Dear Colleague:

We are pleased to announce the 27th annual Southern Illinois University Carbondale Heartland Honor Bands and Choir Festival, to be held on the SIUC campus on February 12 and 13, 2016. The festival will feature two honor bands and an honor choir: **Symphonic Band** (grades 11 and 12), **Concert Band** (grades 9 and 10), and **Honor Choir** (grades 9–12).

You may nominate as many of your deserving students as you wish for each band and the choir. *In order to assure the best possible educational experience, ensembles sizes will be limited based upon instrumentation and voicing.* Please recommend outstanding students in grades 11 and 12 for the **Symphonic Band**, talented students in grades 9 and 10 for the **Concert Band**, and exceptional students in grades 9–12 for the **Honor Choir**. Based on the large number of schools now participating in the festival, we will accept at least one of your top five nominees for either band and at least one of your top five nominees for the choir, *although not necessarily your top nomination.*

**Students must be available for ALL rehearsals and the performance in order to participate!**

*Please check the dates for our festival with your students before you nominate them. Help your students understand the implied commitment (both financial and musical) in accepting your nomination and the need to honor that commitment if selected.* All nominated students will be expected to participate if selected.

**PLEASE be selective when choosing students that can make this commitment.**

Players selected will receive part assignments and music when they are notified of the acceptance in January. Auditions for chair placement, based on the music to be performed, will be held on Friday morning for the **Symphonic Band** only.

**Nomination are DUE BY Friday, January 15, 2016.**

*This is absolutely the last day we can accept nominations.*

We will choose the ensembles and mail the music out the following week!

**NEW THIS YEAR! ** **NEW THIS YEAR! ** **NEW THIS YEAR!**

**ONLINE NOMINATIONS**

**Fees**
In order to maintain the high standards held by the Heartland Honor Bands and Choir Festival, registration fees will be **$30.00 per student** accepted for the festival. If a student is nominated by you and is accepted into the festival, the participation fees are due for that student whether they actually participate or not. You are welcome to pay these fees in advance, using the invoice we will provide when the ensemble rosters are mailed to you in mid-January. Please combine all of the registration fees from your school into a single check.

**Schedule**

An official, school-appointed chaperone (band/choir director and/or parent/legal guardian) **MUST remain on-campus while students are participating in the festival.**

A detailed schedule will be sent to all participants with their confirmation packets. In general, students will need to be on campus Friday from 8:00 A.M. to 4:30 P.M. and Saturday from 9:00 A.M. to 5:00 P.M. On Saturday, there will be two free concerts. The Heartland Honor Choir and the SIU Concert Choir will perform in Shryock Auditorium from 1:30–2:30 P.M. The Heartland Honor Symphonic and Concert Bands and the SIU Wind Ensemble will perform following the choir concert in Shryock Auditorium from 3:00–5:00 P.M.

We are certain that your students will benefit from this opportunity to do intensive work on challenging music. Please submit your nomination forms as soon as possible, **BY January 15, 2016.** If you have any questions, please contact us by e-mail as listed below. We are looking forward to another great festival this year!

Sincerely,

Dr. Christopher Morehouse  
Director of Bands  
cmoreh@siu.edu

Dr. George Brozak  
Associate Director of Bands  
gbrozak@siu.edu

Dr. Susan Davenport  
Director of Choral Activities  
sgds@siu.edu