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Dear Pre-Registered Choir Students:

The 2010-2011 school year approaches and it is time to think about the fall trimester at Northwest Missouri State University. It is our understanding that you may be interested in participating in one or more of the choral ensembles -- **Tower Choir, Madraliers/Northwest Celebration, and University Chorale**. *This letter provides essential details about the audition process for Tower Choir and Madraliers/Northwest Celebration, the two auditioned ensembles. If you are interested in auditioning, please read it carefully.*

Important reminder to all vocal performance scholarship recipients ... in brief, you are required to:

- enroll and participate in **University Chorale** during each trimester of your scholarship (no audition required)
- enroll in **19-155 Applied Voice** (or 19-355 only if you have passed upper levels)
- complete the audition process for **Tower Choir** and **Madraliers/NW Celebration** (performing to the best of your ability), and
- enroll and participate in **Tower Choir** and/or **Madraliers/NW Celebration** for both fall & spring trimesters, (if selected through the audition process).

Please refer to your scholarship contract for specific requirements.

Preliminary Audition Times: Anyone desiring to become a member of Tower Choir and/or Madraliers/ Northwest Celebration **MUST** audition. Auditions for both ensembles will occur simultaneously in different locations and with slightly different procedures. On Monday, August 23, sign-up sheets for Tower Choir will be posted on the door of Dr. Town's office (Fine Arts Building - room 230) and for Madraliers/ Northwest Celebration Show Choir on the door of Dr. Lanier's office (Fine Arts Building - room 231). Please sign up for a 10-minute audition time as soon as you arrive on campus.

Auditions will be held only during the following hours:
(Hours are subject to change prior to start of auditions)

August 26 (Thursday):	1-5 pm; 6-8 pm
August 27 (Friday):	3-5 pm; 6-8 pm
August 28 (Saturday):	1-5 pm
August 29 (Sunday):	1-4 pm

(Sign up for any available time to avoid a schedule conflict. Please see Mr. Kling if you have conflicts with the BMB camp schedule so arrangements can be made for every student to complete all required responsibilities.)

IMPORTANT: Please be sure to sign up right away after you arrive on campus. We look forward to hearing your audition for our excellent choirs. Best of luck to each of you!! See you in a few weeks.

Sincerely,

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Tower Choir

Formed decades ago by Ralph E. Hartzell, the Northwest **Tower Choir** has a rich and varied history of outstanding choral performance and musical perfection. Since 1999, the ensemble has performed more than 100 concerts for high schools, colleges, universities, churches, institutions, and organizations in the states of Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas, Oklahoma, Ohio, Maryland, New Jersey, and Indiana. There have been seven peer-reviewed/invited concerts for learned societies/regional and state conventions, meetings, symposia (and most recently for the Nebraska Choral Directors Association Collegiate Choral Festival). In addition to this venue, the Tower Choir has performed at Washington National Cathedral, Drake University, Tan-Tar-A Resort (for the 2003 MMEA state convention), UMKC, Rhodes College, University of Mississippi-Oxford, University of Nebraska-Omaha, William Jewell College,

Conception Abbey, Cathedral of Saint Cecilia, and the Missouri Theatre (with the St. Joseph Symphony).

Under Dr. Town's direction, the Tower Choir has had the opportunity to work with eleven nationally-known choral conductors (e.g. Dr. Charles Bruffy, conductor of the Kansas City Chorale/Phoenix Bach Chorale, and Prof. Simon Carrington, Professor of Music at Yale University and founding member of the King's Singers), and has produced one commercial CD entitled "Caritas et Amor: The Best of the Tower Choir 1999-2003," featuring the award-winning work (Caritas et Amor) by Dr. Z. Randall Stroope, commissioned by Dr. Town for the Tower Choir (2003). The rendition by the Tower Choir of "Caritas et Amor" has been included on a second CD titled "Passages: The Choral Works of Z. Randall Stroope, Vol. 2" (2004).

During the 2010-2011 academic year, the Tower Choir will continue the highly successful joint concerts with extraordinary high school choirs/guest ensembles, the Northwest Choral Ensembles Series, and take recruitment tours, among other activities. **ALL members of the ensemble are REQUIRED to attend and participate fully in these events below** (a partial list) and any others that may be scheduled during the 2010-2011 academic year. Put these dates on you calendar; others may be added:

September 12 (Sunday)	Fall Retreat (1-10 pm)
November 7 (Sunday)	Concert w/ guest ensemble (3 pm)
November 19 (Friday)	One-day tour
November 21 (Sunday)	Concert with the University Chorale (3 pm)
January 15, 2011 (Saturday)	Spring Retreat (all day)
January 21 (Friday)	Four-State Honor Music Festival set-up (3 pm) and clinic (5:30 pm)
January 22 (Saturday)	Four-State Honor Music Festival (all day)
March 3 (Thursday)	Concert w/ guest ensemble (8 pm)
OR March 10 (Thursday)	Concert w/ guest ensemble (8 pm)
OR March 15 (Tuesday)	Concert w/ guest ensemble (8 pm)
March 17-26 (Thursday-Saturday)	Spring Break Extended Tour
April 17 (Sunday)	Concert with the University Chorale (3 pm)

Who is eligible to audition? Any Northwest student; you do not have to be a music major. The only restriction is that, if selected, **you must be in the ensemble for both the fall and spring trimesters**, with the exception of those who are student teaching during the spring trimester.

Senior Mentors: The Senior Mentors are a significant feature of the choral program at Northwest. *Possessing superior musical and vocal ability, they model professional behavior and rehearsal etiquette, and assist in the preparation, transition, and continuation of the ensembles from year to year.* In Tower Choir, they may be called upon to conduct in the absence of the director or graduate assistant; to serve as section leaders/teachers for weekly sectionals and at the *Four-State Honor Music Festival*; and to help with administrative, audition, and workshop tasks.

Rehearsal Time: Tower Choir is scheduled to meet at 11:00-11:50 am on Monday, Wednesday, and Friday. Please note that the members will participate in the performances associated with the *Four-State Music Honor Festival* (January 21-22, 2011), and at other events as specified in the syllabus. **Attendance is REQUIRED.** The premiere a cappella ensemble performs a variety of choral literature that centers on the music of the masters. Since the repertoire is of such a challenging nature, three rehearsals per week are insufficient to understand how both personal and group ideas have to be molded to the needs of the music and ensemble as a whole. Therefore, **members of the Tower Choir must learn all of the notes on their own.** **Mandatory sectional rehearsals** will be called each week by the section leaders to check/perfect the notes.

Preliminary Audition Procedures: [Dr. Town will judge the auditions in FA room 230.] **Accompanists are NOT provided, so be prepared to bring a taped or CD accompaniment, or secure the services of one of the student pianists (on your own).**

- (1) Sing a prepared solo. Any style/arrangement is acceptable, although a contest-type piece is preferred. (Maximum of 2 minutes.)
- (2) Sing your part of the attached piece of "A Parting Blessing" (you may use the music).
- (3) Sing a few scales so your maximum range can be discerned.
- (4) Read at sight a simple rhythmic and melodic exercise.
- (5) Repeat a number of interval patterns.

All students (including previous members of Tower Choir) are required to sing the entire preliminary audition. Preliminary audition results will be posted on Dr. Town's office door (FA 230) and on the main bulletin board in the Fine Arts Building on Monday morning, August 30.

Final Audition Procedures: On Monday morning, August 30, at 11:00 am (regular class time, Fine Arts room 108), Dr. Town will rehearse all students who have advanced to the final audition. After the rehearsal, the times for the final auditions will be announced. Students will be asked to sign up for a final 6-minute quartet/octet audition time. Final auditions will be held on Monday, August 30, and as needed, on Tuesday morning, August 31. In this audition, the student will sing his or her part on the attached pieces and on any other selections rehearsed during the class period on Monday morning.

Attire: **ALL MEMBERS** will purchase a Tower Choir polo shirt, which will be ordered through the Music Department, to be worn during festivals and other such activities. **MEN** will wear tuxedos (concert attire), which are provided free-of-charge by the University and loaned to members during their trimesters of Tower Choir enrollment. Members are responsible for their care, must return them at the end of enrollment/participation in the choir, and will be assessed a dry cleaning/handling fee. Failure to return the tuxedo when requested will result in the student being charged for its replacement value. Guys will need to provide black shoes and purchase a pre-selected tuxedo shirt and vest. No earrings or other visible jewelry, including body-piercing jewelry, are permitted on the men during performances. **WOMEN** must purchase a matching professional/concert, black floor-length dress, and matching necklaces and earrings, which will be ordered through the Music Department. No other earrings or visible jewelry, including body-piercing jewelry, are permitted during performances.

Madraliers/Northwest Celebration Show Choir

The Madraliers/Northwest Celebration performing ensemble is a high-energy, multi-faceted group of extraordinary musicians who demonstrate their talent through singing, dancing, and acting. The range of performance experiences includes the dramatic presentation of a 16th century Yuletide Madrigal Feaste in full period costume to an exciting song-and-dance show in the spring, featuring show choir costumes and choreography.

During past years, the group has participated in many concerts, tours, invitational performances and good-will missions. They have performed for the American Choral Directors Association, Midwest Kodaly Educators Association, the Missouri Music

Educators Association, the Nebraska Choral Directors Association, the Missouri General Assembly, and the Missouri State Teachers Convention.

The group has taken extended tours to Florida, Mexico, Los Angeles, and New York City, performing at many schools and civic locations along each route. The opportunities to see new places and meet people across the country are wonderful benefits for members of the ensemble. In addition to extended tours, local tours comprise an important role in the recruitment of new students for Northwest and help sustain the talent pool for this fine group.

The 2010-2011 academic year promises to be exciting and challenging as we look ahead to the many performances and commitments for Madraliers/Northwest Celebration. **ALL members of the ensemble are REQUIRED to fully participate/attend these events.** A partial list of activities follows below (put these dates on your calendar):

September 3 (Friday)	Madraliers organizational party (6 pm)
September 19 (Sunday)	Madraliers retreat at Fine Arts (1-9 pm)
November 11 (Thursday)	Madraliers concert (8 pm)
November 12 (Friday)	Concert at Grace Episcopal Cathedral, Topeka KS (7 pm)
December 3-4 (Friday-Saturday)	37 th Annual Yuletide Feaste (6:30 pm; prep days are November 28-December 2)
January 7-9 (Friday-Sunday)	Choreography Weekend
February 4 (Friday)	Set up for Show Choir Festival (3 pm)
February 5 (Saturday)	Run Show Choir Festival (all day)
April 18-21 (Monday-Thursday)	Dress rehearsals for Spring Show
April 22 (Friday)	Northwest Celebration Spring Show (11:30 am and 8 pm)

Who is eligible to audition? Auditions for Madraliers/Northwest Celebration are open to all students attending Northwest. However, students selected to be a member of the group **must commit to participation in both the fall and spring trimesters**, (with the exception of the student teachers). Auditions are held only at the beginning of each fall semester.

Rehearsal Time: Madraliers/Northwest Celebration meets Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday 3:00 - 3:50 p.m. Due to the large volume of repertoire required for the group, it is imperative that each singer understands he or she must learn notes on their own. The three rehearsals per week with the director are dedicated to overall ensemble work. Sectional rehearsals will be called weekly by section leaders, which are mandatory for each singer to attend.

Preliminary Audition Procedures: [Dr. Lanier will judge the preliminary audition in FA Room 231.] **Accompanists are NOT provided, so bring a taped or CD accompaniment or secure the services of one of the student pianists (on your own).**

- (1) Prepare a solo (e.g. Broadway, show tunes, gospel, etc.). [Maximum 2 minutes] You may sing any portion of the song.
- (2) Sing your part of the attached madrigal "The Little Pretty Bonny Lass" (you may use your music).
- (3) Tonal memory excerpts.
- (4) Sing several scales to establish your range.
- (5) Perform a sight-singing exercise.

All students (including previous members of Madraliers/Northwest Celebration) are required to sing the entire preliminary audition. Results from preliminary auditions will be posted on the director's door (FA 231) and the main bulletin board in Fine Arts on Monday, August 30.

Final Audition Procedures: Finalists will meet on Monday, August 30, at 3:00 pm in Room 108 to rehearse the show choir piece (which will be distributed at this time). A choreography work session will be held on Tuesday, August 31, at 3:00 pm in the Charles Johnson Theater stage. The final audition will be held on Wednesday, September 1, at 6:00 pm in room 108. At this session, you will be adjudicated by a panel to determine your abilities in vocal presentation, musicianship, choreographic skills, and response to the director's instructions. Finalists should plan to stay for the entire audition session. The audition will consist of the following: (1) Perform the attached madrigal in groups and (2) perform the show choir piece in small groups with choreography.

Outfits/Costumes: The Madraliers have a stock of beautiful sixteenth-century style costumes that are loaned free-of-charge and must be returned at the end of the fall trimester after the Feaste performances. Members are responsible for their care and will be charged a dry-cleaning/handling fee. Students who fail to return the costume will be billed \$300.00. Members of the group are responsible for purchasing matching outfits, accessories, and shoes used for the Celebration Show Choir performances. **MEN** – No earrings or other visible jewelry, including body piercing jewelry, is permitted to be worn during performances. **WOMEN** – Matching jewelry will be part of the women's outfit. No additional visible jewelry, including body piercing jewelry, is permitted to be worn during performances.

Additional Audition Information: Members of the Madraliers/NW Celebration performing ensemble are selected on vocal ability and flexibility, positive attitude, dramatic insight to various styles of performance, and body size and shape. Men must be strong enough to lift a female partner of comparable size. Women must be light enough to be lifted by a male partner of comparable size. All members of the group must be physically fit to endure the demands of vocal and choreography sessions, and able to sustain the energy required for a complete performance!

University Chorale

The University Chorale is a large choral organization open to all students at Northwest. There is no audition requirement for membership in the Chorale. The purpose of The University Chorale is to provide a performance venue for any student attending the university who has an interest in singing. Although some members of the group are music majors, the larger portion of the Chorale is comprised of students across campus majoring in other fields. Since many students at Northwest have probably

sung in a choir during high school, the Chorale is a welcome place for them to continue the wonderful experience of singing.

The repertoire presented in The University Chorale will provide a variety of styles, which will be challenging and fun to learn and perform. The group rehearses Tuesday and Thursday 11:00 – 11:50 a.m. each week.

ALL members of the ensemble are REQUIRED to attend these events. A partial list of activities follows below (put these dates on your calendar):

November 21 (Sunday)	Concert with Tower Choir (3 pm)
April 17 (Sunday)	Concert with Tower Choir (3 pm)

Concert Attire: **MEN** will wear tuxedos (concert attire), which are provided free-of-charge by the University and loaned to members during their trimester(s) of University Chorale enrollment. Members are responsible for their care, must return them at the end of enrollment/participation in the choir, and will be assessed a dry cleaning/handling fee. Failure to return the tuxedo when requested will result in the student being charged for its replacement value. However, it will be necessary for each man to provide a white dress shirt or white formal shirt, black bow tie, and black shoes. No earrings or other visible jewelry, including body-piercing jewelry, are permitted during performances. **WOMEN** who are in both Chorale and Tower Choir will wear the concert attire they have purchased for Tower Choir performances. Those who do not already have this concert dress will need to provide an appropriate black floor-length dress, which has at least ¾ length sleeves (or a coordinating black jacket with same) for performances. Women may wear one set of earrings no larger than a dime. No other earrings or visible jewelry, including body-piercing jewelry, are permitted during performances.