Western Illinois University
SCHOOL OF MUSIC

November 11, 2026

Dear Choral Colleagues,

Western Illinois University Choirs is pleased to invite you and your students in grades 7 and 8 to join us at the **2027 WIU Junior Honor Choir Festival** on **Wednesday, March 24, 2027**. Although unchanged male voices are encouraged to participate, please highly encourage your **changed tenor/bass voices** to participate as well. All students should arrive no later than 9:15 AM for a start time of 9:30 AM. There will be an informal 2:00 PM in the COFAC Recital Hall. This will not be livestreamed or recorded. As with any honor choir, this **advanced** festival is for your singers seeking a high-level and refined musical experience. In addition to group rehearsals, participants will enjoy special enrichment sessions in vocal technique, musicianship, and artistry.

A special combined rehearsal will pair your students with the Western Illinois University Singers, our "flagship" choral ensemble that has appeared at numerous state, regional, and national conventions, including many professional venues. Your students will surely find this to be a nurturing and motivating experience.

Students will audition for the honor choir via digital submissions, submitted by Friday**, February 19, 2027**. Please follow the submission guidelines and note there is no fee to audition. Participants are asked to supply their own honor choir music, snacks, water, and lunch. Directors will be notified which students are selected to participate via email on or before **February 26**.

Repertoire (3 selections) for the honor choir must be fully prepared prior to the festival. Students who are unprepared will not be permitted to return in a subsequent year, if accepted via audition.

This year's repertoire is:

- Cantate Domino – David Brunner – SATB (splits as your students are comfortable) - JWPepper #3700459
- Goin' Home – arr. Ryan Main - SATB - JWPepper #11683935
- Brighter Days – arr. Jack Zaino - SATB - JWPepper #11641797

All participating students must be accompanied by a teacher or parent for the entire honor choir day. Those traveling a long distance may wish to come to Macomb on Thursday evening. Several accommodations are located very close to the university, or you may choose campus housing in our Olson Conference Center.

We look forward to receiving your students' applications!

Dr. Brian J. Winnie

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WIU Junior Honor Choir
March 24, 2027
Digital Audition Submissions Guideline
Submitted on or before February 19, 2027

Auditions are open to students in 7th and 8th grades only.

NOTE: Please label all student audition files (e.g., "John Smith JHC Audition.mp3") and place them in one google drive folder (e.g., "Macomb High School JHC Auditions"). Please then share the google drive folder with bj-winnie@wiu.edu by Feb. 19, 2027.

The audition will consist of the following. All steps must be recorded in order on one file:

1) At the beginning of the recording, the student will announce their full name, grade in school, and voice part (Soprano, Alto, Tenor, or Bass).

2) Sopranos and Tenors sing *America* (My Country 'Tis of Thee) unaccompanied starting on either "F" or "G." Altos and Basses do the same starting on either "C" or "D."
Note: The student will be evaluated on their clarity of tone and ability to start on the correct pitch, maintain the key, and sing in an expressive, legato manner.
*PDFs are provided in a variety of keys and located at the Junior Honor Choir website.

3) Sing unaccompanied, a major scale ascending and descending using solfege syllables. (do, re, mi, fa, so, la, ti, do, ti, la, sol, fa, mi, re, do). Sopranos and Tenors begin the scale on either "F" or "G" and Alto and Basses begin the scale on either "C" or "D."
Note: The student will be evaluated on their ability to start on the correct pitch, maintain the key and sing in a smooth, connected manner.

WIU Junior Honor Choir Audition Form

To be completed by the applicant's choral director. Please fill out the following google form with student audition information by February 19, 2027.

https://forms.gle/fHUhFaWjWwXeeDbr5