

September 23, 2024

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 our **2024 TCNJ Honors Festivals** and invite you to nominate your students! We will hold two festivals this year:

- **Honors Chorus**
  - Saturday, November 9 from 9am – 4pm
  - Sunday, November 10 from 2 – 4pm with a free concert at 4pm
- **Honors Wind Ensembles and Jazz Ensemble**
  - Sunday, November 17 from 9am – 5pm
  - Sunday, November 24 from 1-4pm, with a free concert at 4pm

TCNJ Honors Festivals are designed for your top woodwind, brass, percussion, and voice students currently in grades 9–12. Each program will feature rehearsals with our conducting faculty, masterclasses with our performance faculty, performances by our TCNJ ensembles, and concerts in our beautiful performance halls! The festivals will provide students with a nurturing environment to make music with students from over 50 different schools from across the region! The cost for students to participate in the festival is \$45, which includes a commemorative t-shirt and lunch on the first day!

**We invite you to nominate your most talented students in grades 9-12 for these programs. You may nominate up to 10 students for the chorus and wind ensemble programs and up to 5 students for the jazz program. The deadline to nominate students is Sunday, October 13 by 11:59pm**

- Online nomination form: [bit.ly/TCNJHonorsFest](https://bit.ly/TCNJHonorsFest)
- The nomination form has been set-up so that individual teachers can nominate students in their specific area (e.g., the band director should nominate woodwind, brass, and percussion students, the choir director should nominate voice students). If a district is nominating students for all three ensembles, the form should be completed three times, once for each ensemble.
- Choral directors are encouraged to nominate students from all voice parts.
- When directors nominate students for the jazz ensemble, there is an option/question for them to also be considered for the wind ensembles.
- **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 emailed to you and your students by no later than Friday, October 18.**
- Please list students in the order you think we should accept them. Nominate 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 **Sunday, October 13 at 11:59 p.m.**

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

Doug Beavers, *Jazz Ensemble Director*  
Eric M. Laprade, *Director of Bands*  
John P. Leonard, *Director of Choral Activities*  
Heather Mitchell, *Assistant Director of Choral Activities*  
Michael Pettis, *Assistant Director of Bands*  
Adam Warshafsky, *Assistant Director of Bands*