Dear Director,

The Ontario Vocal Festival is very pleased that you will be participating this year in the Galt Concert/Chamber regional festival. The response this year has once again been tremendous! A total of 46 choirs representing 22 schools and community groups will be participating. We are looking forward to another great festival at Galt Collegiate Institute! Please take a moment to read through all of the enclosed material. All of this information will be posted on the OVF website on the Concert/Chamber page should you need to refer to it online. In addition to this letter, you should find the following:

- General OVF information
- Information on the Cambridge Concert/Chamber Festival and Galt Collegiate Institute
- Brief Bio sheet
- Leadership pin sheet
- Directions to Galt Collegiate

You may wish to fill out the bio sheet and leadership pin information before arriving at the festival.

As many of you know, the focus of the OVF has always been on music education rather than competition. The festival strives to promote respect and collegiality amongst all participants, and to provide an atmosphere of friendship and sharing. To this end, we select renowned clinicians who themselves were, or are, music educators, and who share this philosophy. This year’s exceptional lineup includes Greg Jasperse, Lisa Ward, Scott Leithead and Mark Vuornen. Read their bios at www.ontariovocalfestival.com

**Feature Events**

Two special events are scheduled for the noon hour in Tassie Hall on both festival days. On Monday February 28, Dr. Lee Willingham will be directing the Laurier Singers from Wilfrid Laurier University. On Tuesday March 1, Dr. Leonard Enns will be directing the Chapel Choir from Conrad Grebel College, University of Waterloo.

The Ontario Vocal Festival features a wide variety of choral groups from all over southwestern Ontario. This year there are choirs ranging from 10 to 200 from senior public schools to high schools. We hope that you and your students will take in as much of the festival as possible and share in the “Spirit of Voice”. Spectators are welcome, and there is no admission charge.

See you at the festival!

Bob Stalder
Coordinator
OVF Cambridge

www.ontariovocalfestival.com
General OVF Festival Information

General

The Ontario Vocal Festival was founded by music teachers from Durham County in 1984. Since that one-day festival, the OVF has grown into a five day Concert/Chamber Festival, as well as a two day Vocal Jazz Festival. These festivals take place across Southern Ontario, from Cambridge to Bowmanville to Barrie. OVF has always stressed education rather than competition, and to this end has provided first-class clinicians from across Canada and the U.S. to work with each choir. To further emphasize the non-competitive nature of the festival, OVF does not rank choirs, or even apply a visible standard to the performance. Each group will receive a photo taken in Tassie Hall. Because OVF is a regional festival of MusicFest Canada, choirs may be invited to participate at the national finals of MusicFest Canada. The decision to invite a group is made by the OVF Board of Directors, in consultation with the clinicians. The group’s performance, as well as the clinic, are factors in this decision. Groups receiving an invitation to MusicFest Canada will be notified by email within 5 days of the festival. In addition to the Concert/Chamber and Jazz Festivals, OVF offers a one-day vocal jazz directors workshop in the fall and a three-day Choral Conductor’s Summer Symposium in August.

The OVF Experience

Participants and directors have, over the years, commented on how positive the experience of performing is at OVF. This is because choirs perform in an atmosphere of collegiality and sharing. Our clinicians make a lasting impression on all members of the choir. In addition, listening to the various groups at the festival is both fun and educational. The OVF experience is consistent at all of our festival venues – concert/chamber and jazz, so you can count on the same quality choral experience wherever you are performing!

Arrival

When you arrive at OVF you should check in at the registration desk. There, you will receive a personalized schedule that includes the times and locations of your warm-up, performance and clinic, as well as a festival schedule. At this time you will be asked if you wish to award an OVF Leadership Pin to one of your choir members. If so, you will need to hand in the completed form to the registration desk.

You will be asked to report (with all choir members) back to the registration desk thirty-five minutes before your performance time. You will meet your student guide who will take you through the warm-up, performance and clinic. At this time you will need to submit the group bio, (including your program selections) so that the MC can introduce your group. If possible, the bio should be completed before arriving at the festival. Two copies of each selection must be submitted to your student guide at this time.

Warm-up

When you meet your student guide, they will take you to your warm-up room. You will have about 25 minutes to warm-up. The student guide will return to take you to the performance hall. At the same time, they will collect 2 copies of each of your pieces (for the clinicians) and your group bio.

Performance

You will have a total of 20 minutes to perform your program. A grand piano is provided for the accompanist. If you need extra stands and chairs for instrumentalists, please let the stage manager know just prior to going
into the performance venue. While you are performing, 2 clinicians will be listening and commenting. One will be providing live-recorded comments, while the other will provide written comments. You will receive the following recordings of your performance and clinic:

- CD recording of your performance with clinician comments
- CD stereo recording of your performance
- DVD recording of your performance
- DVD recording of your clinic

Just prior to the start of your performance, a group photo will be taken in Tassie Hall. A framed 8x10 copy of this photo will be included in your final package.

**Clinic**
Following your performance, your student guide will take you to a clinic room where you will spend 30 minutes working with one of our distinguished clinicians. Because OVF strives to find the best clinicians in North America, this is a most positive and educational experience. Your clinic will be recorded on DVD. At this time your clinician will award the leadership pin (optional). Following your clinic, you can return to Tassie Hall to hear other choirs perform.

**Wrap-up**
Your music, photo and recorded/written comments will be delivered to the registration desk following your performance. **Please make sure you have everything before you leave the festival.** If your package is not at the registration desk, an OVF staff member will find it for you.

While the OVF performance/clinic experience takes a total of only 80 minutes, there is more to enjoy at the festival. Plan on attending the noon-hour feature concert, and take in as many groups as you can. If there is a questionnaire in your package, please take a moment and fill it out. If you finish it before you leave, please submit it to the registration desk. We look forward to your input.

For more information, visit our website at: [www.ontariovocalfestival.com](http://www.ontariovocalfestival.com)

Have a great OVF experience!

**Awards and Scholarships**

In a continuing effort to develop choral skills, the Ontario Vocal Festival is pleased to announce the following award:

**Promising Director Bursary**

The Ontario Vocal Festival will award bursaries equal to the cost of registration to the OVF Summer Choral Symposium to one director at each of the concert/chamber festivals who demonstrates good technical and musical skills, as well as a desire to improve. The OVF Board of Directors, in consultation with the clinicians will choose suitable candidates. Recipients will be notified shortly after the completion of the festivals.
Additional Information about the Galt Concert/Chamber OVF

Important! Please read.

Bio Sheet
A brief bio needs to be filled out for each group prior to your warm-up time. Your personal guide will ask you for it at the beginning of the warm-up. You may use the sheet provided in this package, or prepare your own.

Leadership Pin
Directors have the option of awarding an OVF leadership pin to a deserving member of their ensemble. The recipient’s name should be given at the Registration desk upon arrival. The pin is presented by the clinician during your clinic. Directors may choose not to award a pin. A nomination sheet has been provided for you in this package.

Parking
Parking at Galt Collegiate is challenging – very few spaces for visitor parking. If you have parents driving and they are staying, have them park along Dando Street, which runs alongside of the school. Please do not park in the numbered spaces in front of the school or beside Tassie Hall, as these are reserved for staff.

Notes for Directors and Chaperones
Since the festival takes place during school time, please do not let your choir members wander around the school. Take the basement route to the cafeteria, which is located at the opposite end of the school to Tassie Hall. Please do not leave large groups of students unsupervised - it is not the responsibility of Galt Collegiate staff to look after them! When lining up to go on stage, or to enter Tassie Hall, please help to keep the noise to a minimum, as it is very distracting inside the performance area. Your personal attention to this would be greatly appreciated. Entry into Tassie Hall will be permitted between groups only. Before leaving the festival, make sure you have your music, plaque, audio and videotapes and clinician comments.

Coats and Personal Belongings – There is only one classroom available for coat storage. If at all possible, please leave coats on the bus. Bring as little as possible to the festival, and keep valuables with you. Every year we end up with an extensive collection of orphaned clothes, music and articles.

Food - There is a cafeteria at the school, and some fast food places (Tim's, KFC, Subway, Taco Bell) are within walking distance of the school. Although the cafeteria at GCI will be prepared for extra students, they cannot provide lunch for all festival participants. Snacks are available. You may bring a lunch and eat it in the cafeteria.

Admission - There is no admission charge to listen. Parents and the public may attend clinics as well. Chairs are available in the clinic rooms.
Please write a brief bio of your group and your vocal program that our emcee may use to introduce you to the clinicians and the audience. Please include a list of the pieces that you will perform along with the composer/arranger and publisher. If you are using a voicing other than SATB, please note that on this sheet as well. You may prepare this on another sheet in advance if you wish.

Please have this ready before you enter the warm-up room. Thank you.

GROUP NAME: _________________________________________________________________________

SCHOOL: ___________________________________________________________________________

DIRECTOR: ___________________________________________________________________________

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<th>Selection</th>
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Leadership Pin

Leadership pins are available for directors who wish to acknowledge an outstanding member of their choir. Please fill out this form and hand it in to the registration desk when you register or to your student guide before leaving the warm-up room. Your clinician will make the presentation during your clinic. The awarding of the leadership pin is optional, and done at the discretion of the director. *(Please note that only one pin may be awarded per group)*

Recipient: __________________________________________________________

Group: ______________________________________________________________

School: ______________________________________________________________
Directions to Galt Collegiate Institute
200 water Street North
Cambridge, On N1R 6V2
Tel. 519-623-3600

From the East, West or North
Take Hwy 401 to the Hwy 24 south Brantford exit. Go south on 24 (Hespeler R.) approx. 5 km (lots of lights) until you reach a big intersection with Hwy 8 (Dundas/Coronation St.). Go straight through the intersection and turn right at the first light (Dando St.). You are now at the school. Drive up along the front of the school to the middle entrance door and unload.

From the South
Take Hwy 24 into downtown Galt and follow Ainslie Ave up the hill and under the railway tracks. Galt Collegiate will appear immediately on your left. Turn left on Dando (just past the school) and pull up to the main doors in front of the school.

Parking at Galt Collegiate.
Parking for visitors is almost non-existent at GCI. Public parking is available in the lot off Dando St. Please do not park in any numbered spots beside or in front of the school, as they are reserved for staff. Buses cannot be parked at the school. There are a number of malls along Hespeler Road just north of the school that can be used for bus parking.

Google Maps link:
http://maps.google.ca/maps?f=q&source=s_q&hl=en&geocode=&q=200+Water+Street+North,+Cambridge,+Ontario&q=0&sll=49.891235,-97.15369&sspn=18.374739,56.25&ie=UTF8&hnear=200+Water+St+N,+Cambridge,+Waterloo+Regional+Municipality,+Ontario+N1R+6V2&ll=43.372363,-80.329199&spn=0.020215,0.054932&z=14

Directions to all OVF festivals are posted on our website: www.ontariovocalfestival.com/