. APM is committed to providing a high-quality educational experience to students regardless of their socioeconomic background. If the participation fee presents a financial hardship for your students, we encourage you to reach out to your booster clubs or friends of music/arts organizations. Please reach out to Director of Education, Brendan Hoffman if there is any further need for assistance.

APPLICATION PROCEDURES FOR THE HIGH SCHOOL CHORAL FESTIVAL:

1. Each student must fill out the [online application](#) form and submit by **Friday, December 3, 2021**.
2. High School Directors can submit a [recommendation form](#) for students to participate in the festival Honor Choir by **Friday, December 3, 2021**.
3. Application review will take place in December and early January. During this time, teachers may be contacted for additional input. Please be sure to check email for communication from Albany Pro Musica. Students will be notified by Friday, January 14, 2022 about whether they have been accepted or placed on our waiting list.
4. There is a **Participation Fee of \$25 per student** to be paid to Albany Pro Musica **AFTER** students are accepted.

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

Sincerely,

Brendan Hoffman
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Dr. José Daniel Flores-Caraballo
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