

**Dr. Adam Zrust**

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November 18, 2025

Dear Colleagues,

I am so excited to share with you details of our annual Northwest Missouri State University Four-State Honor Choir! This year's event will be held on **Monday, February 9, 2026** on the beautiful campus of Northwest Missouri State University. Our **high school clinician** is renowned musician and gospel artist, Isaac Cates. Isaac is the founder of the award-winning *Ordained* gospel choir, and serves as a clinician and performer across the world. In addition, members of the choir will join the afternoon performance to demonstrate the mastery, beauty, and power of gospel singing. Our **middle school clinicians** are Dr. Adam Zrust, and Dr. Elise Hepworth.

While you may nominate up to 16 students for the high school honor choir, the middle school choir is limited to the first 175 singers who apply for entry (with balanced voices taken into consideration). Please limit your middle school nominations to 9 per school (three per voice part).

To keep the ensemble balanced, please try to nominate full quartets (or trios for middle school). The high school ensemble is open to students 9-12, and the middle school to students 6-8 (3-pt mixed). Please send your honor choir nominations and check, **payable to Northwest Missouri State University School of Fine Arts**, via snail mail to:

Four-State Honor Choir (please be sure to include this on your check)  
Attn: Dr. Adam Zrust  
Northwest Missouri State University  
800 University Drive  
Maryville, MO 64468

**The deadline for entry is Monday, February 2, 2026.** The registration for each student is **\$15**, which will cover the cost of lunch in the cafeteria. PLEASE NOTE: The high school honor choir will learn music from Isaac via rote on the day of the event. The middle school honor choir will be required to purchase the following scores:

Be the Light (3-pt mixed)  
Climbin' Up the Mountain, Children (3-pt mixed)  
Total Praise (SAB)

Franklin Willis (Endeavor Publishing)  
arr. Rollo Dilworth (Hal Leonard)  
arr. Keith Christopher (Hal Leonard)

**Please purchase the middle school music early to ensure timely delivery.** Attached to this letter, please find the following:

1. Schedule for the day
2. Nomination Form (High School and/or Middle School)

In the meantime, please do not hesitate to contact me with any questions or concerns that might arise during your fall semester.

See you in February!



Adam Zrust, Ph.D.