



## International Schools Choral Music Society

Latest News – September 2017

- **REPERTOIRE UPDATE FOR ISCMS XI**

So far for the ISCMS XI Festival in Suzhou, we have confirmed that we will be performing excerpts from *Carmina Burana* in the second half of the Gala Concert. More info soon on who will be joining us as soloists this year, and the remainder of the repertoire for Orchestra, Choir and Big Band.

- **JENKINS AWARD**

The Karl Jenkins award composition competition is open to any students from member schools. The deadline for entries is 15<sup>th</sup> November 2017. See separate document on the criteria for entry. This is a great challenge for IGCSE/MYP/A Level/IBDP students who are taking music, and the winner gets their piece performed at the ISCMS Gala Concert.

- **PRACTITIONER UPDATE**

Our excellent Artistic Director, Bob Hasty, will again be jetting in from Chicago for this year's festival and we are thrilled to be continuing to work with Bob, who brings challenge, professionalism and humour to our organisation!

In addition, we have a new Big Band director this year – Nathaniel Gao. Nathaniel is a Beijing-based Chinese-American Saxophonist, and he will be bringing his quartet to the festival this year, which means greater practitioner to student ratio and we are sure a great learning and professional music experience for our Big Band members.

- **ORCHESTRA & BIG BAND AUDITIONS**

Auditions for the ISCMS Orchestra and Big Band need to be submitted by every student – even those who have had a place in previous festivals.

These need to be uploaded to a video sharing site such as YouTube, QQ, Vimeo etc. The link then gets sent with the student registration form.

If you do not wish your auditions to be in the public domain, be sure to edit the settings to 'unlisted' or similar – so that only those with the link can find the audition video.

Even though the deadline for submission is in November it is worth getting your students thinking and preparing for this now!

- **UNSUCCESSFUL AUDITIONS**

For students who miss out on a place in the Orchestra or Big Band, they are automatically invited to be a part of the ISCMS Chorus. Hopefully teachers can encourage their students to take this opportunity, as singing in the chorus is a great musical experience too, and they will still get to experience this wonderful festival!

- **TEACHER PARTICIPATION**

As teachers, we can gain great PD from being part of ISCMS rehearsals and learning from the practitioners. Teachers who wish to sing in the chorus can indicate this in their registration. For Orchestra and Big Band, teachers still need to submit a video audition – this is so we can make sure we give opportunities first and foremost to students, but call on teachers if they have the instrument skills necessary to fill in any gaps!

- **REGISTRATIONS**

Registrations for all teachers and students open on 1<sup>st</sup> October and close on 20<sup>th</sup> November. Registrations submitted by 20<sup>th</sup> October will benefit from an early booking discount of 50 USD/350 RMB. Due to China tax laws, all schools in mainland China must be invoiced in RMB. Paul West will send info round for registration forms shortly before they open.

- **FINALLY...**

Thank you to all of you, the teachers, who support the festival and for all the hard work you put in to organising the festival trips for your students on top of your already heavy work loads! We look forward to seeing you all in Suzhou at the end of January 2018!