

FALL 2018

Greetings everyone,

My name is Jason Harris, and I am the incoming Director of Choral Activities here at EIU. It is a genuine pleasure to be present at such a musically nurturing and vibrant campus, and I am incredibly excited to get to work on making many beautiful choral sounds with all of you. We have a very exciting year of concerts planned, and as the onset of the semester is upon us I want to touch base on a few logistics to start us off on the right foot.

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. Please be sure to sign up as soon as possible once you arrive back on campus.

The process will consist of vocal exercises, some light sight reading, and a few musicianship exercises. I also ask that all students who are currently enrolled in voice lessons prepare one art song or aria (this does not need to be memorized, but please bring an extra copy of your song for the pianist). If you are not currently enrolled in voice lessons you may choose to prepare an art song or aria, or I can provide you with a simple public domain piece to perform. The entire process will take roughly ten minutes. Placement results will be posted to the door of Doudna 2425 by the evening of Wednesday, August 22.

I would also like to invite you to attend the following **open rehearsals** during the first week of classes. This will be a great opportunity for you greet your colleagues once again after the long summer, be fantastic choral ambassadors for your new colleagues who will be joining us for the first time, and for all of us to get to know each other a bit during our introductory rehearsal process. These open rehearsals are required of all music majors who are required to participate in a choral ensemble this semester. 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 Concert Choir/Mixed Chorus, Doudna 1360

And one final thing: RECRUIT! I hope you will reach out to your friends and acquaintances on campus to join us for what will be a truly special year of performances. YOU are EIU's greatest resource for helping to build and develop the choral program. I sincerely hope all of you get the word out to as many of your colleagues as possible. In fact, I want to challenge all of you to bring one new person to our open rehearsals next week, and help our ranks grow exponentially!

Please feel free to get in touch with me via email with any questions you may have about the placement process, the structure of the first few days of rehearsals, or anything else that comes to mind.

Kind regards, and I look forward to hearing all very soon. Welcome back!

Jason Harris
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