The University of North Dakota Honor Strings Festival provides an opportunity for talented high school musicians to perform in select ensembles under the leadership of UND faculty. The students participating will be chosen from among the finest high school musicians in the region.

The Honor Strings Festival is a new event for pre-college musicians with the goal of exchanging experiences, making music together, and having fun! Hosted by the UND Department of Music, and organized by the Strings Division, the Honor Strings Festival is under the direction of Dr. Simona Barbu.

The events are designed to reach out to chamber ensembles representing high school orchestral programs, as well as private studios and music clubs. String players without a pre-formed chamber music group are also encouraged to apply.

Date and Schedule of Events
The Festival will begin on Friday, January 22, 2016 with the first rehearsal scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Rehearsals will continue on Saturday, January 23, with the dress rehearsal and concert scheduled for Saturday, January 23 at 8:00 p.m. One of the highlights this year will be a Grand Finale work performed by the Honor Strings combined with the Honor Band and Choirs at their concert on Sunday, January 24 at 1:30 p.m. In addition, students will have the opportunity to interact with UND music students and faculty, as well as hear performances by UND Music Ensembles.

Auditions
This year’s Honor Strings Festival is sponsored by the Burgum Fund, which allows us to wave the audition and registration fees for all string students. The students participating in the Honor Strings are chosen based on teacher’s recommendation or by live auditions (Locations and Dates TBA).

Directors should register their students for auditions via the online form found on the UND Department of Music website. Go to www.undmusic.org and click on Honor Festivals, then Honor Strings, for the registration link. The deadline for registration is Friday, December 11, 2015.

Other Activities
- Chamber Music Coaching and Class with UND Music Faculty
- Free admission for the UND Music Showcase Concert on Friday, January 22 at 4:00 p.m.
- Private instrumental lessons on violin, viola and cello will be available upon request from visiting students

Housing, Transportation & Meals
Students selected for the UND Honor Strings are responsible for making their own housing and transportation arrangements. A list of area hotels is provided with the information on the UND Department of Music website. UND will host a lunch social for the Honor Strings on Saturday. Students are responsible for all other meals. Please note that the University of North Dakota bears no responsibility for supervision of the students away from the University. There is no participation fee for students that are selected for an Honor Ensemble!

For additional information, please contact Dr. Simona Barbu (simona.barbu@und.edu; 701-777-2828).
Simona Barbu is the Assistant Professor of Cello & Bass and Burgum Endowed Chair at the University of North Dakota where she teaches cello, string bass, string methods and chamber music. An astounding cellist and educator, Simona Barbu began her musical studies at age seven, making her solo debut performing Tchaikovsky's Variations on a Rococo Theme with the Conservatory's Symphonic Orchestra of Timisoara in her native. Active throughout Europe and United States as a soloist and chamber musician, Barbu most recently appeared in Shanghai, China. Also active as an orchestral musician, she has performed with the Memphis Symphony Orchestra, South Dakota Symphony Orchestra, Fargo Moorhead Symphony Orchestra, and served as principal cellist with several orchestras including the Eroica Ensemble in Memphis and the Starkville Symphony Orchestra in Mississippi.

Dr. Barbu graduated as the Music Conservatory valedictorian from Lynn University in Florida, continuing her studies in the master of music in cello performance program at Southern Methodist University under the tutelage of Nathaniel Rosen and Christopher Adkins. Subsequently, Barbu earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree at the University of Memphis where she studied with cellist Leonardo Altino. She has participated and performed in master classes for Timothy Eddy, Yehuda Hanani, Lynn Harrell, Carol Ou, Amit Peled, Aldo Parisot and Janos Starker.

Joshua Bronfman is Director of Choral Activities at the University of North Dakota where he directs the UND Concert Choir and Varsity Bards. He also teaches graduate and undergraduate courses in choral conducting and choral literature. Joshua is an active clinician in the region, and serves as the Artistic Director of the Grand Forks Master Chorale. In 2005 he was selected as a Conducting Fellow for the Eric Ericson Masterclass in the Netherlands, where he directed the Netherlands Chamber Choir and Netherlands Radio Choir.

Joshua received his PhD in Choral Music Education and Choral Conducting from Florida State University, studying with Andre Thomas, Rodney Eichenberger, Judy Bowers, and Clifford Madsen. He received his Master's degree from Oregon State University, and his Bachelor's degree from Florida State University. Prior to pursuing his advanced degrees, Joshua was a music specialist in Oregon where he taught at the elementary and middle levels. He currently lives in Grand Forks with his wife Niki, daughters Lucia and Leah, and son Desmond.

James Popejoy is Director of Bands and Professor of Music at the University of North Dakota, where he conducts the Wind Ensemble and University Band. He instructs courses in graduate and undergraduate conducting, instrumental literature, and jazz pedagogy. Under his direction, the UND Wind Ensemble has been selected to present performances at the 2001, 2005, 2008, and 2011 North Dakota Music Educators Association Conferences; the 2006 College Band Directors National Association North Central Division Conference; and the 2012 Western International Band Clinic. In addition, he conducted the UND Faculty Chamber Players at the 2010 CBDNA-NC Conference.

Dr. Popejoy holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from Central Missouri State University; the Master of Arts degree in Conducting from the University of Iowa; and earned the Doctor of Musical Arts degree in Conducting with a minor in Jazz Studies from the University of North Texas. He served as Director of Bands and Percussion Studies at McLennan Community College in Texas for five years; was a public school music educator in Missouri for nine years; and has founded numerous community ensembles. Recent honors include the UND Outstanding Faculty Award from Gamma Sigma Alpha; the Distinguished Alumnus Award from CMSU; the North Dakota Music Educators Association Educator of the Year award; two North Dakota Spirit Faculty Achievement Awards; the UND Faculty Award for Individual Excellence in Teaching; and the Citation of Excellence from the National Band Association.

Melanie Popejoy is Associate Director of Choral Activities at the University of North Dakota where she conducts the Allegro Women’s Choir and Vivo Chamber Ensemble, and instructs courses in choral music education methods and music fundamentals. In addition, she is the Founder and Artistic Director of the Grand Cities Children’s Choir, serving as conductor of the elite Primo Voce choir. She holds the Bachelor of Music Education degree and the Master of Arts degree in Music Education from Central Missouri State University, and has taught in Missouri, Iowa, Kansas, and Texas prior to coming to North Dakota. In her 32 years of teaching, Mrs. Popejoy has taught at the elementary, middle school, high school, and collegiate levels. She has conducted numerous honor and festival ensembles, including the North Dakota ACDA JH/MS Mixed All-State Choir, and the Missouri Choral Directors Association 9-10 Honor Choir.

Mrs. Popejoy has earned numerous teaching awards throughout her career, including the Community Leadership Award from the North Dakota Chamber of Commerce; Wal-Mart/Sam’s Club Teacher of the Year; the Distinguished Alumnus Award from CMSU; an Athena Award for Professional Excellence and Community Leadership; the Phenomenal Woman Award from UND Multicultural Student Services; and selection as the North Dakota Choral Director of the Year. Her Waco Girls Choir was selected to perform at the 1997 Texas Music Educators Association Conference, while her Grand Cities Children’s Choir has presented concerts at the 2003 North Dakota Music Educators Association Conference, the 2006 American Choral Directors Association North Central Conference, and the 2009 North Dakota ACDA Conference.