

Summer Greetings from the Choral Directors

Dr. Randi Von Ellefson, Director of Choral Activities, B206, rvonellefson@okcu.edu
Professor Judith Willoughby, Associate Director of Choral Activities, Wanda L. Bass
Chair of Conducting and Choral Music Education, B207, jwilloughby@okcu.edu

We are so pleased to welcome you into one of the fastest growing music schools in the country! This is an exciting time at the Bass School and for the choral program that serves as part of your complete, music education.

The Bass School supports four choirs that include the following:

Ad Astra Women's Chorus—an ensemble of 75-95 women. Rehearses 3-3:50 PM
Medium Rehearsal Hall (Willoughby)

Chamber Choir—a mixed ensemble of 35-45 singers. Rehearses 2-2:50 PM.
Small Rehearsal Hall (Ellefson)

University Men's Chorus—an ensemble of 35-45 men. Rehearses 3-3:50 PM.
Small Rehearsal Hall (Ellefson)

University Singers—a mixed ensemble of 50-60 singers. Rehearses 2-2:50 PM.
Medium Rehearsal Hall (Willoughby)

During the academic year, you will sing at concerts on campus in Petree Recital Hall, the annual Christmas Vespers in the Chapel that involves all choirs, organ and orchestra, and on occasion, off campus including significant opportunities with Canterbury Choral Society and the Oklahoma City Philharmonic performing at the Civic Center Music Hall in downtown OKC. You all will receive a detailed syllabus that includes all concert dates once you are on campus and in rehearsal.

The Chamber Choir will join Canterbury for a performance entitled "*Latin Rhythms*" on Saturday, October 1, 2011, at the Civic Music Center. The Ad Astra Women's Chorus and University Men's Chorus will join Canterbury in a concert entitled "*Experiences with Sound*" on Saturday, March 10, 2012. That concert will include Beethoven's "*Choral Fantasy*" and other large works for chorus and orchestra.

AUDITIONS FOR NEW (FRESHMEN AND TRANSFER) STUDENTS

Auditions will take place during Orientation Week. **You will be assigned an individual audition time, prior to your arrival on campus, to audition for placement in a choir. Arrive at least 10 minutes in advance of your assigned time. Choral registration forms** will be available in front of Dr. Ellefson's office, B206 in the Bass Music Center. The **audition** will take place in Professor Willoughby's office, B 207.

Read the **New Student Brochure**, which you will receive when you arrive on campus, to see **which vocal majors have been assigned which designated times**.

Designated times for specific vocal groups **according to your major**, include: Monday, August 15th, 3:00-5:00 pm and 6:00-9:00 pm or Tuesday, August 16th, 1:00-3:30 pm.

Professor Judith Willoughby and Dr. Randi Von Ellefson will ask you to perform short sight-reading examples and vocalize, in order to best determine your range and general musical ability. You also should prepare the musical example that is posted on line.

MOST entering freshmen singers will be placed in either Ad Astra Women's Chorus or University Men's Chorus. However, students with significant musical skills, performing history and vocal maturity may be considered for placement in University Singers—a mixed voice ensemble.

MATRICULATION CONVOCATION **Calling All Singers!**

The university begins each academic year with a worship service entitled the "*Matriculation Convocation*." It is a longstanding tradition that freshman and transfer vocal singers (vocal performance, music theater, choral music education, church music majors, instrumental majors, music business and music composition freshmen or transfer students enrolled in a vocal ensemble, and bachelor of arts in voice) are the chorus for this worship service, which celebrates the start of your matriculation as an OCU student. All vocal students are required to attend **a mandatory rehearsal, for Matriculation Convocation, on Tuesday, August 16, 2011 from 4:30-5:30 PM, in Kirkpatrick Auditorium**. Please bring a pencil. Attendance will be taken!

Wednesday Morning, August 17, 2011, please meet at 8:00 AM in Kirkpatrick for a final rehearsal. The University owns blue choir robes that will be distributed at that rehearsal. The 8:00 AM call time also allows you enough time to line up and then lead the procession that welcomes all new students to OCU.

This is a celebration for you, as you start your new life as a college student at OCU. Your families are invited to attend this heartfelt service.



CONCERT ATTIRE

New female singers (and transfer students) will need to order a new choir dress. Performance dresses for choir are available through Stage Accents. The dress is the Bel Aire, catalog # 8611 with long sleeves. The price is \$57 + \$12 Shipping. If you reference Account # S73108 when ordering, you will not be charged the surcharge. The dresses run very true to size. We suggest you order your regular size

dress. You may access Stage Accents at: <http://www.stageaccents.com/> or by calling 800.631.1611. **It usually takes at least four weeks to receive the dresses; so plan accordingly.** Black, soft leather soled, ballet type slippers, or leather jazz dance shoes must be worn, with off-black hosiery, not opaque. No necklaces or bracelets can be worn. Earrings no larger than a nickel in diameter are permitted.

Male singers need to have a complete, single-breasted tuxedo. You should also purchase a traditional white tux shirt (plain - no ruffles), black bow tie and cummerbund, black, soft leather soled, ballet or jazz shoes **and** black socks. You may wish to look for a new or used tuxedo in your hometown and bring it with you. Otherwise, there are a number of stores in Oklahoma City where you can purchase a tuxedo.

We look forward to seeing you soon. Best wishes for an exciting 2011-2012 academic year. Please email rvonellefson@okcu.edu or jwilloughby@okcu.edu if you have further questions.

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