

Announcement regarding the 2019 Iowa All-State Chorus—

The 2019 All-State Chorus experience is going to be an exciting process that will feature exceptional repertoire and a world class conductor. One of the experiences that will be afforded students selected into the All-State Chorus is the experience of learning a work taught from scratch by the 2019 Iowa All-State Conductor at the All-State Festival using handsign solfege. Teaching a new work at the All-State Festival is not a new component. Teaching that work using handsign solfege is. **The audition process will not change.** Students accepted into the All-State Chorus, however, will need to be familiar with handsign solfege in order to learn this new work at the festival. Since solfege skills can't be learned in a day and will need to be in place prior to the students' arrival at the festival, ICDA has developed a plan to provide professional development opportunities for Iowa choral teachers to assist them in gaining the skills needed to assist their students in learning handsign solfege.

ICDA and IHSMA will share details of this comprehensive plan in early April. For now, we want Iowa choral teachers to know that they can participate in one-day workshops to be offered in both June and July in four locations throughout the state (Storm Lake, Waverly, Iowa City, Des Moines). The workshops will be available free of charge to ICDA members and for \$25 for non-ICDA members. The June workshops will be led by John Armstrong. Carol Krueger will present the July workshops. Dates and registration information will be shared soon. ICDA and IHSMA will also provide teaching materials for both teachers and students for their use in acquiring solfege skills.

It has become clear that Iowa choral teachers value music literacy skills and believe their students should have the literacy skills needed that allow them to be independent singers and lifelong learners. We believe that this gentle but substantive shift in emphasis at the 2019 All-State Festival, and the resources that will be provided, will develop leaders within our choral programs that have the necessary skills to help grow the musical literacy of our choral programs.

With deepest respect,

Alan Greiner, Executive Director
Iowa High School Music Association

Jill Wilson, President
Iowa Choral Directors Association