

Department of Music

Choral Ensembles



Join our choral program and become part of our musical family!

Madraliers/Celebration Tower Choir University Chorale



Northwest Missouri State University
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Come for a Campus Visit

We want to invite you to visit our campus and Department, as we know that a personal visit is the best way for you to meet our faculty and students, observe a class or a rehearsal, enjoy a campus tour, and obtain information directly from our Admissions and Financial Assistance staff members.

To schedule a campus visit, contact our Admissions Office at 1-800-633-1175 or through the University's homepage at www.nwmissouri.edu, where you can also obtain valuable information regarding admissions requirements and financial assistance opportunities.

We are confident that the Northwest Choral Ensembles and the Department of Music are the place for you to develop as a musician and singer, so we want you to join our university family. Come share your talent with us!

For more information about the Northwest Choral Ensembles contact:

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Check us out at www.nwmissouri.edu/dept/music for more information

Department of Music Office
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Choral Ensembles at Northwest

Enduring History — Storied Tradition — *Exciting Future*

These phrases describe the Northwest Missouri State University Choral Ensembles, for exquisite choral music in all of its varieties has been a strong component of the music education program at Northwest from the genesis of the institution. If you are contemplating a career in public school teaching (K-12), or would like to continue expressing your choral/vocal talents while pursuing a different college major, you should examine carefully the choirs at Northwest. Involvement in the choral ensembles promotes creativity, personal growth, self-discipline, a sense of accomplishment and the fun of singing with dedicated, enthusiastic, friendly people. **Regardless of major or ability level, there is a place in one or more of the choirs that can fulfill the musical needs of each student.**

Tower Choir

Formed decades ago by Ralph E. Hartzell, and presently under the direction of Dr. Stephen Town, the Northwest Tower Choir has a rich and varied history of outstanding choral performance and musical perfection. Since 1999-2000, the ensemble has performed more than 85 concerts for high schools, colleges, universities, churches, institutions, and organizations in the states of Missouri, Iowa, Nebraska, Kansas, Tennessee, Mississippi, Louisiana, Texas and Oklahoma. There have been six peer-reviewed/invited concerts for learned societies/regional and state conventions, meetings, and symposia (most recently for the Nebraska Choral Directors Association Collegiate Choral Festival [at Nebraska Wesleyan University]) (2005-2006/Fall 2005); and, in addition to this venue, the Tower Choir has performed at Drake University, Tan-Tar-A resort (2003 State Convention), UMKC, Rhodes College, University of Mississippi-Oxford, University of Nebraska-Omaha, William Jewell College, Conception Abbey, Cathedral of Saint Cecilia (Omaha), and the Missouri Theatre (with the St. Joseph Symphony). Under Dr. Town's direction, the Tower Choir has

had the opportunity to work with nine 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, Yale University and founding member of the King's Singers), and has produced one CD, titled "*Caritas et Amor: The Best of the Tower Choir 1999-2003*," featuring the award-winning work (*Caritas et Amor*) by Dr. 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, Volume 2" (2004).]

Each year the ensemble participates in the Northwest Guest Choral Ensembles Concert Series, which has featured extraordinary choral ensembles in concert with the Tower Choir, and appears at the Four State Honor Music Festival. The Tower Choir takes an extended tour every four years, and past destinations have included the east coast (e.g. New York City), the west coast (e.g. San Diego), the gulf coast (e.g. New Orleans), and the Southwest (e.g. San Antonio).

The ensemble meets three times weekly (M/W/F) at 11am. Auditions are held at the beginning of the fall term for any interested student.



Madraliers/Celebration

The Celebration/Madraliers choral ensemble has been an integral part of the musical heritage at Northwest for more than two decades. This select group consists of energetic, multi-talented performers who demonstrate their talents through singing, dancing, and acting. The result of such exceptional talent and dedication is holding the reputation as one of the finest show choir/madrigal groups in the Midwest.

The ensemble has performed in many concert venues, including invitations to the Midwest Kodaly Educators Association, the Nebraska Choral Directors Association, and the Missouri Music Educators Association in 1988, 1991, 1994, 1999 and 2005.

As part of the Music Department at Northwest, the group has participated in many extended tours,

presenting concerts in numerous cities across the United States. Two trips to New York City as well as journeys to Florida, Los Angeles and Mexico have been part of the touring history of the ensemble.

In addition to extended tours, the ensemble travels each fall and spring, offering showcase performances for high schools around the four-state area. The Madraliers have made many guest appearances on KQTV, the ABC affiliate in St. Joseph, Mo.

Each December the Madraliers present the Annual Yuletide Feaste on the university campus. Traditional Renaissance costumes and music combine with a beautifully decorated banquet hall to create a wonderful event for the community.

The spring trimester brings the time for the students to switch from Renaissance outfits to show choir costumes. Celebration, the show choir for the university, combines the singing and dancing talents

of the students, along with a live band. During this trimester, they host a Show/Jazz Choir festival on campus, bringing over 30 high school groups to Northwest. As the end of the academic year arrives, it is the time for Celebration's Spring Show, a spectacular display of music and dance.

The ensemble meets Monday, Tuesday, and Thursday at 3 p.m. Auditions are held the week prior to the start of classes in the fall. Information regarding audition requirements is available in late July.



University Chorale

The University Chorale is a 120-voice chorus open to all students on the campus of Northwest. While many music majors are members of the chorus, there is no audition requirement for enrollment. The Chorale provides an opportunity for everyone to participate in a high-quality singing organization and experience the joy which accompanies the art of singing.

The Chorale has enjoyed a long tradition of excellence at Northwest, presenting a concert each trimester for the campus and community. The repertoire for the chorus is selected for its quality, variety, and audience appeal, ranging from classical to gospel, and contemporary to Broadway. Recent performances have included *Christmas Cantata* by Daniel Pinkham, *Saul* by Egil Hovland, and works by Mendelssohn and Telemann.

Rehearsals for the University Chorale are Tuesdays and Thursdays at 11 a.m.

Satellite Groups

The Satellite Groups (e.g. Barbershop Quartets; Octets; Chamber Ensembles; Men's and Women's Small Choruses) are organized by the choral directors from the existing choirs, or formed by students who are fascinated with consort singing, for their musical experience and enjoyment. They meet on an arranged basis and are not part of the university curriculum. Interested students participate in small groups of male and female singers and often perform upon request at local community events.

Participant Information

Many of the students in our choral ensembles are non-music majors. They have taken the opportunity to continue their enjoyment of singing regardless of their major field of study.

If you would like to become a member of the Northwest Choral Ensembles, **it is important that you enroll in the choirs of your choice at the time of your pre-registration** so we will know you are interested in auditioning and can send you the necessary information. For the returning student, pre-registration occurs during the prior trimester; for the first-time student, pre-registration occurs during the Summer SOAR period. Inform your advisor that you want one or more of these choral ensembles included in your class schedule.

Auditions are required for the Tower Choir and Madraliers/Celebration, and they are held at the beginning of the fall trimester. **Should you miss the pre-registration period, you may audition during the designated time and enroll during the first week of classes.**

You have the option of enrolling for each ensemble for either academic or activity credit. Enrolling for academic credit will cost the regular tuition fee per credit hour, and the grade will apply toward your G.P.A., while enrolling for activity credit costs nothing and is not reflected in your G.P.A.

Performance Awards

The Department of Music has a robust performance award program, and these awards can be companioned with any other kind of financial assistance for which you qualify. The amount can be significant! The performance awards are granted to those who audition for the choral-vocal faculty at designated times.