



Dr. William S. Carson
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Dear Band Director,

The Coe College Music Department would like to invite you and your students to participate in the Coe College Honor Band Experience! This year all three honor bands (Elementary, Junior, and Senior) will take place in conjunction with the Coe College Festival of Bands. One exciting aspect of this Festival is the presence of a featured composer. This year's guest composer is Robert W. Smith and all the musicians selected for the Honor Bands will have the opportunity to work with this outstanding composer and musician.

The 7th Annual Coe College Elementary Honor Bands will take place on Saturday, April 4th. Last year's honor bands were very successful and we are looking forward to another great year. The other guest director joining Mr. Smith to work with the Elementary Honor Bands this year is Kevin Makinster, elementary band director from the Linn-Mar Community School District. The Coe College Elementary Honor Band is open to 4th, 5th, and 6th grade students. The nomination procedure is quite simple: you make nominations online, and then selections are made by a committee at Coe College. Selected students come to Coe to rehearse with our guest composer and conductor. The Elementary Honor Bands will present a concert in the late afternoon, prior to the Grand Finale Concert of the Coe College Concert Band and Wind Ensemble, which the students are invited to attend at no extra cost.

The Coe College Junior and Senior Honor Bands will be selected by application. All directors have to do is direct their students to the Coe website and have them fill out the online application. At the application deadline, directors will receive an email confirming students are enrolled in your program and will be asked to rank them. Selected students will have chair auditions on the day of the first rehearsal. The Coe College Junior Honor Band will be directed by Mr. David Law of Vernon Middle School in the Marion Independent School District and the Coe College Senior Honor Band will be directed by Dr. William S. Carson of Coe College. The Junior and Senior Honor Bands will have chair auditions and will rehearse on Sunday, March 29th, and will have a warm-up rehearsal and concert on Sunday, April 5th.

The calendar for selection and performance is as follows:

Monday, December 8, 2008 – Online applications and nominations open
Monday, February 2, 2009 – Online applications and nominations close
Monday, February 9, 2009 – Director rankings for Junior and Senior Honor Bands due
Saturday, February 28 – Monday, March 9, 2009 – Selections announced, and music delivered
Sunday, March 29, 2009 – Junior and Senior Honor Band chair auditions and rehearsal
Saturday, April 4, 2009 – Coe College Elementary Honor Bands
Sunday, April 5, 2009 – Coe College Junior and Senior Honor Bands

There is a \$12.00 registration fee for students selected to the Elementary Honor Bands and a \$25.00 fee for students selected to the Junior and Senior Honor Bands. This fee will include a meal (Mar. 29 dinner for the Junior and Senior bands, April 4 lunch for the Elementary bands). Schools will be responsible for registration fees for students selected to the bands whether they can attend or not. It is important for directors to establish their students' availability for and interest in this organization before nominating them. DO NOT nominate students who will not participate if chosen! We will choose two Elementary Honor Bands of approximately 110 members each and one Junior Honor Band and one Senior Honor Band of approximately 90 members each. In order to allow the greatest number of students to participate, students will be selected to only one of the bands. 6th grade students may choose to be nominated for either the Elementary Honor Band or the Junior Honor Band and 8th grade students may be considered for the Senior Honor Band only if the section is not filled out with high school players.

To make your nominations or for students to apply, please visit www.coe.edu/bands and select the Honor Band link on the left. All nominations and applications need to be completed online by February 2, 2009. Should you have further questions, feel free to contact one of the organizers below.

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