

Greetings Music Teachers and Choral Directors,

It is an honor to invite you to the AzACDA's annual Cantaremos Honor Choir Festival. This event serves as an exceptional way to kick off the school year, offering a high-caliber musical experience for singers in grades 5-9 designed to challenge your students and ignite their passion for choral excellence.

Founded in 2005 by the visionaries Ashley Ricks and Dr. Bruce Chamberlain, Cantaremos was built on the belief that a transformative festival experience could inspire middle school musicians to elevate their artistry. Our mission is to provide an uplifting, professional environment where students can grow, ultimately empowering them to carry that newfound energy and confidence back to your school programs. With over 5,000 young musicians served across Arizona since our inception, we are proud to continue this legacy of fostering musical growth and community.

This year's festival will be held on Saturday, November 21, 2026 at Cactus High School (6330 W Greenway Rd, Glendale, AZ 85306). Our commitment to musical excellence is rooted in the belief that every student deserves a transformative experience. By hosting the festival in the West Valley this year at Cactus High School in Glendale, we are thrilled to expand our footprint and improve accessibility for our schools in the west, while continuing to unite talented young musicians from across the entire Phoenix metropolitan area. We look forward to creating a vibrant, inclusive environment that celebrates the unique contributions of students from every corner of the valley.

We are incredibly fortunate to welcome an outstanding roster of guest conductors who bring deep expertise and artistic passion to this year's festival. Their collective leadership and dedication to choral artistry will undoubtedly provide a rigorous, inspiring, and unforgettable educational environment for our young musicians. They are:

5-6 Treble Choir: Lisa Rittenhouse, Phoenix Boys Choir
 7-9 Tenor-Bass: Ryan Phillips, Arizona Repertory Singers
 7-9 Treble Choir: Taryn Tidwell, Shepherd Junior High School

Audition Requirements: The teacher is responsible for preparing and recording the students doing the following tasks: 1. Singing a major scale (A Cappella) on Solfege (Ascending & Descending) 2. Singing the appropriate excerpt from the repertoire. Sheet music of the excerpt is to be provided to the teacher to be shared with their students. We intend to upload accompaniment tracks and part tracks. Please see rubric scales to observe all the judging criteria for the audition.

Voice Part	Solfege Scale	Excerpt
Treble 1	E Major	"Only I" mm. 15- 38 (both parts take high C in mm. 37-38)
Treble 2	C Major	
Tenor 1	Any Key	"Come Travel With Me" mm. 21-36
Tenor 2	Any Key	
Bass	Any Key	
Soprano 1	F Major	"Dum Spiro Spero" mm. 84-99
Soprano 2	E Major	
Alto	D Major	

Audition Submission Process: Recordings need to be in MP3 format and submitted through Opus Events, an online submission website. You will need your ACDA membership # and password. Your user name is usually in this format: "Firstname_Lastname". Your membership # can be found on the mailing label of your Choral Journal above your name.

- Step 1: Go to www.opusevent.com. Select AzACDA Cantaremos Honor Choir Festival.
- Step 2: If this is your first time using opus events, create a new login. As you create a new login, you will be asked to provide your ACDA membership # and email. The email you provide MUST BE the same one that is tied to your ACDA account.
- Step 3: You will need to pay the school audition fee FIRST before you are able to upload

auditions.

Under "Category", select the option "Schools-DO THIS FIRST!" to complete the payment.

- Step 4: Ensure your email address is correct - this is how we will communicate with you throughout the festival process. Input all required information.
- Step 5: Complete the recordings for the scale and the excerpt.
- Step 6: Upload the .mp3 files of audition recordings - *Make sure to record each item separately.* Click "Save Changes" button in the top right corner frequently.

Auditions will be open from August 17th and close September 18th at 11:59PM.

Please remember that those singers who audition are expected to attend the festival if accepted. Do not allow singers to audition if they have a conflict the day of the festival.

Registration: Accepted singers will be announced by October 2, 2026. Each accepted singer needs to pay a \$40 registration fee that must be submitted by October 28th, 2026. *This fee is due from every singer who is accepted, regardless of if they can no longer attend the festival.* The fee will include the cost of the sheet music, black folder and lunch for each student. We will email links to digital versions of the music immediately after acceptance so that students can begin learning the music right away.

Payment Process: All payments this year are through OpusEvents via credit card. If you must use a check or a PO, it can be done by reaching out to treasurer@azacda.org. **Cost is: \$40 per School/Organization for ACDA Members or \$50 for Non-ACDA members. The participation fee is \$40/accepted chorister.**

Preparation: Teachers will be responsible for preparing their students to sing the specified pieces for the November 21st festival. Pieces should be note and rhythm perfect by the festival. This will give clinicians the opportunity to truly make music with the students rather than just go over parts. The number of before or after school rehearsals is at the discretion of each teacher. Students should be prepared to practice on their own time.

Day of the Festival: Teachers will need to be present at the festival all day on Saturday, November 21st. Registration begins at 8:30 am, rehearsals will start promptly at 9:00 am. Teachers are needed to assist with registration, supervising, solo auditions, sectionals, etc. Singers should come in comfortable clothes and shoes. Each singer should bring:

- 2 pencils
- Water bottle
- *Correct concert attire*

Concert: The concert is open to the public. Tickets to the 4:00 pm concert can be purchased at registration or at the door for \$5 each. This year's concert location is at Cactus High School I (6330 W Greenway Rd, Glendale, AZ 85306)

Concert Attire:

5-6 Treble: PROVIDED Cantaremos T-Shirt, black modest concert bottoms, and dress shoes.

7-9 Treble: Black modest concert dress or black blouse/skirt, black dress shoes.

7-9 Tenor-Bass: Black dress shirt, black dress pants, black belt, black socks, and black dress shoes.

Please note: Students in the 5-6 treble choir will be provided a t-shirt as it is part of their required performance uniform. However, the t-shirt will now be an optional purchase for any student in the 7-9 choirs, as it is not part of their performance uniform. A link will be provided for 7-9th grade singers, families and the community if they wish to purchase a 2026 Cantaremos T-Shirt at a later date.

We look forward to seeing you at this year's Cantaremos Festival. Feel free to contact us with any questions!

Sincerely,

Your Cantaremos Chairs,

Travis White (travis.white@boyschoir.org) and

Ilene Lieberman (lieberman.ilene@littletonaz.org)