



Dear Orange County Music Educator,

This is the follow-up to the letter we mailed you last May. Some details have changed.

Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble is a community chorus based in Anaheim that is excited to announce its inaugural CHORAL COMPETITION and FESTIVAL. Nothing like this currently exists in Southern California and, as partners with you in elevating our community, we are excited to start this new avenue for excellence in the choral arts.

NEW DATE! On Friday, March 3, 2023, we will be hosting 10 choirs that will perform before an esteemed group of adjudicators. We would like you to consider participating. Each participating choir will receive a commemorative plaque, and the top two choirs will receive a cash prize.

OUR ADJUDICATORS ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Dr. Sheridan Ball, Professor Emeritus, Cypress College
- Dr. Jo-Michael Scheibe, Professor of Choral and Sacred Music, USC
- Dr. Chris Peterson, Professor of Music, CalState Fullerton

PROGRAM HIGHLIGHTS INCLUDE:

- Selection into the festival will be done by a rigorous, blind, submission process. We will ask you to select a live/unedited recording from 2022 (either Spring or Fall). We will then select the pool of participants from these recordings.
- Each choir will receive a commemorative plaque.
- Ratings will be a cumulative score based on musical and sight reading scores from two distinct sections of the festival.
- There will also be an aspect where the students will have a vote in the selection of the top choir.
- The top two choirs will receive a cash prize to further their program (\$750/\$250).
- The festival will conclude with one joint performance with all choirs, encore performances from the top two ensembles, and a closing performance by the host, Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble.

Again, we are honored to begin this exciting new program here in Southern California to support all the wonderful programs that we have to offer our community. This information can also be found online at our website <https://meritage-vocalarts.org>.

Please email Brian Dehn at [brian@meritage-vocalarts.org](mailto:brian@meritage-vocalarts.org) to indicate your interest in being a part of this exciting new venture. We look forward to your participation.

We hope you have a wonderful school year, and we look forward to the music you will create with us.



Steve Schulist  
Board Chair  
Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble



Brian Dehn  
Artistic Director  
Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble

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Meritage Vocal Arts Ensemble: 174 W Lincoln Ave, Suite 200, Anaheim, CA 92805  
IRC 501(c)(3), Tax ID 95-4584695