

# SAINT MARY'S SCHOOL

***How do you get to Carnegie Hall? Practice, practice, practice!***

May 2019

Dear Friends,

I am thrilled to announce that the Saint Mary's School Chorale has been invited to perform next year at CARNEGIE HALL in New York City! Carnegie Hall is one of the most prestigious and well-known performing venues in the world. This is a "once in a lifetime" opportunity for our girls, and I am so proud of them for their commitment to their art. It was their singing – which I recorded throughout the school year and submitted - that earned them this opportunity.

Sponsored by Manhattan Concert Productions, the 2019-2020 Octavo Series brings together choral groups from across the globe to perform together in venues around the world. The Octavo New York experience offers an exciting opportunity for our Chorale to join with other choirs to perform at Carnegie Hall – but it will not be all glitz and glamour! This is an educational experience that will involve members of the Chorale in workshops and rehearsals for approximately four hours each day. They will be learning from leading choral conductors and educators as they prepare for the culminating event – a huge combined choir performance for a sold-out house in Carnegie Hall! In between rehearsals and workshops, there will be Saint Mary's-organized visits to art museums and live theater and music performances, giving our girls a vibrant, hands-on arts education in a city that offers it all – New York.

To be eligible for the trip a girl must be enrolled in Chorale for at least one semester during the 2019-2020 school year. *The trip is optional* and will take place March 6-9, 2020, with the concert performance on March 8.

In order to have a concert of the highest integrity, Chorale will come to New York City already knowing the music. To that end, Chorale will be rehearsing for this experience throughout the school year and we will record our progress periodically to send to the conductors. Some of the rehearsals will be during Chorale class and some will be outside of class time. Attendance at these rehearsals will be mandatory and the girls will sign a contract with me that outlines their commitment to this opportunity.

Participation in the New York Octavo Series experience will include the following expenses:

- New York expenses
  - Approximately \$2,000 per singer
    - Covers three-night stay at NYC hotel (Westin Times Square, New York Hilton, Crowne Plaza Hotel Times Square or similar)
    - MTA transit pass for subways and buses
    - Ticket to Broadway show (to be selected by Saint Mary's based on availability)
    - Ticket to Top of the Rock observation deck
    - Three group meals
    - Airfare
  - Additional money other meals and personal spending

**Girls must register for this trip with a deposit of \$500 by mid-September 2019.** Final cost, additional payment information, and deadlines will be finalized once the group number and means of travel have been confirmed. Payment of the final balance will be due by Monday, February 10, 2020. Costs of the trip are the responsibility of each girl and her family.

While the trip is not required, I encourage every girl singing in Chorale during 2019-2020 to attend. Singing in a space like Carnegie Hall is unlike any other performance experience. New Yorkers and people from all over the world will be attending the performance, and we are honored to bring the highest level of choral music to that audience.

Families are encouraged to join us for the performance on March 8, and as we immerse ourselves in the NYC arts culture. We do ask that families respect the need for the girls to fully participate in all aspects of the Octavo program and Saint Mary's-sponsored activities while in New York. All Chorale students must travel to and from New York City with Saint Mary's School.

It is thrilling to envision our girls singing in this prestigious venue. They give more than 100% in every artistic endeavor, and they have earned this amazing opportunity. It is my true joy to work with your girls. They are my inspiration and my life's blessing, and I thank you all for supporting them as they grow into wonderful young women and citizens of our world.

Art gives life meaning, and our girls enrich the lives of everyone fortunate enough to hear them sing. I can't wait to hear them on an international stage! Please contact me with any questions, or if you just want to celebrate our Chorale with me!

Thank you.

Sincerely,

Jennifer Moran  
Chorale Director  
Instructor of Voice  
Academic Chair