

The University of New Mexico Music Prep School

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Dear UNM Children's Chorus Families,

On behalf of the UNM Children's Chorus family, I send New Year's greetings. Just a reminder, our first rehearsal will be held on January 31st at 5:15 PM at the UNM Center for the Arts (Popejoy Hall building). Our entire semester will be dedicated to learning and performing *Bailen, Bailen, Parajitos: Young Voices Sing the Music of New Mexico*. As you may recall, our chorus was gifted funds to commission twelve new choral pieces written for children. At this writing, nearly all of the music has been written and all the teachers are busy learning the music!

The culmination of this semester will be held at the National Hispanic Cultural Center (NHCC) on May 9th at 6:30 in the evening. This concert will be a celebration of New Mexican folk music with special guests Lone Piñon a lively string *conjunto* from New Mexico (<http://www.lonepinon.com/bio/>), as well as folklorico dance groups from Dolores Gonzales Elementary School.

Here are some important dates:

January 27th - NM ACDA ALL STAE Choir Festival – Congratulations to our SIX UNMCC singers who will be representing our choir at the festival in Las Cruces: Penelope Howell, Sara Joiner, Carmen Padilla, Nara Padilla, Andre Schwall and Marina Wilson. And thank you to Mrs. Penny Voss for all her work preparing the children for this festival!

January 31st - Wednesday - 5:15-6:45 - First Rehearsal!!!! As usual, we will all meet in the lobby of the UNM Center for the Arts (outside of Popejoy Hall) before going to our rehearsals. We will have drop off and pick up that day. See the information at the end of this letter. If you're new and need clarification or more information, contact Julia or Laurie in the Music Prep School: 505-277-8816/musprep@unm.edu.

February 14th Wednesday - 5:15-6:45 - UNMCC Open House in Room B120 (where the Lobo Choir rehearses)- Join your child in rehearsal and be ready for some games and great songs! Since it's Valentine's Day bring your Sweetheart – or your parents, grandparents or favorite auntie.

February 28th Wednesday - 5:15-6:45 - An open rehearsal with Judith Herrington – composer of three of this semester's pieces. Ms. Herrington is an internationally known composer and conductor and has written pieces for the Lobo Choir and the Senior Chorus. This open rehearsal will take place during our regular rehearsal time. We will let you know of the location as well as the schedule.

March 24th Saturday - 12:30-2:00 in Keller Hall - An open rehearsal with Hilda Paredes. Ms. Paredes is a Mexican-born composer currently living in London. She has written pieces for the Lobo Choir and the Farolito Singers. She'll be here to work with the choirs in an open rehearsal as part of the John Donald Robb Composer Symposium. This special event will involve Lobo Choir and Farolito Singers, only.

May 2nd Wednesday 5:15-7:45 - Special dress rehearsal at the National Hispanic Cultural Center - - <http://www.nhccnm.org/>. This will be our final rehearsal before the May 9th concert. We will rehearse

staging, group songs etc. This is an important rehearsal for all singers. Please note: this rehearsal will last longer than usual. The Farolito Singers will not be held the entire time. We will let you know the exact times as we get closer to rehearsal.

May 9th Wednesday - CONCERT at the National Hispanic Cultural Center - 5:15 Singers are called; 6:30 Concert; Reception afterwards. This concert will be free to the public.

Other important business:

As a reminder, all students are required to purchase and wear the official UNM Children's Chorus polo shirt to concerts. You will receive an order form at rehearsal. The shirts cost \$12. Here are the choirs listed by age, polo shirt color, rehearsal time and conductor. *If your singer already has the correct shirt (and it still fits!) you don't need to purchase another one.*

<u>Choir</u>	<u>Polo Shirt Color</u>	<u>Grades</u>	<u>Time</u>	<u>Conductor</u>
Farolito Singers	Blue	K-1	5:15-6:15	Katie Dukes
Lobo Choir	Red	2-5	5:15-6:30	Penny Voss
Senior Choir	Black	6-12	5:15-6:45	Regina Carlow

All new singers need to sign the *Unlimited Media Release Agreement* attached with this letter and on the Music Prep School website. You have the option to deny or grant permission for us to photograph your child during rehearsals and/or performances. As in the past we will have music education interns to help out with rehearsal supervision as well as our drop off and pick up service.

Parking & Drop off-Pick up Service starts January 31 - Beginning Wednesday January 31, you have two options for getting your child to and from rehearsals:

Option ONE: Park and walk into the building with your child. Parking is available on campus at metered spots or in the Cornell Parking Structure for a \$5.00 flat rate after 3:00 PM. Payment is by credit or debit card only. Pay at one of the kiosks in the lot or structure. Unless you have a UNM Parking permit, do not park in unmetered parking, or you will be ticketed. Remember there are often shows in Popejoy Hall and many campus activities that might affect parking availability. You may also park off campus. The UNM Music Prep School is not responsible for parking on campus. If you have questions or concerns, contact UNM Parking and Transportation: <https://pats.unm.edu/>


Option TWO: Use our Drop off/Pick up service on the south end of Johnson Field on Redondo Drive. Drop off/Pick up service starts on January 31 for all choirs:

- Drop Off Time - 4:55-5:05: Our UNM Music Education students will be at the field in orange safety vests to escort singers to the building. **DO NOT** drop off your child until you see one of our student assistants. If you arrive after 5:05 and there is no one at the field, you will need to park your car and escort your child into the building. Rehearsals begin at promptly 5:15.
- Pick Up Times - 10-20 minutes after your child's rehearsal ends. Please be on time to pick up your child. It takes us about 10-20 minutes for us to get out to the field after our rehearsal. If we don't hear from you and you have not picked up your child by 7:00 PM, we will take her/him to the UNM Police station. Also, remember to stay with your vehicle or it will be ticketed while you wait along Redondo Drive. Johnson Field is well used during this time. Be aware of flying objects, such as soccer balls or Frisbees. The UNM Music Prep School is not responsible for any parking tickets or damages to your vehicle.

At our Open House on Wednesday February 14th you'll get to meet the interns and conductors. **But until then, please register now and recruit your friends!** Go to the Music Prep School's webpage, click the "Register Here" tab and find the Children's Chorus link: <http://musicprep.unm.edu>. **New members may join through February 14th.** Please contact Julia or Laurie in the Music Prep School if you have questions about registration, drop off and pick up or anything about the chorus program: musprep@unm.edu or (505)277-8816.



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