

Joie Cariaga
Mixed Choir Managing Chair
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Dear Mixed Choir Participant,

Congratulations on your acceptance to this year's Idaho All State Mixed Honor Choir! This is an outstanding accomplishment that should be celebrated. The selection criteria is demanding, and being chosen is a true honor. The dates for this year's All State event are January 31 through February 3 at Northwest Nazarene University in Nampa. Our conductor, Dr. Nicole Lamartine, has chosen a varied, inspiring, and challenging set of music for the choir. I will be the manager for this ensemble, and am here to help you, answer any questions you may have, and ensure that this event is a fulfilling music making opportunity for all involved. I could not be more excited to work with you all, Dr. Lamartine, and our talented accompanist, Mrs. Anna Branigan.

Dr. Nicole C. Lamartine serves as Director of Choirs at Central Washington University, where she acts on her values of empowering the next generation of choral educators and cultivating excellence in 21st century choral performance. She conducts the well-known CWU Chamber Choir as well as Vox Divina and teaches courses in conducting and choral music education. Recently, she conducted the 2023 Idaho International Choral Festival High School Honor Choir.

As a clinician and guest conductor of three international honor choirs (DoDDS Honor Choir in Germany, AMIS TTBB Honor Choir in Abu Dhabi, TAISM Festival Choir in Oman), nine All-State choirs (MN, CO, WA, OR, WY, MT, AK, KS), the 2014 NW ACDA TTBB Honor Choir, and dozens of regional honor choirs, Nicole seeks to positively impact choral musicians all over the world.

An avid champion for music education, Nicole has headlined conferences of the Association for Music in International Schools (Hong Kong) and the Washington Music Educators Association. Dr. Lamartine's research focuses on rehearsal technique and anatomy and movement for conductors, and she has presented at dozens of conferences including national and regional meetings of the American Choral Directors Association, the National Collegiate Choral Organization, College Music Society, California All-State Music Conference, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing.

From 2020-2022, Dr. Nicole Lamartine served as the Sorensen Director of Choral Music at the University of California, Santa Barbara, where she conducted the flagship UCSB Chamber Choir, integrated relevance into graduate choral studies at the MM and DMA levels, and taught studio conducting and voice. As Professor and Director of Choral Activities at the University of Wyoming from 2008-2020, she led the Collegiate Chorale, The UW Singing Statesmen and the Happy Jacks, and taught conducting and studio voice. Her choirs were honored to sing at several national and regional conferences (2020 NW ACDA, 2017 NW NAfME, 2015 NW NAfME, 2012, NW ACDA, 2011 NCCO, 2011 NW MENC), and she is a recognized expert in females conducting tenor/bass choirs. She won the Ellbogen Award for Meritorious Classroom Teaching, the university's highest teaching award.

An active performer, Dr. Lamartine has sung professionally with Conspirare, the Santa Fe Desert Chorale, and Colorado Bach Ensemble. She has served the American Choral Directors Association as President of the Northwestern region. She achieved world, national, and state records in powerlifting, demonstrating that creativity is intertwined with strength of body and mind. The "Nicole Lamartine Choral Series" is published with Santa Barbara Music Press and focuses on accessible music for emerging Tenor-Bass choirs.

The music that has been selected for this choir will require a significant amount of practice and preparation on your part before you arrive on January 31 when we will be doing individual part checks. You will need to have your music marked, learned, and memorized prior to your arrival. Vocal tracks will

be provided for you to help you prepare successfully. The better prepared each musician is upon arrival, the more we will be able to dig into the nuances of the music to make our time together truly exceptional.

You will need to bring your performance uniform from your school choir department for the concert on February 3rd. Gentlemen should wear a long-sleeved collared dress shirt with slacks, dark dress shoes, and dark socks. Ladies, plan on wearing a nice dress, floor length skirt, or dress pants. (Ladies, please think carefully about your performance shoes and consider wearing low or no heels given the length of time you will be standing on stage.) Jeans, t-shirts, letterman jackets, shorts, spaghetti straps, or anything with profanity on it will not be allowed on stage for the performance. If the performance attire for your school is a t-shirt or jersey, you will need to adhere to the dress code outlined above instead of wearing your school attire.

For rehearsals you may wear school appropriate clothing, but please make sure that you do bring warm clothing as you will be walking to a separate building for meals. Please note that you will be required to attend all rehearsals and performances unless excused from a rehearsal session with arrangements made in advance due to school performance at the conference concert hours, or due to circumstances of a serious nature which are beyond control. Excuses need to be cleared by the All-State Mixed Choir Chair.

You are expected to be in your seat when rehearsal begins with your music, a pencil, and a water bottle (if desired). We expect that you will be respectful to all adults and follow general rehearsal etiquette. During rehearsals, your phones and other electronic devices are to be silenced and put away. If your phone is an issue, it will be taken and returned after rehearsal.

In order to better facilitate communication regarding the Honor Groups, we are asking that all students in an All State ensemble sign up to receive text message reminders for this event through Remind101.

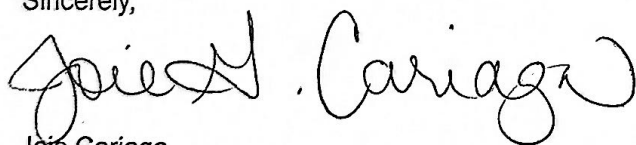
Signing up is **very easy**. All you have to do is:

- Send a text message to: 81010
- Using the appropriate code below:
 - Tenors and Bases: @ASMIXTB24
 - Sopranos and Altos: @ASMIXSA24

You will then receive a reply text asking for your name. Please use both your first and last name. Your number will not be visible to anyone at any time. We will only be using this for All State Honor Groups and then you will be deleted from the text sign-up list.

Again, congratulations on the honor of being a member of this ensemble. I know that this event will be a highlight of your musical career, especially if you come ready to learn and grow under the tutelage of Dr. Lamartine. She has much to teach us all! I look forward to meeting you and to hearing the incredible music that this choir will create.

Sincerely,



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