



Kenneth C. Sieloff - *Director of Choirs*  
Kenneth.Sieloff@ectorcountyisd.org

1800 East 42<sup>nd</sup> Street  
Odessa, Texas 79762  
(432) 456-2399

Stephanie Burton – *Associate Director*  
Stephanie.Burton@ectorcountyisd.org  
(432) 456-2391

Jeb Harris – *Associate Director*  
Jeb.Harris@ectorcountyisd.org  
(432) 456-2300

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### SWACDA!!!

The Permian High School *Cantus*, our Varsity Men's Choir, has received an invitation to perform at the 2020 SWACDA Convention in March. They will be one of 7 high school ensembles to perform, chosen from 7 different states. I am so incredibly proud of these young men, and those that came before them, for earning this very special honor. The purpose of this letter is to give you a bit of information about SWACDA, and to answer some frequently asked questions.

### What is SWACDA?

SWACDA is the Southwest Division of The American Choral Directors Association (ACDA). ACDA is an organization of thousands of choir directors from across the country whose purpose is to inspire excellence in choral music. ACDA is held in high regard by music educators, composers, and performers across the world, as one of the most prestigious music organizations in North America. The Southwest Division of ACDA is comprised of seven states: Arkansas, Colorado, Kansas, Missouri, New Mexico, Oklahoma, and Texas. ACDA offers conferences at the state, region, and national levels. National conferences are offered in March of odd-numbered years; regional conferences take place during even-numbered years.

### What does it mean to be invited to sing at the SWACDA Conference?

This is one of the highest honors a choir can attain in the State of Texas and as a member of ACDA. *Cantus* has been recognized as one of the best high school choirs from across seven states (this is the "Super Bowl" or "State Championship" of choir honors). The audience members at the SWACDA performance will be comprised of professional choir directors from across our country and the world! **This is HUGE!**

### When and where will *Cantus* perform?

*Cantus* will perform on Thursday, March 5 at 10:30am at the Robinson Center in the heart of downtown Little Rock, Arkansas. Additional details about the trip to Arkansas will be shared at our first meeting on July 23<sup>rd</sup>.

## What does this mean for the Men of Cantus?

This is definitely going to be a different type of year for the Permian Choir Program. The Permian Choir Program has been invited to perform at ACDA conventions 3 times previously. This year will mark our 4<sup>th</sup> ACDA appearance within the last 40 years and the first time in school history for the Varsity Men.

Cantus is comprised of singers from both 3<sup>rd</sup> period (Cantus) and 4<sup>th</sup> period (Kantorei). As exciting as this opportunity is, it also presents the necessity for combined rehearsals for the ensemble to be successful. A schedule will be distributed with a list of all mandatory rehearsals, but it is certain that the men will rehearse every Monday night in the first and most of the second semester from 7:30-9:30pm. Monday night rehearsals will be utilized to rehearse SWACDA music as well as TMEA music in the fall. In the fall we will also schedule several additional rehearsals outside of the regular school day which will serve as “SWACDA Bootcamps” in order for our choir to be successful. Sectionals may be assigned according to what is needed.

All of our SWACDA rehearsals and sectionals are extremely important – the men **MUST** be in attendance. We cannot be successful if all of our singers are not at rehearsals.

## Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> Meeting

There is a **required** student/parent meeting on Tuesday, July 23<sup>rd</sup> at 7:30pm in the PHS Cafeteria. All members of Cantus and at least one parent must be in attendance. The meeting will begin promptly at 7:30pm. Students will be measured for new tuxedos throughout the meeting. *If you are unable to attend this meeting, please email me as soon as possible so that we can setup a time to meet separately.*

This is a tremendous opportunity for Permian High School, the Permian Choir Program, and specifically Cantus. The invitation to perform at a conference has been described as follows, “they’ve already WON the state championship – now they just have to show that they DESERVE to be there!” The Permian High School Choir Department is recognized throughout the state for its rich tradition and legacy in musical excellence. This year, our men will prove that the tradition lives on!

While I know that many of our men participate in multiple activities, the SWACDA performance must be high on their list of priorities. I have already spoken to several coaches and I will work closely with them and other activity sponsors to ensure that the men will be successful and able to participate in all activities. Again, I cannot stress enough how important rehearsal attendance is. Additionally, the men will have to be academically eligible to perform at SWACDA. **Please help us by monitoring your son’s grades.**

This year is going to be phenomenal and the Men of Cantus are going to represent Permian High School in a distinguished manner. I cannot wait to see how these men exceed our expectations. Join us as we embark on this incredibly journey and create a year full of lasting memories.

Please, never hesitate to contact me if you have any questions.

**GO MOJO!**

Kenneth C. Sieloff