



Dear Colleague:

We are delighted to announce the **2025 Delaware ACDA Children's Honor Choir Festival** will be held on **March 14th & 15th, 2025 at Newark High School**. Our guest conductor this year will be Ryan Doyle Valdés. Ryan Doyle Valdés is an interdisciplinary singer, conductor, and administrator currently living and working in Montréal, Québec, Canada. A second-generation Dominican/Cuban-American, Ryan cares deeply about research in cross-cultural choral pedagogy and presenting music from Latin and non-Western composers. Ryan is a Delaware native and got his start as a participant in the Delaware ACDA Children's Honor Choir as a 4th grader! We are so excited to have him back in Delaware to conduct the ensemble that launched his passion for choral music!

*This letter contains a lot of important information and some changes from previous years. Thank you for taking the time to read it!*

You are invited to **select** singers in **grades 4-6** to be a part of this festive weekend for treble voices. Recommended criteria for interested singers:

- Ability to sing **Do-re-mi** a cappella (key of C) with accurate pitches and good tone quality
- Accurate tonal memory (a cappella response to pitches on piano; ascending/descending triads)
- Willingness to work with peers and adults
- Aptitude for success with long rehearsals

To ensure a balanced ensemble, we ask that you send an equal number of Soprano (please also specify Soprano 1 and 2 for any possible three part pieces on the Director's Google Form) and Altos, **but no more than 15 voices total**. The maximum number of singers that can be accepted is 150. If your [Director's Registration Form](#) is submitted past the due date of **November 1, 2024**, we cannot guarantee that your students will be able to participate and your check will be returned. Feel free to check in with one of our event chairs ahead of time to see where our numbers are prior to submitting your materials. There is a possibility that we will be able to add more voices depending on numbers.

*In order for students to participate, their **director must be a member of ACDA** (applications found at [www.acda.org](http://www.acda.org)). There is a **nonrefundable \$60 registration fee for each student**, which includes; lunch, snacks and drinks for singers on Saturday, an Honor Choir t-shirt to be worn for the concert, octavos, and a practice recording (music/recordings will be sent to the director for distribution). **Concert dress for students will be** black pants and black flat shoes with the Honor Choir t-shirt, which will be provided. New this year: we will NOT be charging an admission fee for guests/family members to attend the concert this year, however, we will have a QR code in the program for optional donations.*

Attached you will find the 2025 Registration Form, which each participant will need completed with emergency contact information. Please collect this information from your students and mail it in with your payment, so we can have emergency contacts for each child, if need be.

We request that the **Director's Google Form** is submitted and the completed 2025 Registration Form & payments are postmarked no later than **November 1, 2024**.

The Director's Google Form can be found by clicking [HERE](#). We do ask that you complete this Google Form in addition to sending in the physical Registration Form with emergency contact information for each child and your payment. Please mail your Registration Forms and payment to **Kelly Busovsky: Caravel Academy / 2801 Del Laws Road / Bear, DE 19701**. If you foresee any conflicts with this requested due date of November 1, 2024, please email one of the event chairs.

Students will rehearse on Friday, March 14th from 6:15 - 8:30 PM at Newark High School. Registration will begin at 5:45 PM. Students will continue rehearsing at Newark High School on Saturday, March 15th from 9:00 AM - 4:00 PM. Registration will begin at 8:30 AM. The festival concert will take place at 4:00 PM and is open to the public, with **no admission fee (new this year)**.

Lastly, we kindly ask that all directors with students participating in the weekend please sign up to lend a hand to ensure the fluidity and success of this event for our students. **Please note: To ensure that students are supervised and have a "point person" in case of emergency, we ask that each school has an adult representative (director, caregiver, or staff member) cleared to supervise children present on both Friday evening and Saturday.** If you are unable to attend on Friday and/or Saturday, please let us know if you need assistance finding a representative for your students.. We will send out a form via email regarding volunteering as we get closer to the event. You will receive clock hours in PDMS as well! Thank you in advance for your help and consideration.

All communication with directors will be made via email over the next few months, so please be sure to check your inboxes for news and updates! Additionally, feel free to share information regarding this event with your colleagues who may be a new teacher or not involved with DE ACDA yet. If you have any questions, please do not hesitate to reach out. We look forward to another successful year of providing a special choral experience for our young singers!

Sincerely,

Kelly H. Busovsky and Jennifer Kowalski

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