



Dear Connecticut Music Teachers - Greetings from UConn Choirs!

July 2019

We hope you are enjoying a nice break this summer and staying away from some of the heat we have had lately. If this is the first time you have seen this note, we hope you had a great year. We are always pleased to read about all of the exciting things happening in Connecticut's school music programs and we congratulate you on all your success. Here at UConn we had a great year with performances of Craig Hella Johnson's *Considering Matthew Shepard* in Stamford, Hartford, Worcester, Storrs, and New Britain, a series of concerts supporting music of the African Diaspora, Collegium Musicum performing at the Festivals of Women Composers Festival in Hartford, restarting the UConn *Messiah-Sing* (which we will continue this year) outreach concerts in Waterbury and a powerful concert of Irish music by Earthtones. This note is to let you know of happenings coming next year to UConn choirs – we hope you can join us!

Do you have a current student who is coming to UConn in the fall? We ask you to please encourage them to be a part of UConn Choirs. In the past few years UConn Choirs have performed in Carnegie Hall as well as in Ireland, Germany, Austria, and Italy performing works from Bach Motets to the Brahms Requiem and new music of Daniel Elder and Jake Runestad. A word from you might make the difference on whether they pursue singing after high school. Please encourage them to sign up for a Choral Placement Hearing on the UConn Choirs website and please let us know if we can contact them personally.

Below, please find information for the UConn Choirs *Young Conductors Symposium*, *Brothers Sing On! Bass-Tenor Choir Festival*, *Bekhani Buthelezi South African Choral Music residency*, and the second annual *UConn Choirs High School and Middle School Choral Festivals*. We look forward to having you and your singers here with us!

If you or your students have any questions, please contact Dr. Jamie Spillane in the UConn Choral Office at [uconnchoirs@uconn.edu](mailto:uconnchoirs@uconn.edu) or [Jamie.Spillane@uconn.edu](mailto:Jamie.Spillane@uconn.edu) (860) 486-2562 – office.

UConn Choirs webpage - <http://music.uconn.edu/uconn-choirs/>

UConn Choirs Facebook page - <https://www.facebook.com/UConnChoirs/>

## UConn *Young Conductor's Symposium*



Thursday, **September 19, 2019**, UConn Choirs will host our 5th Annual *Young Conductors Symposium* for high school student leaders. This free day of clinics is intended for any and all high school choral singers and student leaders. Some schools send one student, others bring their entire choir and all are welcome. Participating students will spend the day at UConn learning about all aspects of choral leadership from UConn Choral Faculty and our talented choral graduate students. Selected participants will have the opportunity to direct the UConn Chamber Singers in the afternoon. Please find the link on the UConn Choirs webpage for more information and to secure your spot!

<https://music.uconn.edu/uconn-choirs/>

# ***Brothers Sing On! – Bass/Tenor Choral Festival***



**Saturday, October 12, 2019.** Calling all singing basses and tenors! – Don't miss the opportunity to be part of something BIG, The UConn Brothers Sing On! – Bass/Tenor Choir Festival. Bass and tenor singers from throughout the Northeast will come to UConn's von der Mehden Recital Hall to join together with singers from the UConn Glee Club, Concert Choir, The Silk City Chorus and a cappella groups for a day of singing and sharing. We have a SPECIAL guest this year as Mr. Bekhani Buthelezi, director of choirs at the University of Zululand in South Africa will be in residence at UConn for the week and spending this day with us. Mr. Buthelezi is an esteemed and award-winning director who will work with the Brothers Sing On! Festival Choir on traditional South African singing and help us create much joy together. This event was created to celebrate men singing together and to help reinforce the joy of singing and recruiting of bass and tenor singers into high school as well as church and community choral programs. There will be performances by the UConn Glee Club, UConn's outstanding male a cappella groups, The Silk City Chorus, and the UConn Brothers Sing On! Festival Choir. This is an event not to miss! It is a powerful, joyful, day of community and support of male singing at all levels. Please find the link to more information and the registration page on the UConn Choirs webpage:

<https://music.uconn.edu/ensembles/uconn-choirs/brothers-sing-on-festival/>

## ***UConn Choirs 2<sup>nd</sup> Annual High School and Middle School Choir Festivals***



**Middle School Choir Festival – Friday, April 17, 2020  
High School Choir Festival – Saturday, April 18, 2020**

This April - we are happy to again invite both high school and middle school choirs to campus for a time to sing for each other, share our art, and receive clinics from the UConn faculty including Dr. Jamie Spillane, Dr. Cara Bernard, and Dr. Mary Ellen Junda. Each choir will perform before the audience of peer choirs and also will receive an onstage clinic. Each day, there will be two sessions, morning and afternoon and each choir will receive a digital video recording of their performance, written/audio comments, and onstage clinic. Details are available on the UConn Choirs website at: "Choral

Festivals.” Space is limited for each festival so please e-mail Dr. Spillane to reserve your place on one of these wonderful days. Please find the link on the UConn Choirs webpage:

<https://music.uconn.edu/ensembles/uconn-choirs/uconn-choral-festivals/>

## UConn Choirs Calendar for 2019-2020

August 24-27	Choral Placement Hearings for UConn Choirs – see UConn Choirs website for a time.
Sept. 19	<b>Young Conductors Symposium</b> 8:00am - 3:00pm. Von der Mehden Recital Hall
September 21	UConn Open House – Contact UConn Admissions for further information
October 5	<b>Family Weekend Choir Concert</b> - all choirs - 2:00pm von der Mehden Recital Hall
October 12	<b>Brothers Sing On!</b> - Bass/Tenor Choir Festival von der Mehden Recital Hall - 8:30am - 5:30pm Special guest – Mr. Bekhani Buthelezi
October 12-19	<b>Mr. Bekhani Buthelezi residency</b> at UConn Tuesday, October 15 – 6:00pm – 8:30pm - Free choir clinic Friday, October 18 – 8:00pm Culmination Concert Saturday, October 19 - CT-ACDA Conference
October 20	UConn Open House – Contact UConn Admissions for further information
October 20	UConn Opera Theatre – Songfest! Von der Mehden Recital Hall - 3:00pm Come to Open House and stay for Songfest!
November 08	UConn <b>Chamber Singers and Collegium Musicum</b> - Ensemble in Residence UConn Hartford campus - 7:30pm
November 16	UConn <b>Festival Chorus Concert</b> . 3:00pm Tolland UCC
November 16	UConn <b>Voices of Freedom Concert</b> 6:00pm von der Mehden Recital Hall
November 17	UConn <b>Choirs Concert</b> VDM Sunday - 3:00PM Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, UConntrabile – Treble Chorus, Glee club
November 19	UConn <b>Collegium Musicum Concert</b> 8:00pm. von der Mehden Recital Hall
December 6	<b>UConn Messiah Sing!</b> Join UConn Choirs and Symphony Orchestra in this great opportunity to perform Handel’s Messiah with selected conductors and soloists. Jorgensen Center for the Arts
December 7	UConn Music Department Auditions
January 3-4	UConn Music Department Auditions
January 10-11	UConn Music Department Auditions
February 9	Freshman/Sophomore Singer Showcase 3:00pm
March 8	UConn Choirs <b>Pre-South America Tour Concert</b> 3:00pm
March 20-28	UConn Choirs Tour to Peru/Ecuador
April 7	UConn Chamber Singers and Collegium Musicum - <b>Ensemble in Residence Concert</b> UConn Hartford campus - 7:30pm

April 17	UConn Choirs <b>Middle School Choral Festival</b>
April 18	UConn <b>High School Choral Festival</b>
April 18	UConn Voice Area – Songfest - 3:00pm
April 25	<b>Festival Chorus Concert</b> - 3:00pm
April 25	<b>Voices of Freedom</b> – 6:00pm
April 26	<b>UConn Choirs Concert</b> - 3:00pm
May 2	UConn Music Department <b>Spectrum Concert</b> This dynamic concert involves a wide array of UConn Performing Ensembles in an exciting 70-minute concert with no applause in between performances.