Oct. 10, 2013

Greetings from Doane College!

It is a distinct pleasure to invite you and your students to participate in the 38th annual Doane Vocal Festival, January 12 and 13, 2014, on the Doane College campus, in Crete, Nebraska. This vocal festival for high school students, grades 11-12 (no sophomores this year!), will provide an opportunity for your singers to participate in a highly select honor choir and to prepare and sing a vocal solo for comments from faculty members. Our voice faculty will select five outstanding soloists to perform in the Grand Finale Concert on Monday evening.

We will select a balanced SATB choir based on the information you supply online, or on the enclosed form. Over 90 schools representing four states have participated in our past festivals; last year a choir of 190 singers was chosen from more than 500 applicants. Please be candid and supply as much information as you can about each student, including your first choice, second choice, and so forth, regardless of section. Remember: no more than two of your top five nominees and four of your top ten nominees may be sopranos. Please give preference to seniors and do not nominate freshmen or sophomores. There is no limit to the number of people you may recommend; please make copies of the form and use one form per student. Once the choir has been selected, a list of the choir and the music for each participant will be sent to you. It will be assumed that nominations from the director are a commitment by the participants if they are selected. The cost of the music is included in the entry fee. We will be continuing online nominations this year. Visit www.doane.edu/vocal-festival for more information (please note the hyphen in the address).

Registration for the festival will begin at noon on Sunday, January 12th. The first rehearsal of the festival choir will be Sunday, January 12, at 2:30 p.m., culminating in the Grand Finale Concert performance on Monday, January 13, at 7:00 p.m. This concert is free and open to the public. For all those attending the festival, Sunday night also promises to be an enjoyable evening of special performances, including Doane’s Doublewide and Jazz Unlimited.

On Sunday, soloists will be assigned a time on Monday morning or early afternoon with one of the adjudicating faculty. If your student(s) need(s) an accompanist for their solo appearance, an accompanist is available for $14. Please make sure the music is at the Doane Music Office by Tuesday, January 7, 2014. Due to schedule constraints, no rehearsal with the accompanist will be possible prior to the solo audition. Doane staff accompanists will also be available for the Grand Finale Concert Monday evening, when the selected soloists, the festival chorus, and the Doane Choir will perform.

1014 Boswell Avenue
Crete, NE 68333-2430
Phone: 402-826-8279
Fax: 402-826-8199
The music for the 2014 festival is:

Blessed Are All They Who Fear Him        Felix Mendelssohn
Sure On This Shining Night               Morten Lauridsen
Shall We Gather at the River             Aaron Copland
Great Things He Has Done*                David von Kampen

* We are so excited to announce the first-ever Doane Vocal Festival commission: Nebraska native David von Kampen has written a piece specifically for the 2014 choir! He'll also come and work with the choir on it.

The registration fee for the Doane Vocal Festival is $40 per student, which includes music, registration fees, and meals in the main dining room. (However, please do not send money at this time.) Overnight housing on the Doane campus will also be provided for all students except those who can commute to and from Crete during the festival. More housing information will be included in a future mailing.

There will be no directors’ banquet this year; we’re going to try an earlier 6 p.m. start time to the final concert instead.

Please return all nomination materials to us by Friday, November 8. We look forward to hearing from you and thank you for supporting the Doane Vocal Festival. Best wishes as you begin your school year.

IMPORTANT INFORMATION on the 2015 Doane Vocal Festival
Housing for the 2015 festival may be changing slightly, due to Doane College's elimination of Interterm, which will result in having fewer students on campus during this time. Thus, it is possible that we will be unable to house the same number of students as in the past, resulting in more schools having to stay in hotels in Crete/Lincoln. (Registration fees would be lowered for those schools.) We may also have to expand the circle of schools that we ask to commute to and from the festival. In that case, we would likely finish things up a little earlier on Sunday, and perhaps start later on Monday, to allow for a greater commuting time. Stay tuned...we're working hard on this right now and complete information will be included with the fall 2014 information letter and nomination forms. We appreciate everyone's support of the Doane Vocal Festival and hope you'll keep coming!

Sincerely,

Dr. Kurt Runestad
Director of Choral Activities
Doane College