

November 1, 2017



Dear Directors,

We are excited to announce the first annual UMEA State Jr High/Middle School Choral Festival. The goal of this festival is to provide directors and students with new knowledge and insights to help sustain and lift their programs to an even higher level of excellence.

Ensembles wishing to participate in the Jr High/Middle School Choral Festival must record and submit 2 contrasting pieces for consideration. Our application process is now completely digital: directors can complete the application, upload the audio files, and even pay the \$50 application fee all on the UMEA website. Directors may also apply to this festival for Comments Only (the process and application payment are the same as for ensembles seeking Ratings and Rankings). Working to qualify for this festival will challenge your students to increase their level of effort and attention during rehearsal. Receiving constructive comments and feedback from the Selection Committee ensures that all ensembles benefit from this audition experience.

Ensembles invited to this year's State Festival will perform at the Jorgensen Concert Hall in the Eccles Performing Arts Center at Snow College. We have scheduled this festival for **Saturday, May 5th, 2018**, to allow for travel time and remain free from any end of year testing that may be happening during school hours. Each ensemble invited to participate will need to pay a \$200 entrance fee upon acceptance to the state festival. After performing on the concert hall stage, students and teachers will receive important musical feedback and observation from exceptional clinicians and adjudicators. Each ensemble will also receive a group photo (with purchasing options for students). Directors and students will also be able to enjoy performances by other Jr High/Middle School ensembles. This festival is modeled after the State Jr High/Middle School Band, Orchestra, and Jazz Band Festivals which have proven to be rewarding experiences and help students and teachers increase the level of performance in Jr High/Middle School music in Utah. We are excited to be able to offer this same opportunity to choir students.

Sincerely,

Ami Swallow
UMEA Jr High/Middle School Choral Festival Chairperson