

**WESLEYAN HONOR STRINGS ORCHESTRA**

*February 9, 10, 11, 2017*

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Fall 2016

Dear Fellow Music Educator:

I am pleased to announce that the 2017 Wesleyan Honors Festival will be held on:

**February 9, 10, 11, 2017**

Personnel for the NWU Honor Strings Orchestra will be selected by digitally transferred audition from interested students grades 9-12. Our Guest Conductor for the WHF Honor Stings Orchestra will be:

**Tobin Stewart**

Tobin Stewart is the Symphony Orchestra Director and Assistant Professor of Music at Montana State University where he leads the orchestral studies program and teaches conducting and music education courses. Tobin's love for music and music education began as a student growing up in Montana. His education and teaching experience then developed in the Midwest at Saint Olaf College and the University of Nebraska- Lincoln, with teaching positions ranging from middle school to college in Omaha, Bellevue and Lincoln, Nebraska. Tobin now thoroughly enjoys helping new music educators find their groove in the teaching field. Before returning to his home state, Tobin ventured to the Bower School of Music at Florida Gulf Coast University as the Orchestra Director. Tobin remains active as a guest conductor with groups ranging from Middle School to Professional. This year conducting engagements include college and professional ensembles in China and Bulgaria. Under his direction, the MSU Symphony has been invited to perform at a Regional NAFME conference and a National College Orchestra Directors Association conference.

**PLEASE TAKE A FEW MOMENTS TO READ THE FOLLOWING INFORMATION VERY CAREFULLY.**

**Nebraska Wesleyan Honors String Orchestra Information**

**Before you submit auditions** please make sure your player(s) will be able to attend the Festival (Feb 9 - 11), and do NOT have another event/situation that will prevent them from coming to the

event they are invited. **Also, please be aware** that participants must attend ALL rehearsals during the Festival in order to be accepted and perform in the concert on February 11, 2017.

For the audition, students should play either two pieces of contrasting styles or one piece/movement if it contains at least two contrasting sections. Students should also play two-octave scales in the key(s) of the selections. Finally, there is a section on the application form to be completed by the High School Orchestra Director (or teacher) regarding the applicant's level of musicianship. I strongly urge you to use the comment section on the form, as this will have bearing on the determination of the Honors String Orchestra personnel. Applications must be submitted no later than **FRIDAY, DECEMBER 2, 2016**. *Please note: the on-line application will not be available until after October 15, 2016.* If you have questions, please e-mail me or call the Wesleyan Music Office at 402-465-2269.

If a student made All-State Orchestra in 2016, then they will not need to submit a formal audition. Only an application will be necessary. The orchestra director will simply need to verify this on the application form.

Please share this information with all of your students, and encourage them to audition. This will undoubtedly be a musical and educational experience they will never forget!

Best regards,

Rob Salistean  
Director of Lincoln Civic Orchestra  
Nebraska Wesleyan University

RS/kb