

The purpose of the ISU Honor Choir is to provide an opportunity for talented high school singers to perform in a select choir under the leadership of ISU faculty. The ensemble will be a balanced group consisting of roughly 100 members, chosen by live audition from among the finest high school musicians in the state.

Dates and Overall Schedule

The Honor Choir Festival will begin on Sunday, February 9, 2020 at 12:00 p.m. with check-in, sectional rehearsals, and the first full rehearsal. Full rehearsals will be held on Sunday and Monday with a final Festival Concert on Monday evening, February 10 in the Martha-Ellen Tye Recital Hall. Students will have the opportunity to interact with ISU music students and faculty, and will also hear performances by ISU's large choral ensembles.

Auditions

The audition fee is \$10.00 for each student. This payment is expected to be sent when the registration form is emailed.

Regional auditions will be held in the following communities on the indicated dates:

| | |
|------------------------------|--|
| Monday, October 28 | 3:15 - 6:00 p.m. Urbandale High School |
| Tuesday, October 29 | 8:00 - 9:00 a.m. Cedar Rapids Jefferson High School 11:00 - 12:30 p.m. Iowa City High School 1:00 - 5:00 p.m. Iowa City West High School |
| Wednesday, October 30 | 8:00 - 9:30 a.m. Grinnell High School 10:30 - 11:15 a.m. Southeast Polk High School 12:00 - 3:00 p.m. Indianola High School 4:30 - 6:00 p.m. Ankeny High School |
| Saturday, November 2 | 10:00 - 1:00 p.m. ISU, Music Hall |

Audition sites in the western and northeastern part of the state have been eliminated. That being said, we are still very interested in your audition! For students in these regions, we have established a video audition process. Simply contact Dr. Rodde jrodde@iastate.edu for details.

Auditions will be scheduled in five-minute intervals. Auditionees should sing a prepared solo. It need not be memorized. (Singing "last year's contest solo" would certainly be appropriate.) Bringing an extra copy of the music for the adjudicator is not expected. Included in the audition will be sight-reading and possible tonal memory exercises. Students who need/desire an accompanist should PROVIDE THEIR OWN. Auditions will be conducted by Dr. Rodde. PLEASE MAKE EVERY ATTEMPT TO ATTEND AUDITIONS AT ONE OF THESE SITES. If you have students who are interested but who cannot appear for auditions at these locations and times, we will certainly attempt to make special arrangements.

To secure audition times, please scan and email the Registration Form by **Monday, October 7** to: jrodde@iastate.edu

Upon receipt of this list, your students will be assigned audition times (please note the column asking for "preferred time"), and a master audition schedule will be emailed to you on Monday, October 15. We will work very hard to schedule your students as closely as possible to their preferred time.

Festival Fee

Once accepted into the Honor Choir, each member will be expected to pay a \$10 Participation Fee. The music packet will be sent only after this fee has been received. Please see the neighboring file for information on making the payment.

Housing/Meals

As with All-State and State Music Contests, participating students must make their own housing arrangements. A listing of hotels in Ames can be found at this site <http://www.thinkames.com/poi/Stay/>. High school students are responsible for their transportation to and from Ames. Please note that Iowa State University bears no responsibility for supervision of the students away from the University. Evening meals for all students participating in the Honor Choir will be provided at no charge by ISU. It is part of the way we honor them.

About the Conductor

James Rodde is the Moen Professor of Music and Director of Choral Activities at Iowa State University. He conducts the Iowa State Singers, the 140-voice Iowa Statesmen, and teaches choral conducting and literature. A native of Minneapolis, he received the Bachelor's degree in Music Education from Augsburg College and completed the M.A. and D.M.A. degrees in Choral Conducting at the University of Iowa.

Choirs under his direction have been honored with performances at distinguished music conferences, including the 1993, 1997, 2005, 2009, 2015, 2019 ACDA National, the 2008 and 2011 NCCO National, and the 1992 MENC National Conferences. An active clinician, Dr. Rodde has led more than a dozen All-State and regional festival ensembles, including the 1996 and 2002 North Central ACDA Men's Honor Choir. Recent engagements include the Texas, Kentucky, and Mississippi All-State Honor Choirs.

For more than a decade he served as the NC-ACDA Repertoire and Standards Chair for Male Choirs, and is the Artistic Director of the Des Moines Choral Society.