

Dear High Plains Honor and Women's Choir participants,

Congratulations on being selected to participate in this year's High Plains Band and Choir Festival! On behalf of Dr. Una Taylor and myself, we would like to thank you and your director for your audition. We are expecting great things from all of our participants.

Every singer must arrive on February 1 with his or her music learned BEFORE the first rehearsal. Midi files have been posted on the CSC Music website to assist you with learning your individual parts.

<http://www.csc.edu/music/highplains.csc>

Choose the midi file for your part. You will notice all the parts are present in the midi file, but your part is much louder than the other parts. Use these to practice your individual part, and then move to the file that contains all of the parts at an equal volume. This will ensure you have learned your part well and can sing it confidently with the ensemble. This preparation is essential for both choirs to have a successful and positive musical experience. Don't hesitate to have your director contact Dr. Schreuder or Dr. Taylor if you have any questions about the festival or about the music.

The Honor Choir will be directed by a guest conductor this year, Dr. Kevin Brower. You can read Dr. Brower's bio on the High Plains website. Dr. Brower is an energetic and wonderfully talented conductor!

Dr. Taylor has included instructions for the Women's Choir music pertaining to part assignments, etc. Please read her instructions carefully.

Dear High Plains Women's Choir,

The voicing of our music is in two or three parts. For two-part music, prepare the part on which you auditioned – all soprano ones and twos singing the soprano line and all alto ones and twos singing the alto line. In order to balance out the sections for the three-part music, it was necessary to move a few of you from alto I to soprano II. Please make sure to check the list to determine which part you should be singing.

KLEE WYCK

This piece is straightforward two-part harmony – all sopranos on the top line, all altos on the bottom line. Pay close attention to the dynamic markings and give extra energy to the consonants.

LUX AETERNA

This beautiful work is in two parts with some three-part harmony. Strive for a legato line and please take note of all the dynamic changes. If the Latin pronunciation is a problem, rehearse on a neutral syllable such as "loo."

LA BILINGUAL BUTTERFLY

This is a fun piece in two-part harmony. Be very careful to learn the rhythms correctly. You may sing the Spanish words on "loo" until we go over the pronunciation at the festival.

CANTICLE TO THE SPIRIT

This beautiful spiritual must be sung with a very legato line. It is mostly unison with some two-part harmony.

GOOD NEWS

This is a very fun piece in two-part harmony that splits to three parts on the "refrain".

One last thing – very important – please be sure and bring pencil for marking your music and a water bottle to stay hydrated! I look forward to seeing you in February!

Sincerely,

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