Dear Music Directors,

Every November, students from across North Dakota (and surrounding states) come together on the Minot State University campus to rehearse and perform with the finest middle and high school instrumentalists and vocalists from around our region during the Northwest Festival of Music. This year, the 37th Annual Northwest International Festival of Music is scheduled to occur on Friday, November 4th and Saturday, November 5th, 2016.

Students who are selected by audition to participate in one of the Northwest Festival Ensembles will engage in two days of large group music rehearsals under the leadership of world-class conductors, participate in small sectional rehearsals led by vocal and instrumental specialists, attend an afternoon concert showcasing the various Minot State University collegiate ensembles, and will be invited to attend a free evening performance by Fubuki Daiko, a professional Japanese Taiko Drumming group (http://www.fubuki.ca) in Ann Nicole Nelson Hall. The two-day festival culminates in a final concert with performances by all of the Northwest Festival honor ensembles.

2016 Northwest International Festival Ensemble Conductors:

Northwest Festival Honor Band
Dr. David Rolandson - Director of Bands, Minot State University

Northwest Festival Mixed Choir
Dr. Carlos Vieira – Director of Choral Activities, Minot State University

Northwest Festival Honor Women’s Choir
Dr. Rebecca Petrik – Assistant Professor of Music Education, Minot State University

Northwest Festival Nova Choir
Ms. Peggy Bartunek – Former Choral Director, Grafton High School (Retired)

Audition Information is located at: http://www.minotstateu.edu/nwmusic/

**All recorded auditions MUST be postmarked by Wednesday, September, 28th.

Those students who plan to audition live on the MSU Campus, the following dates/times are available:

September 27th, 2016: 4:00 p.m. - 6:00 p.m. (instrumentalists)  
                      4:00 p.m. - 8:00 p.m. (vocalists)

September 28th, 2016: 4:00 p.m. - 9:00 p.m. (vocalists and instrumentalists)

To schedule live NW Festival auditions, please contact the Minot State University Division of Music Office at (701) 858-3185 or via email music@minotstateu.edu.
Northwest International Festival of Music Percussion Workshop

On Friday November 4th, guest clinicians Fubuki Daiko will teach the fundamentals of Taiko Drumming in hands-on workshops for students and interested music teachers. The event will open with a drum circle at 9:15 a.m., then continue with workshops in the morning and afternoon. Other workshop topics include: “Rudimental Snare Drum: The Most Important Rudiment” and “Percussion Ensemble Fixes: Five Points to a Star” with Avis Veikley and the MSU Percussion Ensemble.

Band directors are encouraged to attend and to bring their band percussion sections; participants do not have to audition and need not be in the Festival band. Sessions will run concurrently with festival activities.

Please contact Avis Veikley (avis.veikley@minotstateu.edu) if you have questions or if would like to participate in the percussion workshop on November 4th, 2016.

Minot State University Music Scholarship Auditions

The Minot State University Division of Music will also be holding scholarship auditions for High School Seniors during the Northwest Festival of Music. Minot State University offers significant scholarship opportunities to students majoring or minoring in music. In addition, non-majors and minors are eligible to receive scholarship awards for participation in large ensembles (e.g., band, choir, orchestra) while attending MSU.

MSU Scholarship Auditions are scheduled for the following dates/times:

- **Thursday, November 3rd, 2016** 5:00 p.m. – 7:00 p.m.
- **Friday, November 4th, 2016** 5:00 p.m. – 6:30 p.m.

**A pizza dinner hosted by Minot State University Music Majors will be provided for students auditioning for scholarships on Friday November 4th. To schedule a scholarship audition, please contact the Division of Music at (701) 858-3185 or via email at music@minotstateu.edu.**

Finally, we guarantee a unique, challenging, and inspiring experience for all Northwest Festival participants!! Please encourage your students to audition for one of our Northwest Festival Honor Ensembles.

Sincerely,

David M. Rolandson, Ph.D.
Director of Bands
Minot State University
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Carlos Vieira, D.M.A.
Director of Choral Activities
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