



Stetson University Choral Festival

Information and Guidelines

October 2-3, 2026

Updated 9/25/26

General Overview

The Stetson University Choral Festival offers advanced instruction in choral performance and vocal expression for thriving musicians in grades 9-12. All participating students will prepare and perform exceptional choral literature with [Dr. Ryan Person](#), Director of Choral Activities, and [Dr. Pingyi Song](#), Associate Director of Choral Activities. Selected students may also participate in voice lessons with the esteemed university voice faculty. All Friday rehearsals, the Friday evening concert, and Saturday morning rehearsals will be held in Lee Chapel (Elizabeth Hall) at Stetson University. The Saturday afternoon rehearsals and evening performance will be held in the DeLand High School Auditorium (800 N Hill Ave, DeLand, FL 32724).

Registration

Each director may [register](#) as many balanced SATB quartets as they wish by **Wednesday, September 16**. This event is intended for students interested in preparing and refining advanced choral music. With this said, each school's finest musicians will have the most fulfilling experience and are strongly encouraged to participate. The per student registration fee is \$30, which includes instruction and Friday lunch and dinner for participating students and up to two directors or chaperones per school.

Payment

Once the registration form has been submitted, you may pay using one of the two payment forms, credit card or check. Please accurately calculate your official total -- \$30 per registered student – and pay online through the registration webpage or submit the receipt to your financial office for payment via check. If you require an invoice for payment, please email rperson@stetson.edu before you submit your request. All checks may be made out to *Stetson University School of Music* and the memo line may include “*Stetson Choral Festival.*” Checks may be mailed to:

Stetson University
421 N Woodland Blvd, Unit 8399
DeLand, FL 32723

Music Selections & Preparation Requirements

NEW THIS YEAR! All sheet music will be purchased by the high school director immediately following registration. Sheet music will not be mailed from Stetson to each school. To accommodate this change, we have lowered last year’s per student registration fee. As always, please understand that each selected musician must arrive at the festival having adequately internalized all pitches and rhythms in advance. Photocopying or sharing music between students is prohibited, and Stetson will not have extra music to provide at the festival.

Here is a list of the selected repertoire for your purchase:

[Measure Me, Sky!](#) (SATB divisi) – Jonathan Reid

[Senzeni Na?](#) - (SATB) Traditional isiZulu, arr. Michael Barrett

[A Powerful Voice](#) – (SAB) Daniel Brinsmead

[Be the Love](#) – (SATB) Kyle Pederson

Voice Lessons

Interested upperclassman students may be selected to experience a 30-minute private voice lesson with a Stetson voice faculty member. Interest may be expressed upon registration, and preference will be given to approximately 30 high school musicians. The lesson will include vocal and performance technique. Each lesson student may also choose to perform a prepared solo selection for their instructor. During this experience, they may be selected to sing their solo at the final Saturday evening Festival Concert. If selected, a collaborative pianist will be provided. All voice lessons will take place in Presser Hall, and a schedule will be available prior to the festival.

Directors' Chorus

The Directors' Chorus directed by Dr. Ryan Person & Dr. Pingyi Song will sing two SATB choral selections at Friday's evening concert. Printed sheet music will be provided at the festival, and two rehearsals will be held in Presser Hall Rm. 132 on Friday morning and afternoon.

Concert Attire

All students should perform in all black concert performance attire. This may include black garments that are used for your high school performances or other formal black options.

Performance Overview

Two concerts will take place during the festival, with the first held on Friday evening at 6 p.m. in Lee Chapel. This event will feature special performances by the Stetson Chorale, Hatter Choir, Stetson Opera Theatre, and Directors' Chorus. The Saturday evening concert will conclude the festival with performances by the Stetson University Concert Choir and High School Festival Choir beginning at 7 p.m. at DeLand High School. The public is welcome to attend both performances without tickets and free of charge. Here is the concert order:

- Stetson University Concert Choir
- Five-minute intermission
- Selected High School Soloists
- Five-minute intermission
- Festival Choir

Festival Check-in

Festival check-in will be held on Friday, October 2, from 9:00-9:45 a.m. Directors and students may check in at the registration table located inside the Presser Hall Atrium, which is located inside the main east entrance to Presser Hall (419 N. Woodland Blvd, DeLand). The facility is situated in the northeast corner of Woodland Blvd. and East Michigan Ave. At registration, each student and director(s) will be provided with a name badge.

Facilities and Parking

All rehearsals on Friday and Saturday morning will be held in Lee Chapel of Elizabeth Hall. The Saturday afternoon rehearsals will be held in the Deland High School Auditorium. Here is a [campus map](#) to assist. Also, here is more information about the [city of DeLand](#).

Meals & Campus Free Time

Students and up to two directors/chaperones per represented school may eat two meals on campus on Friday – lunch in the Carlton Union Building (CUB) Dining Hall and a pizza dinner in Palm Court. Meal options in the Dining Hall support those with food allergies, intolerances, or vegetarian/vegan needs. On Saturday, all students and directors will be responsible for eating lunch and dinner on their own. Students are also encouraged to visit the Stetson Bookstore in the CUB on Friday between 8 a.m and 4 p.m.

Lodging

Stetson will not arrange or provide student or director housing for this event. There are many [lodging options](#) located close to campus, and these may be reserved on your own.

Rehearsal Expectations & General Student Conduct

Full group choir rehearsals will be directed by Dr. Person and Dr. Song. Comfortable clothing may be worn during rehearsals, and students should arrive promptly with music, a pencil, and personal water bottle. Students are asked to remain focused on the task at hand by

demonstrating their finest rehearsal etiquette. Breaks will be provided during longer rehearsal sessions to keep minds and voices well.

Please remind your students that alcohol, tobacco products (including vapes), and other illegal substances are prohibited at Stetson University. Students in possession of any of these items will be immediately sent home at their own expense, and their school may be prohibited from future participation. Also, please remind your singers that classes will be in session across campus on Friday. To help minimize disruptions, we ask that festival participants remain in the music facilities and refrain from entering other academic buildings unless specifically directed as part of the festival. Thank you for helping us be respectful of the broader Stetson community during this event.