

September 1, 2023

Dear Choral Director:

The Northern Arizona University choral and vocal faculty would like to take this opportunity to cordially invite you and your ensemble(s) to participate in the 2024 NAU Vocal Jazz & Madrigal Festival, jointly sponsored by NAU Choral Studies and the NAU Student Chapter of the American Choral Directors Association. This event will be held on the NAU campus and surrounding area in Flagstaff **on Thursday, February 8th through Saturday, February 10th, 2024**. Ensembles of all ability levels are invited to participate. The festival is a non-competitive, rated festival. You may choose to have your ensemble rated with a division rating of I (superior), II (excellent), III (good), or IV (needs attention) or you may also perform as a non-rated participant. If you do not desire a rating, please indicate this on your registration form. All participating ensembles will receive an engraved plaque.

## EXPENSES

\$250.00 – for each jazz or madrigal ensemble. Initially, we will accept only **TWO** ensembles per director. Additional ensembles will be accepted only after all applicants have been given the opportunity to schedule an ensemble. Available slots will be assigned to additional ensembles after the initial registration period. Please note that this will be strictly enforced this year due to the high demand for festival slots.



## REGISTRATION PROCEDURE

### PLEASE NOTE IMPORTANT CHANGES, ESPECIALLY REGARDING THE LOTTERY

In an attempt to make the sign-up and assignment of performance times more efficient, please note the following:

- Download the Jazz/Madrigal Entry Form and fill it out using Adobe Acrobat or Microsoft Word.
- To access the form online please go to <http://nau.edu/CAL/Music/Choral-Studies/Jazz-Madrigal-Festival>.
- **Registration will be accepted via EMAIL ONLY (no faxes) at shannon.spark@nau.edu.**
- Please be sure to indicate on the registration form your order of preference for date and time as well as performance venue and clinician. (Please remember to print the registration form for your records and save a copy)
- Registrations will be accepted from 7:00 am Monday, October 23<sup>th</sup> to 5:00 pm Wednesday, October 25<sup>th</sup>.
- In an effort to make the registration process fairer, all registration forms that are time-stamped between 7:00-7:01, 7:01-7:02, and 7:02-7:03 am will be placed in a lottery to determine the order in which schools are assigned festival times and locations. All forms time-stamped after 7:03 am will be assigned spots on a first-come, first-served basis.

- We do receive a high number of registration forms right at 7:00 am so if you send us a form at 7:03 am it is likely you will not get your first choice for time or venue.
- Directors will receive an email confirmation shortly after the form is received; if you have not heard from us, it is your responsibility to contact us, as we may have not received your registration.

## FESTIVAL SITES/CLINICIANS

As in the past, there will be (3) Madrigal sites and (3) Vocal Jazz sites. Adjudication at all sites will begin at 8:00 am on Friday and end at 4:30 pm on Saturday. We are pleased to announce the following Madrigal clinicians: [Dr. Jessica Napoles](#) (University of North Texas), [Dr. Gary Packwood](#) (Mississippi State University), and [Dr. Julie Yu](#) (Oklahoma City University) Vocal Jazz clinicians will be members of [The Swingles](#), while [Dr. Benjamin Hawkinson](#) (Millikin University) will serve as both a Madrigal and Jazz Clinician. IMPORTANT REMINDER: Please note that we switch clinicians around the different sites.

## ENSEMBLES

- All festival ensembles will be allotted a total of twenty-five minutes, which includes entering and exiting the stage and the clinic with the designated clinician.
- Choirs are strongly encouraged to remain in the hall during the festival to learn from the adjudicator's comments shared with other choirs and to appreciate the many varied performances by other ensembles.
- All ensembles participating in the festival are requested to limit performance time to approximately twelve (12) minutes or up to three (3) selections.
- Madrigal groups may perform any type of chamber music, with or without accompaniment.
- Four sections of three-step risers and a piano will be provided in Ashurst Hall, Kitt Recital Hall, Nativity Church, and Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church.
- Ardrey Auditorium will have twenty-four individual microphones while Ashurst Auditorium and Kitt Recital Hall will have an area microphone setup and two solo microphones.
- All vocal jazz sites will have a soundboard, three monitors, a drum set (with cymbals, though you can bring your own cymbals), and a bass amplifier.
- Directors should plan on using only the sound equipment furnished at each festival site.
- Please note: we will no longer allow pre-recorded accompaniments for any ensembles. If you would like to hire an accompanist or a rhythm section from NAU, please email [ryan.holder@nau.edu](mailto:ryan.holder@nau.edu).

## HOST CONCERTS

We are very excited to announce that [The Swingles](#) will be the guest ensemble for this year's festival! The Swingles are one of the world's most admired and loved vocal groups. With a natural flair as entertainers, their stylish, classy shows take them to venues and festival stages across the world. They have earned 5 Grammy® Awards and are recipients of multiple prestigious international accolades. With generations of fans from their live performances and appearances on film and TV soundtracks, *The Swingles'* musical evolution and creative drive makes them as relevant today as when Ward Swingle started the group nearly six decades ago.

Tickets for the evening concerts featuring *The Swingles* and the NAU *Shrine of the Ages Choir* will go on sale November 6<sup>th</sup> at 7:00 am by email only. Ticket prices will be \$17.50 for students and \$25.00 for adults. Full

payment (Credit Card, Check, or Confirmed PO) for the host concert tickets must be received by January 12, 2024 or your tickets will be released to the general public. Phone call orders WILL NOT be accepted.

In addition, the NAU Vocal Jazz Ensemble *High Altitude* and the a cappella groups *Highlanders*, *Elevation*, and *Axidentals* will be presenting a free concert on Friday and Saturday from 12:00-1:10 p.m.

## SENIOR AUDITIONS

For those seniors interested in auditioning for entrance as a music major at NAU, we will offer auditions during the festival as follows:

- Friday, February 9th from 11:30 am - 3:00 pm.
- Saturday, February 10th from 9 am - 4 pm.
- Please call the choral studies office to arrange an audition time (928) 523-9949.
  - beginning Monday, November 20th.
  - **IMPORTANT** Students MUST have applied and been accepted to the University before we can schedule a School of Music audition.

## IMPORTANT DATES TO REMEMBER

Day	Date	Time	Event
Monday	October 23	7am	Festival Registration Open
Wednesday	October 25	5pm	Festival Registration is Closed
Friday	October 27		Festival Participants will be notified of Performance Times and Venues via email
Monday	November 6	7am	Tickets for <i>The Swingles</i> & <i>Shrine of the Ages Choir</i> go on sale
Monday	November 20		Call (928) 523-9949 to schedule senior auditions
Friday	December 8		Payment must be received by the NAU Choral Studies Office or your ensemble(s) will lose their reserved time slots.
Friday	January 12		Last day to withdraw from the festival and receive a refund

We look forward to your participation in this year's festival and the opportunity to hear your choral ensemble(s). If you have any questions or concerns regarding any facet of the festival, please call Shannon Spark, NAU Choral Studies Academic Program Coordinator at (928) 523-9949.

Sincerely,



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NAU Jazz/Madrigal Festival Coordinator  
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