

September 10, 2019

Dear Colleagues,

Greetings from The College of New Jersey! We hope this message finds you doing well and enjoying a musical start to the academic year.

It is with great excitement that we share details of the **2019 TCNJ Honors Festival**. The 2019 Honors Festival will include an **Honors Wind Ensemble, Honors Orchestra, and Honors Choir**. The program is designed for your top woodwind, brass, percussion, string, and voice students currently in grades 9-12. The festival will be held **Sunday, November 17<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday, November 23<sup>rd</sup>** on TCNJ's beautiful campus, culminating with a performance in the historic Kendall Main Stage Theater. **We invite you to nominate up to 10 of your most talented students in grades 9-12 for this special program.**

#### **Purpose and Benefits of TCNJ's Honors Festival**

- The purpose of TCNJ's Honors Festival is to provide an enriching musical experience for your students, and to provide an in-depth look at all that TCNJ has to offer. There will be rehearsals, clinics, and masterclasses with our talented music faculty members. The opportunity to perform with students from across the region will enable students to learn from each other and have an educational, musical, and rewarding experience.

#### **Dates, time, and cost of TCNJ's Honors Festival**

- On Sunday, 11/17, the program will run from 8:45am-6pm.
- On Saturday, 11/23, the program will begin at 4:00pm and culminate with the final concert at 8pm.
- The registration cost for the Honors Festival is \$40, which includes a commemorative t-shirt.

#### **Instructions for nominating your students (please complete the online form by Friday, 10/11)**

- Online nomination form: <https://forms.gle/sLbYs6AqTqkCRZmL8>
  - The nomination form has been set-up so that individual teachers can nominate students in their specific content area (e.g., the band director should nominate woodwind, brass, and percussion students, the choir director should nominate voice students, and the orchestra director should nominate string students). If a district is nominating students for all three ensembles, the form should be completed three times, once for each ensemble.
- Although not required, choral directors are encouraged to nominate students from all voice parts.
- Please inform your students of the specific dates/times of the program. We ask that any student who expresses interest keep their schedule open in case they are selected. Acceptance letters will be sent to you and your students by no later than Friday, October 18<sup>th</sup>.
- Please list students in the order you think we should accept them. Rank your most talented and deserving students first. If a student is interested and they are not necessarily your top player, but you think they are very deserving of an opportunity such as this, feel free to consider that in your ranking.
- The deadline to nominate students is **Friday, October 11<sup>th</sup> at 11:59 p.m.**

Thank you for the opportunity to work with your students. We look forward to receiving your nominations!

Warmest Regards,

Eric M. Laprade, *Director of Bands*

John Leonard, *Director of Choral Activities*

Nick McBride, *Assistant Professor of Choral Music Education*

Uli Speth, *Director of the College Orchestra*