

The Walden School Creative Musicians Retreat INFORMATION FOR CHORAL MUSICIANS

A week-long festival in New Hampshire, The Walden School Creative Musicians Retreat (CMR) is offered for composers, improvisers, performers, electronic musicians, choral musicians, and music teachers who want to spend a week immersed in music. In 2020, the festival will be held June 13-21.

Participants at the Creative Musicians Retreat have the opportunity for choral singing and training in daily choral rehearsals. Each choral rehearsal includes activities to develop natural body alignment, freedom of breath, confidence of intonation, diction, character, intention and ease of vocal production. The chorus at the Creative Musicians Retreat focuses on learning repertoire and choral technique but does not prepare for a public performance.

The goal of the Walden School CMR Chamber Chorus is to workshop, prepare and perform new choral music by CMR participants on the Composers Forums. The rehearsal process will open a dialogue between composer, conductor, and ensemble, focusing on issues in contemporary choral writing. The Chamber Chorus will meet each afternoon; participation (which is open to all participants) demands attendance at each rehearsal.

CORE OFFERINGS:

- Daily choral rehearsals
- Sing new music in chamber choir
- Write music for the chamber choir
- Perform new works written by composers at the retreat in the chamber choir
- Have conducting lessons or classes
- Attend pedagogy workshops
- Take contemporary topics classes

ADDITIONAL OFFERINGS:

- Study electronic music
- Attend master classes with the composer-in-residence
- Have composition and/or instrumental lessons
- Participate in improvisation workshops

FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

How big are the choirs?

The large choir is 50 voices and includes all CMR participants, faculty and staff. The chamber choir is typically twenty voices.

Can I take choral conducting lessons?

Yes! Choral conducting lessons and/or a choral conducting class will be offered at the retreat.

Can I write for the chamber choir?

Maybe. Each year, 3-5 participants write a new piece for choir that is rehearsed during the week and performed on a Composers Forum. If you want to do this, we encourage you to apply early and request this option, as choral composition slots do fill up each session.

Do I need to audition?

An audition is not required.

Typical day for a choral participant

Breakfast

9:00 – 10:10 Musicianship

10:25 – 11:35 Contemporary Topics

11:45 – 12:45 Chorus

Lunch

2:00-3:15 Electronic Music (optional)

3:30 – 4:45 Chamber Chorus

Dinner

Concerts, Forums, Improvisation Workshops

For more information, please visit www.waldenschool.org/creative-musicians-retreat.