

# Letter to first-year students regarding participation in choral ensembles at EIU

Welcome to EIU! My name is Jason Harris, and I serve as the Director of Choral Activities in the Department of Music. As our new academic year gets underway I want to take a moment to introduce myself and let you know that you have a tremendous opportunity to become a part of an incredible tradition of choral singing here at EIU.

We have three excellent choral ensembles in which any student may participate regardless of major:

EIU's **Concert Choir** is an auditioned ensemble, traditionally consisting to 35-45 singers, that performs a wide variety of repertoire from the Renaissance to contemporary works written by today's most esteemed composers of choral music. Concert Choir meets on Tuesdays and Thursdays, 2:00-3:15pm, and on Wednesdays from 1:00 to 1:50pm.

**Camerata Singers** is a select group of 16 singers that specializes in repertoire from the Renaissance and music stylistically inspired by Renaissance techniques. This ensemble meets Tuesday and Thursday evenings, 6:00-6:50pm.

The **University Mixed Chorus** is an ensemble of voices that performs regularly with the Concert Choir and in occasional collaborations with the Eastern Symphony Orchestra. Mixed Chorus is a non-auditioned ensemble and is open to all university students interested in continuing their choral singing experience.

**Vocal placements** are currently scheduled for Monday Aug. 20, Tuesday Aug. 21, and Wednesday Aug. 22. You can find a sheet upon which you may sign up for a placement slot on the door of Doudna 2425, and information on the vocal placement process may be found on the Department of Music website.

I would also like to invite you to attend the following **open rehearsals** during the first week of classes. This will be a fantastic occasion for you to get a sense of what we do in rehearsal, the type of repertoire we perform, and also allow you to meet and chat with veteran members of the choruses. The open rehearsal dates and times are listed below:

**Monday August 20, 1:00-1:50pm: EIU Mixed Chorus, Doudna 1360**

(This will also serve as a general information session for the choirs)

**Tuesday August 22, 2:00-3:15pm: EIU Concert Choir, Doudna 1240**

**Tuesday August 22, 6:00-6:50pm: EIU Camerata Singers, Doudna 1240**

**Wednesday August 23, 1:00-1:50pm: EIU Mixed Chorus, Doudna 1360**

As a member of the EIU Choral Ensembles you will have the opportunity to become a part of a substantive musical tradition, perform in our world-class concert hall and recital hall, and will have the privilege of playing a major part in the continued success of the EIU choral program during this very exciting time in the Department of Music's history. Regardless of your singing experience, we have an ensemble that is right for you. I sincerely hope you will join us.

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Please feel free to get in touch with me via email with any questions you may have about the choral program here at EIU, the placement process, or anything else that comes to mind.

Kind regards, and I hope to see you very soon. Welcome to EIU!

Jason Harris  
Director of Choral Activities, Eastern Illinois University  
jwharris3@eiu.edu