Dear New Students:

**Welcome to Georgetown University!** We had the pleasure of meeting some of you during campus visits this past academic year. This letter is to invite you to sing in the Festival Choir for the New Student Orientation Convocation on Sunday, August 27th, 2017. Your previous music experience and interest make you an excellent candidate for this ensemble. Performance in the Convocation Choir has many benefits. It provides an introduction to the music program at Georgetown, the ability to meet current students and the opportunity to move into your dorm before the rush of returning students.

Please find below the details about participating in the Convocation Choir:

**EARY ARRIVAL:**
Participants in the Convocation Choir are entitled to arrive early, on Wednesday, **August 23**th. In order for Convocation Choir participants to arrive early and to receive housing, I need to know the names of all participants no later than **5:00 PM Friday June 30th**. If you are interested in performing with us, PLEASE RESPOND briefly to:

Professor Frederick Binkholder Frederick.Binkholder@georgetown.edu

In your e-mail, please indicate the following:
* your full name
* your Net ID (your Georgetown e-mail address)
* GoCard # (nine digit GU id #)
* your voice part (including 1 or 2 if known)

**MEALS:**
Convocation Choir members who sign up by June 30th will have two free meals provided each day, Thursday August 24th and Friday August 25th. Semester meal plans are expected to begin Saturday August 26th.

**REHEARSAL SCHEDULE for NSO CHOIR:**

**Wednesday, August 23**

*Arrival to campus

*There will not be a formal rehearsal, however, each new singer needs to schedule a 10-minute voice placement with Professor Binkholder. The sign-up sheet will be posted outside Professor Binkholder’s office in New North GE-02. Voice placements will also be held in GE-02 at your assigned time.

**Thursday, August 24**

*Individual Voice placements (sign up at GE-02).
*12:00 PM – Department of Performing Arts Luncheon – Davis Center Lobby

* 6:00-9:00 PM – First ensemble rehearsal, in McNeir Auditorium.

Friday, August 25
*1:00-2:00 – Soprano Sectional, McNeir
*2:00-3:00 – Alto Sectional, McNeir
*3:00-4:00 – Tenor Sectional, McNeir
*4:00-5:00 – Bass Sectional, McNeir
* 6:00-6:45 PM – Second ensemble rehearsal in McNeir Auditorium.
* 7:00-9:00 PM – Ensemble rehearsal continues in McDonough Gym.

Saturday, August 26
* 9:30 -11:00 AM – Ensemble warm-up and rehearsal in McNeir Auditorium.
* 11:00 AM-12:00 noon – Lunch
* 12:00-2:00 PM – Rehearsal and sound check in McDonough Gym.

Sunday, August 27
* 10:30 AM – Call time for singers in McDonough Gym.
* 11:15-11:30 AM – Choral prelude.
* 11:30 AM-12:00 noon – Processional
* 12:00 noon – Start of ceremony.
* 2:00 PM – approximate end of ceremony.

REPERTOIRE:
PRELUDE:
Followers of the Lamb - Siegfried
Gentle Words - Siegfried
Singabahambayo – anon.
Freedom is coming – anon.
Wake Every Breath - Billings
Ubi Caritas – Maurice Duruflé
The Road not Taken – Randall Thompson
Ave Verum Corpus – W. A. Mozart
Keep your lamps – Thomas
I Hunger and Thirst – Siegfried

PROCESSIONAL
O Spirit All Embracing - Holst

PROGRAM
Star Spangled Banner (memorized)
Veni Creator Spiritus (memorized)
Simple Gifts (1st verse memorized)
Georgetown Alma Mater (memorized)

The ceremony will feature the national anthem, the *a cappella* chant “Veni, Creator Spiritus”, the Georgetown Alma Mater and Aaron Copland’s *Appalachian Spring* (“Simple Gifts”). You
will be provided with all of this music when you arrive at the first rehearsal. Yet, after the registration process, Professor Binkholder will send a pdf of all of the music so that you may prepare over the summer.

**PERFORMANCE ATTIRE:**
Attire for the Convocation Choir is black pants with plain, white, long-sleeved dress shirt (no short-sleeves, no spaghetti straps, no patterns). Black shoes, black socks/hose, black belt. Men are asked to wear a solid-colored tie (preferably a dark color). You only need to wear this performance attire on the day of the Convocation. The rest of the time, dress comfortably.

**LOCATIONS:**
McNeir Auditorium and Studio A are located on the first floor of New North. McDonough Gym is a short walk from New North. If you require special access (i.e., wheelchair ramp, etc.), please let us know so that we can make those arrangements with you directly.

Sincerely,

Frederick Binkholder, M.Mus., Associate Professor of the Practice & Music Director of the NSO Convocation.

Anthony DelDonna, Ph.D., Director, Music Program & Professor of Musicology.