University of North Dakota
Honor Band, Choir & Strings Festival

The University of North Dakota Honor Band, Choir & Strings Festival provides an opportunity for talented high school musicians to perform in a select ensemble under the leadership of UND faculty. The ensembles are chosen by live audition from among the finest high school musicians in the region.

Date and Schedule of Events
The University of North Dakota Honor Band, Choir & Strings Festival will begin on Friday, January 20, 2017 with the first rehearsal scheduled for 1:00 p.m. Rehearsals will continue on Saturday, January 21, with dress rehearsals and the concert scheduled for Sunday afternoon, January 22, in the Chester Fritz Auditorium on the UND campus. One of the highlights again this year will be a grand finale work performed by the combined Honor Band, Choirs and String ensembles. 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
The audition fee for the Festival is $15.00 for each student per audition. Please note that there is a new registration procedure this year. Details concerning this process are explained below.

Regional auditions for the UND Honor Band, Honor Choirs, and Honor Strings will be held on the following dates at these locations:

Monday, October 24  Devils Lake High School  8:30 am - 9:30 am
Monday, October 24  Minot Magic City High School  1:00 pm - 9:00 pm
Tuesday, October 25  Williston High School  10:00 am - 1:00 pm
Tuesday, October 25  Dickinson High School  3:00 pm - 4:30 pm MT
Tuesday, October 25  Legacy High School  7:00 pm - 10:00 pm
Wednesday, October 26  Bismarck High School  9:00 am - 12:30 pm
Wednesday, October 26  Jamestown High School  2:00 pm - 3:30 pm
Wednesday, October 26  Fargo South High School  6:30 pm - 10:00 pm
Thursday, October 27  Fargo South High School  8:30 am - 8:00 pm
Friday, October 28  UND-Grand Forks  1:00 pm - 5:00 pm
Saturday, October 29  UND-Grand Forks  9:00 am - 2:00 pm

NOTE: Students attending “Band Day” at UND on October 29, who would like to audition at the Grand Forks site, will be scheduled around their rehearsal and performance times during this event.
HONOR BAND AUDITIONS
Woodwind and Brass instrumentalists should play two excerpts from appropriate solo literature and/or etudes that will exhibit both lyrical playing and technical proficiency (approximately three minutes in length total for this repertoire). Students will also be asked to play a major scale of their choice and chromatic scale (both scales should be performed ascending and descending). Students may choose the style and tempo, as well as the number of octaves (please play as many as possible), for these scales. In addition, each woodwind and brass instrumentalist will also be asked to sight-read. Percussionists should play prepared solo literature and/or excerpts on both snare drum and a keyboard mallet instrument. Percussionists are not required to play scales or rudiments, but will be asked to sight-read on both snare drum and mallets. Instrumentalists do not need an accompanying. Dr. James Popejoy will conduct the Honor Band auditions.

HONOR CHOIR AUDITIONS
Vocalists should sing a prepared solo from classical vocal solo (i.e. non-choral) repertoire. Popular or country music should be avoided. Also, sight-reading will be an important part of the audition. Vocalists should provide their own accompanist. Please refrain from singing a cappella or using recorded accompaniment. Dr. Dean Jilek will conduct the Honor Choir auditions.

HONOR STRINGS AUDITIONS
String instrumentalists should perform a two-three minute selection from appropriate literature that showcases the student’s best playing ability. They will also be asked to play one major or minor scale (two or more octaves; students may choose the style and tempo). In addition, each student will also be asked to sight-read. Dr. Simona Barbu will conduct the Honor Strings auditions.

Note: Pre-formed string chamber music groups interested in participating in the chamber music masterclass during the Festival should contact Dr. Barbu prior to the auditions for additional information.

GENERAL INFORMATION
Students may audition for the Honor Band, an Honor Choir, and the Honor Strings if they so desire ($15.00 per audition). There is no participation fee for students that are selected. Please make every attempt to attend auditions at one of the sites listed. Special arrangements for students who are interested in auditioning but who cannot appear at the scheduled locations and times will be handled on an individual basis.

REGISTRATION (New process this year!)
Directors should register their students for auditions via the online form found on the UND Music Department website. Go to undmusic.org and click on “Honor Festivals” for the registration link. To facilitate scheduling, please register for auditions by October 3, 2016. Please note the columns asking for the preferred location and times for your auditions. The master audition schedule will be sent to directors by October 15th. Every attempt will be made to schedule students as closely as possible to their preferred time.

Payment for the auditions this year must be done by credit card when you register. The registration process may be completed by either directors, or by individual students. Please call UND Music at 701-777-2644 with any questions or concerns.

FESTIVAL HOUSING, TRANSPORTATION & MEALS
Students selected for an Honor Ensemble are responsible for making their own housing and transportation arrangements. A list of area hotels is provided with the HBCS information on the UND Department of Music website. To avoid increasing audition fees to help cover expenses, we also ask students to assume the responsibility for their own 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!