



NJSMA CHORAL NEWS

Fall 2009

Welcome back!

I hope that your summer was enjoyable and relaxing. Like many of you, during the summer NJSMA is hard at work planning for the upcoming school year. The year ahead offers many exciting opportunities for our membership and their students. These events would not be possible without you. If you have never volunteered to be a site host for a concert, rehearsal, or festival, or manage an ensemble, consider making this school year your first time. Please contact us with any questions, as we are here to serve you.

Charles Linnell – CLinnell@NJSMA.com

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Charles Linnell
High School

High School Honor Choirs



Shawn Condon
Junior High



The guest conductor of the high school women's chorus for 2009-10 will be **Dr. Judy Bowers** (pictured left), Professor of Choral Music Education at Florida State University, teaching undergraduate and graduate courses in choral music and music education, as well as conducting the Women's Glee Club, a performing group that also provides Adopt-A-Choir and Study-Buddy partnerships with area secondary public school choirs. She has received a University Award for Excellence in Teaching at FSU.

As a choral educator, she is an active conductor of all-state and honor choirs across the United States, and in 2005 was awarded the Wayne Hugoboom Distinguished Service Award from the Florida ACDA Chapter. Bowers frequently presents workshops and clinics for teachers, and her research interests include learning partnerships, developmental choral groups, the adolescent voice change, and at-risk music students. She has published in the *Journal of Research in Music Education* and the *Bulletin for the Council of Research in Music Education*, was a contributing author to the MENC publication *Music at the Middle School Level*, and was co-editor of another MENC publication, *Strategies for Teaching Elementary and Middle-Level Choir*.

Dr. Bowers holds music degrees from Louisiana State University (Ph.D.) and Texas Tech University (B.M.E.). From 1990-2000, she led the Capital Children's Choir program at FSU and more recently has developed a community service partnership with an inner city middle school. Since 2000, this collaboration has provided additional music ensembles for the middle school students (a jazz band, steel drum ensembles, and a world music choir) while also enriching the teacher preparation experiences for Florida State University students.

The high school mixed chorus will be conducted by **Thomas Paster**, Director of Vocal Music and Musical Theatre at Northern Highlands Regional High School, where he directs the Chorus, Concert Choir, Highlands Belles (girls' chorus) and Highlands Voices (chamber choir). These ensembles have performed at St. Patrick's Cathedral, Carnegie Hall and Avery Fischer Hall and have consistently received superior ratings at local and national festivals, including the *Grand Champion Award* at the Boston Heritage Music Festival (3/09). A graduate of Ithaca College, Mr. Paster was selected as a Yale University Distinguished Music Educator and a delegate to the 2009 Symposium on Music in Schools. He has served on the NJMEA board, managed the HS Honor Choir, and conducted the NJSMA Junior HS Choir in 1996. Mr. Paster is also Director of Music at Pilgrim Congregational Church in Warren.

[Contact Us
www.NJSMA.com](http://www.NJSMA.com)

High School Honors Choir

1/ 9*/10
Auditions

1/ 14, 4-9pm
Rehearsal

1/ 20, 4-9pm
Rehearsal

1/ 21, 4-9pm
Rehearsal
(SNOW DATE)

1/ 26, 4-9pm
Rehearsal

1/ 28, 9am-4pm
Rehearsal

1/ 30, 10am
Rehearsal

1/ 30, 4pm
Concert

Junior HS Honors Choir

2/ 6*/10
Auditions

3/ 4, 4-8pm
Rehearsal

3/ 10, 4-8pm
Rehearsal

3/ 15, 4-8pm
Rehearsal

3/ 19, 10-4pm
Rehearsal

3/ 20, 9-1pm
Rehearsal

3/ 21, 3pm
Concert

* snow date
for auditions
is always the
following day

Contact Us
www.NJSMA.com

High School Choral Festivals

NJSMA will host three high school festivals this December. The sites have been chosen for maximum proximity for schools in the region:

Tuesday, December 2: Jefferson HS (adjudicators – Lucille Kincaid & Jason Tramm)
Wednesday, December 3: Chatham HS (adjudicators – Heather Buchanan & Patrick Gardner)
Thursday, December 4: Teaneck HS (adjudicators – Maredia Warren & Patrick Gardner)

The festival coordinator is Viraj Lal, who can be e-mailed at vlal@newarka.edu. The cost has been raised to \$125 per chorus to cover costs. Registration forms are now available on the region website www.NJSMA.com. The registration postmark deadline is Tuesday, November 10, 2009, but the festivals will fill up on a first-come first-served basis.

There are several new rules this year, which will hopefully improve the festivals. Groups will still have 15 minutes to perform, but groups will have a maximum of 25 minutes total, to allow 7 total performances per site. Schools are limited to 2 groups per site, which will allow a minimum of four schools per site.

The choral festivals are designed to be non-competitive and positive. Schools may perform whatever music they are working on, including holiday music. The festivals are meant to provide valuable feedback to students and directors through written adjudication and onstage clinic.

Junior High School Honor Choirs

The region honor choirs have always been an engaging and rewarding experience for our students. Much of this success has been from your support and dedication to your students and the region. We are always in need of volunteers to manage, host, and accompany these fine ensembles. Managing an ensemble is a fun way to be involved with the students and with colleagues. *We still need hosts for the rehearsals on 3/19, 3/20, and the performance on 3/21.*

It is my pleasure to announce **Deborah Mello** (pictured right) as director of this year's Junior High School Mixed Choir. She is founding director of the Children's Chorus of Sussex County, is the recipient of the Master Teacher Award from the New Jersey Music Educators Association, the New Jersey Governor's Award for Arts in Education, and the New Jersey Symphony Orchestra Master Teacher Collaborative Award, sponsored by the Geraldine R. Dodge Foundation.



Deborah has conducted several regional and honor choirs in various states including New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Louisiana, Maine and Kentucky. In addition to conducting, she has presented numerous workshops on elementary music education, children's choirs, choral repertoire for children, and choral conducting for the New Jersey Music Educators, New York American Choral Directors Association, Louisiana Choral Directors Association, Music Educators National Conference, National American Choral Directors Association and Oberlin Conservatory.

A music educator for twenty-eight years, Debbie most recently served as Choral Director at Randolph High School in New Jersey. She is also an adjunct teacher at Seton Hall University, teaching courses in elementary music education. In addition to teaching in school, she serves as the Junior Choir Director at Christ Episcopal Church in Newton, New Jersey.

More Junior High School Choir Information

The Junior High School Choral Festival is slated for **May 5, 2010**. Further details will be posted online. I encourage all Junior High School choirs to attend this fantastic event!

