



NJSMA CHORAL NEWS

Fall 2011

Welcome back!



*Shawn Condon
Choral Chair*

It is a pleasure to welcome you back to another year of Region 1 activities. We are excited to inform you of the opportunities planned throughout the year. Please check the website often for updates, and we hope to see you and your students involved in some of our events. Two gentlemen, Viraj Lal (Newark Academy) and Matthew Vanzini (Mt. Olive HS) have joined the NJSMA board and will serve as the Choral Co-Chairs. Should you have any questions, please feel free to contact us:

Shawn Michael Condon (Choral Chair) – SCondon@njsma.com

Viraj Lal (Choral Co-Chair) - VLal@njsma.com

Matt Vanzini (Choral Co-Chair) - MVanzini@njsma.com



*Viraj Lal
Choral Co-Chair*

High School Honor Choirs



We are pleased to announce this year's conductor of the High School Women's Choir, **Dr. Lisa Graham**. In her tenth year as the Evelyn Barry Director of Choral Music, Lisa Graham conducts the Wellesley College Choir, and Chamber Singers as well as teaching academic courses in the music department. In 2004 she founded the Choral Scholars Program, consisting of scholarship students selected to study conducting, choral music literature, and methods.

Under her direction, the Wellesley College Choirs have toured internationally to England, Wales, Canada, Spain, and Italy in addition to domestic tours annually. The Wellesley Choirs regularly perform in the Boston area, on professional concert series and in collaboration with other choirs nationally. Last year, the Choir was chosen to perform at the American Choral Director's Regional Convention in Philadelphia, and Chamber Singers performed at the National Collegiate Choral Organization in Cincinnati in 2008.

An active participant in the musical life of the greater Boston area, she is also the Music Director of the Metropolitan Chorale of Brookline and conducted the Handel and Haydn Society's Young Women's Chorus from 2002-2010. She is a founding member and President-elect of the National Collegiate Choral Conductor's Organization, has served as a Choir Repertoire and Standards Chair for the Massachusetts American Choral Director's Association, and is an active guest conductor, clinician, and festival adjudicator.

Prior to her arrival in the Boston area, Dr. Graham was on the faculty at California State University Northridge. She has directed choirs at Sonoma State University, performed in and directed productions at Cinnabar Opera Theater in Northern California, taught conducting at the University of Southern California where she earned her Master of Music and Doctor of Musical Arts Degrees, while serving as Assistant Conductor to the USC Thornton Chamber Choir under the director of Dr. William Dehning.



*Matthew Vanzini
Choral Co-Chair*

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[High School Honors Choir](#)

1/7*/12
Auditions

1/ 26, 4-9pm
Rehearsal

2/ 1, 4-9pm
Rehearsal

2/ 7, 4-9pm
Rehearsal

2/ 9, 9-4pm
Rehearsal

2/ 11, 10am
Rehearsal

2/ 11, 4pm
Concert

[Junior HS Honors Choir](#)

2/ 4*/12
Auditions

3/ 1, 4-8pm
Rehearsal

3/ 6, 4-8pm
Rehearsal

3/ 14, 4-8pm
Rehearsal

3/ 16, 10-4pm
Rehearsal

3/ 17, 9-1pm
Rehearsal

3/ 17, 3pm
Concert

* snow date
for auditions
is always the
following day

The High School Mixed Choir will be conducted by **Steven Bell**. He is the Director of Vocal Music at Teaneck High School and Instructional Leader of the Teaneck High School Department of Fine and Performing Arts. He conducts the Mixed Chorus, Concert Choir and the Madrigal Singers. He also teaches Advanced Placement Music Theory, and is the music director of the school's annual musical. Mr. Bell holds a Master Teacher Certification and Artist/Teacher Diploma from the CME Institute for Choral Music Education under Doreen Rao. He earned a Bachelors degree in Organ Performance and a Masters degree in Music Education at Carnegie-Mellon University in Pittsburgh, PA. He has conducted the All-State Junior High Festival Honors Choir, Bergen County High School Honors Choir, the Bergen County Middle School Chorus, and North Jersey Region I Junior High School Mixed Chorus. We welcome Steve to the podium and are pleased to have him conduct the HS Mixed choir this year.



High School Choral Festivals

NJSMA will host four high school festivals the last week of November. The sites have been chosen for maximum proximity for schools in the region:

Tuesday, November 29: Randolph HS
Wednesday, November 30: Teaneck HS
Thursday, December 1: Chatham HS
Friday, December 2: Ramsey HS

The festival coordinator is Viraj Lal, who can be e-mailed at vlal@newarka.edu. The cost is \$125 per chorus and registration forms are now available on the region website www.NJSMA.com. The registration postmark deadline is Tuesday, November 8, but the festivals will fill up on a first-come first-served basis.

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/taped adjudication and onstage clinics.

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. Two co-managers are currently needed for each ensemble.



It is our pleasure to announce **Dr. Sandra Babb** as the director of this year's Treble Choir. Dr. Babb received her BME, MME, and PhD in Choral Music Education from Florida State University. Her dissertation was a study of rehearsal techniques used to build choral tone by expert conductors across various settings. Her current research interests include critical thinking and English-language-learning strategies in the music classroom. Dr. Babb serves on the Aaron Copland School of Music Student-Faculty Committee, and is the co-advisor for the Collegiate Chapter of the National Association for Music Education. She is a frequent guest lecturer and conductor, and her choirs have performed for state and divisional American Choral Directors Association Conferences, selected by double-blind review. She has

presented her research for the New York State School Music Association, the Texas Music

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Educators Association, and the Southwest Conference of the Music Educators National Conference. Dr. Babb is a member of the College Music Society, Pi Kappa Lambda, the American Choral Directors Association, and the National Association for Music Education.

The director for the Junior High School Mixed Chorus is still being confirmed. Check www.NJSMA.com for updates regarding this choir. We are also looking for a concert site host for this event. If you think your school district would make a great host for our organization please let us know!

More Junior High School Choir Information

The Junior High School Choral Festival is slated for **May 2, 2012**. Further details will be posted online. If you teach in a school that has a separate 6th Grade chorus, I encourage you to attend the Elementary Choral Festival on **May 30, 2012**. If you are interested in accompanying, managing an ensemble, or hosting an event, please contact Shawn Condon or Viraj Lal via e-mail.

Magnum Opus Chorale

We are very excited to offer a new high school choral experience this year. The Magnum Opus Chorale will be comprised of approximately 100-125 high school singers. Information about our conductor and the masterwork that will be performed will be forthcoming. The Chorale will have it's first-ever performance on Sunday, April 29, 2012. Further details will be available on the NJSMA website. Teachers who sponsor students do not need to commit to any rehearsal dates for this ensemble. Although we recommend students and teachers to partake in other NJSMA sponsored events, it is not a pre-requisite to participate in the Magnum Opus Chorale.