



Meet the Composer Festival 2023

Laura Farnell

Heartland Youth Choir is producing our fifteenth Meet the Composer Festival on April 15th, 2023 for Treble voices. We are thrilled to have Laura Farnell in residence to work with central Iowa singers! Laura is an extremely inspiring composer and conductor who relates to people of all ages. Her compositions show extreme variety and are performed throughout the United States and beyond by singers in schools, universities, adult community choirs and churches.

The Festival Choir will be comprised singers from Central Iowa grades 4-8 with **unchanged voices**. They will prepare two works by the composer prior to the event. One of the combined songs is a commissioned work that will receive the world premiere performance at the festival! The music and a rehearsal recording will be sent directly to the student so they can prepare for the festival on their own. On the day of the event, singers will rehearse and perform the songs with the composer and members of the Heartland Youth Choir and several guest choirs. The culminating concert will feature performances by HYC, the guest choirs and Plymouth Congregational Church in Des Moines.

Laura Farnell is a choral composer, clinician, accompanist, and adjudicator from Arlington, Texas. After graduating summa cum laude from Baylor University with her Bachelor of Music Education in Choral Music. (with a piano emphasis), Laura taught elementary music for two years in Mansfield, Texas, followed by eight years of teaching junior high choir in Arlington, Texas. She was honored by both of her schools with Teacher of the Year awards in 2000 and 2003, and she received an Excellence in Education Award in 2004 as the Arlington Independent School District's outstanding junior high teacher of the year.

Laura presently serves as an invited clinician for district, region, and state honor choirs across the country. She also presents workshops and music reading sessions for choir directors at both district and state levels. She has served as a clinician and/or presented at music conferences in Arkansas, Colorado, Florida, Illinois, Iowa, Kansas, Mississippi, Missouri, North Carolina, Oklahoma, Texas, and Wisconsin. A prolific composer, she especially enjoys writing and arranging music for middle school choirs. She is represented by several music publishers with more than sixty choral compositions in print.

Festival Schedule – Saturday, April 15, 2023

9:00am – 12:00pm	Clinics for Invited Choirs
1:00pm – 3:00pm	Festival Choir Rehearsal
3:30pm	MTC Festival Concert

Registration Fee \$20

Registration deadline *March 15, 2023*

Register Online:

<http://joinhyc.org/meetthecomposer/>

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