Welcome to the Choral Union at Drew University! The following information is provided to help orient you to our ensemble. If you have any questions about the information provided here, please contact Dr. Jason Bishop, Director of Choral & Vocal Studies at Drew University, at choirs@drew.edu or 973-408-3791, or visit our website at drew.edu/ChoralUnion.

The Choral Union is Drew’s community chorus, open to students, faculty, staff, and community members. With an average of 80 members per year, Choral Union is the university’s largest choral ensemble. The Choral Union typically performs 3-4 concerts or other events per year, focusing primarily on choral-orchestral masterworks. All participants will be provided with a calendar at the beginning of the semester outlining the schedule of commitments for the ensemble. Attendance is mandatory at all scheduled rehearsals, performances, and special events.

2015-2016 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE: Wednesday nights, 7:00-9:30 p.m., September 2-December 5 and January 20-April 30, in the Concert Hall of the Dorothy Young Center for Arts.

2015-2016 PERFORMANCES
Thursday, October 1, 8:00 p.m.: Presidential Inauguration Concert
Friday, October 2, 11:00 a.m.: Presidential Inauguration Ceremony (not mandatory for community members)
Saturday, December 5, 8:00 p.m.: Benjamin Britten’s Saint Nicolas & Music for the Holidays
Saturday, March 19: Chorus in the Forest High School Choir Invitational
Saturday, April 30, 8:00 p.m.: Poulenc Gloria with the New Jersey Youth Symphony

EXPECTATIONS
Attendance: Singers are expected to attend all Wednesday night rehearsals, dress rehearsals, and concerts. One absence from a regular rehearsal will be permitted. Absences from dress rehearsals and concerts are not permitted.
Practice vs. Rehearsal: In the Choral Union, we refer to the time we spend together on Wednesdays as “rehearsal,” and what we do outside of rehearsal as “practice.” Singers are expected to devote time to their music outside of rehearsal, so that more time in rehearsal can be devoted to nuance, refinement of the music, and shaping the overall ensemble sound. The rehearsal environment is fun and energetic, but fast-paced and dedicated to the work of serious music-making.
Concert Attire: All singers are required to purchase the necessary concert attire for performances: tuxedos for men, and concert dresses for women. See below for more detail.
Communication: All singers are expected to read weekly e-mail communications from the conductor, and to come to each rehearsal informed and prepared.

CONCERT ATTIRE: Singers in Choral Union are required to wear specific formal concert attire for performances.

Attire for men: black tuxedo (jacket and pants), white tuxedo shirt, black bowtie, black cummerbund, black dress shoes and socks. If you do not currently own a tuxedo, you may choose to rent a tuxedo for each performance, or purchase one. Special discounted rates are available for Drew students at Prima Tuxedo in Madison (973-377-9256). Please note: two rentals are roughly equivalent in price to a full purchase at Prima’s discounted rate, so purchasing a tuxedo is ultimately the more economical choice.
Attire for women: All women wear a standard concert dress which must be purchased prior to the first performance. The cost of the dress is approximately $54. Dr. Bishop’s student assistant or your section leader will assist you with measurements to ensure the appropriate size is ordered.

PRIVATE VOICE LESSONS
The Drew University Music Department offers private instruction in vocal performance. Singers in the Choral Union are eligible to receive private voice lessons at discounted Drew University rates. Private lessons are given on a weekly basis for 12 weeks each semester and cost $35 per 30-minute lesson ($420 per semester for twelve 30-minute lessons), and $52.50 per 45-minute lesson ($630 per semester for twelve 45-minute lessons). The length of the lesson is determined in consultation with the private instructor, and fees are paid directly to the instructor. If you are interested in pursuing private voice lessons at Drew, please inform Dr. Bishop, who will assign you to a private instructor.

MUSIC DEPARTMENT OPEN HOUSE
Please join us for a Music Department Open House on Monday, August 31, 4:30-6:00 p.m. in the Concert Hall.

STAY CONNECTED
Please request to join our Facebook group, “Drew University Choral Union” to receive updates and other information!