

WESTMONT FALL CHORAL FESTIVAL 2020

Dear Colleagues,

I need not restate for you the challenges of our current moment; certainly we teachers know it all too well. Instead, let my introduction be a word of gratitude for all you have been doing, for all the effort and time you've spent in reimagining your rehearsals, learning new technologies, pivoting and re-pivoting time and time again, all in order to continue to offer a worthwhile music experience for our students. From one director to another, thank you and I commend you for your creativity and resilience.

Westmont's Fall Choral Festival is normally a wonderful opportunity to gather, learn, and make music together. As you might imagine, this year will have to look a little different. Nonetheless, we hope that what we have planned could still be of great benefit to you and your students. See below for a summary of what's included in the "package" for participating choirs this year, with more details about submissions and scheduling on the following page. Of course, while all four elements are included, you are welcome to choose the ones that suit your purposes.

Both due to our virtual format, as well as in support of the music education programs in our community, we are waiving registration fees for participating ensembles in this year's festival. Of course, we are only able to serve a limited number of ensembles, so applicants will be accepted on a first-come, first-serve basis.

A.) Choral Video Clinic: We'd love to hear you sing! Send us a video of your ensemble singing, whether past or present, and one of our directors will send back a "clinician video," full of thoughts, ideas, and feedback. Submit your video by October 14, and we'll get back to you by October 26. See following page for further instructions for submission.

B.) Early Streaming of Westmont's Friday Concert Series: Westmont Choirs will be broadcasting a feature performance on Friday, October 30, but as a participating choir in our Fall Choral Festival, you will have exclusive early access starting October 28 to stream a Westmont Choral performance special feature, perfect for sharing with your students in conjunction with our classroom visit.

C.) Visiting your virtual rehearsal: One of our directors would be delighted to come visit your virtual classroom any day of the week of October 26. We'd be happy to work with you in however you'd like to use the time, whether teaching a particular topic, sharing about singing in choir after high school, and/or a Q&A for your students. If you'd like, we'd be happy to "bring along" some Westmont students who can share experiences from the student perspective as well.

D.) Mass Virtual Choir: We're keeping our annual tradition of a mass choir piece alive with a virtual performance of Lutkin's *The Lord Bless You and Keep You*. See attached document for submission instructions.

Please fill out this [registration form](#) by Friday Oct. 2 if you would like to participate, and see below for more information on submitting materials.

Once again, I hope you will join us for our Fall Choral Festival, a unique one to be sure! If you have any questions, feel free to email me at dgee@westmont.edu

Warm regards,
Daniel Gee

Assistant Professor of Music, Westmont College
Director, Westmont College Choir and Chamber Singers

PROGRAM DETAILS AND SUBMISSION INSTRUCTIONS

Please read the following carefully for each element of Westmont's Fall Choral Festival. Your choir is welcome to participate in all or any of the following. Please indicate your choices on your [registration form](#).

Timeline

Friday, October 2: Fill out registration form

Wednesday, October 14:

Choral Video Clinic videos due

Chorister videos singing *The Lord Bless You* due

Friday, October 23: Westmont directors send back clinician videos

Week of October 26-30:

Westmont Directors available to visit classes

Wednesday, October 28:

Westmont Choral Concert special feature content available

Choral Video Clinic

Please submit your **video** and a **pdf score** to Mandy Kellogg (akellogg@westmont.edu) by Oct. 14, preferably in the form of a YouTube link. Video files attached in the email, or in the form of a link to a shared Google Drive folder are both acceptable. Due to time constraints, we can only commit to giving comments to one work (or up to 5 minutes of music). Your clinician's video will be returned to you by Oct. 23 in the form of an unlisted YouTube link.

Our clinicians for this year will include:

Dr. Michael Shasberger, Adams Chair of Music and Worship

Daniel Gee, Director of the Westmont College Choir and Chamber Singers

Dr. Steve Hodson, Professor of Music and Artistic Director of the Santa Barbara Master Chorale

Dr. Matthew Roy, Co-director of the Westmont Choral Union

Karen Janzen, Co-director of the Westmont Choral Union

Exclusive Early Streaming of Westmont's Friday Concert Series

A video link will be sent to you before 8am on Oct. 28.

Visiting your virtual rehearsal

If you'd like a Westmont director to visit your virtual rehearsal, please indicate in your registration form 2-3 possible times, and we will match you with someone who is available to come. We'd be happy to work with you in however you'd like to use the time, whether teaching

a particular topic, sharing about singing in choir after high school, and/or a Q&A for your students. If you'd like, we'd be happy to "bring along" some Westmont students who can share experiences from the student perspective as well.

Mass Virtual Choir

Westmont Alumnus John Butler will be producing our mass choir performance of *The Lord Bless you and keep you*. His instructions for directors and singers are included in the following pages. Please email Daniel Gee (dgee@westmont.edu) and John Butler (jbutler@westmont.edu) your list of singers and voice parts that will be participating in the video.

Choristers will be sharing their video via Google drive directly with John (jbutler@westmont.edu). Please make sure your singers follow his instructions carefully in the submission of their videos, including the hard deadline of Oct. 14, 11:59PM. We cannot guarantee inclusion of videos submitted after this deadline or that do not follow the guidelines specified.

Participant Instructions

- Practice
 - Part-specific recordings will be accessible to you via [this link](#)
 - Memorize your part, or at least know it well enough that you are not looking at your music constantly.
 - Once you have practiced extensively with the recording, it's time to record your participant video.
- Record your participant video
 - Find a quiet, well lit, uncluttered area in your house (or wherever you are) and wear something that you are comfortable being seen by lots of people in.
 - NOTE: if your clothing contains offensive graphics or logos, your video will not be included or you will be asked to retake the video.
 - You will need **three devices** for this
 - Your phone (or other video recording device)
 - A laptop, desktop computer, or tablet (viewing device)
 - Headphones or earphones
 - **Step 1:** ON YOUR VIEWING DEVICE, plug in your headphones and leave one ear out so you can hear yourself. Then, navigate to the practice videos and select your part.
 - **Step 2:** Once you have found the video that you would like to record to, position your phone **HORIZONTALLY** and check the framing to ensure you are visible and framed nicely.
 - **Step 3: Press record** on your recording device
 - **Step 4:** Press play on the viewing device, the video will then play your starting pitches and prompt you to clap.

- SING BEAUTIFULLY! Smile and sing along just as you would if you were in an in-person choir. Project and have good vowels. Remember all the things your directors have taught you.
- Upload your video
 - Upload your video to google drive
 - Follow this link if you do not know how to do this:
<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=kb2NbTCFKHk>
- Rename your video
 - Tap the three dots on the top right of the file that you've just uploaded.
 - Click "Rename"
 - Please follow this nomenclature:
Last name.First name.Voice part
 - EX. Butler.John.Bass
- Share it with John Butler (the video editor)
 - Tap the three dots again.
 - Click the "Share" icon
 - In "Add people or groups" type:
jbutler@westmont.edu
 - Click the blue arrow on the middle right of the screen and you are done!

YOUR VIDEO MUST BE SUBMITTED BY 11:59PM ON OCT. 14

Director Instructions

- Provide your students with the link to the practice files.
 - Editing permissions are such that anyone with the link can view the practice files.
 - This is the link

https://drive.google.com/drive/folders/1WF3R7NwSwJn7_7pa9b1OvtIsVOqO-yCL?usp=sharing

- Provide Daniel Gee and John Butler with a complete list of the names and voice parts of your students that are participating. This is to ensure none of the students are accidentally left out.
- Any other questions can be directed to
 - Daniel Gee dgee@westmont.edu
 - John Butler jbutler@westmont.edu and text/call anytime at 805-708-2226