

**76th  
Annual**

**GATHERING  
OF THE  
Talents**



# Manual

March 28, 2020



Greetings from Concordia University, Nebraska!

The 76th Annual Gathering of the Talents will take place on Saturday March 28, 2020 at Concordia University, Nebraska in Seward. We look forward to celebrating your 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students' gifts of art, creative writing, dance, drama, and music, all for the glory of God.

The Gathering of the Talents strives to create an environment where students' skills are celebrated and allows students to grow and develop skills while experiencing all that Concordia has to offer. We invite students to be present on our campus to demonstrate their skills and receive valuable feedback. There will also be opportunities to enjoy music and drama performances by Concordia University groups. Our intent is that this manual will assist you with the registration procedures and answer any questions you may have about this exciting event.

### Contents

Gathering Information	3
Registration	3-4
Art Division	5-6
Creative Writing Division	7-8
Music Division	9-10
Dance/Drama Division	11

### Important Dates

November 22	Online Participation Information Due
January 13	Registration Due
February 7	Schedules Released
February 24	Schedule Changes and Entry Cancellations Due
February 28	Artwork and Creative Writing Due; <b>Fees due</b>
March 28	Gathering of the Talents

### **What is Gathering of the Talents?**

The *Gathering of the Talents* offers an opportunity for students to share their God-given gifts in art, creative writing, dance, drama, and music. It is open to all 4<sup>th</sup> through 8<sup>th</sup> grade students in schools and churches within a reasonable radius of Seward, NE. The five categories are organized by faculty members assisted by a student chair who recruits evaluators consisting of Concordia University students and faculty.

### **What can I expect on the day of the Gathering?**

The day of the Gathering is an exciting one! Events begin at 8:00 a.m. and continue until 4:00 p.m. Performances take place in various buildings throughout the beautiful campus of Concordia University, Nebraska. A campus map can be found at: <https://www.cune.edu/about/maps/>

Breakfast and lunch are available on campus the day of the Gathering. The cafeteria is available. You may also bring along lunches to enjoy on the campus picnic tables or lawn. A list of Seward restaurants can be found at: <http://www.cune.edu/student-life/campus-places-go/>

**\*\*Please note: Creative writing and artwork will NOT be mailed out after the event. If you are unable to pick it up that day, please arrange for someone to pick up the items before April 24, 2020. There will be no exceptions.**

### **How do I register students?**

Registration will be submitted through the Gathering of the Talents website: [www.cune.edu/GOTT](http://www.cune.edu/GOTT). The 2020 ID number and password assigned to your church or school will be sent to you via e-mail. Instructions to register are found on the website, please read them thoroughly. If you are unable to be present all day, it is important to e-mail this information to the Gathering committee at [gathering@cune.edu](mailto:gathering@cune.edu) when you register. **Registration should be completed by January 13 when access to online registration will be closed.** If you need assistance in completing the online registration, please contact your local computer staff support person or contact our office at 1-800-535-5494 ext. 7485.

### **Registration Guidelines:**

**There is a flat fee of \$10 for each student to participate.** Students may be registered in no more than **five events total**. It can be made up of any combination of entries adding up to five, not exceeding allowable maximums (as described in the following sections).

### **Where do I send Art and Creative Writing Entries?**

Artwork and creative writing entries should be mailed to:

Concordia University, Nebraska  
Gathering of the Talents – Weller 101  
800 N. Columbia Ave.  
Seward, NE 68434

**\*\*Registration fees should also be mailed to the above address. Please do not include them in the same packaging as Art and Creative Writing entries.**

**What about a bill?**

When registration is complete, a bill will be available to print on-line. There will be no refunds of entrance fees in the event of entry cancellations before, on, or after the event. **Since bills are available on the website, a copy of the bill will not be mailed out.**

**Registration fees are due by February 28, 2020.** Please mail your registration fees to the address listed below:

Concordia University, Nebraska  
Gathering of the Talents – Weller 101  
800 N. Columbia Ave.  
Seward, NE 68434

**When are schedules available?**

Schedules will be made available to all participants on **February 7, 2020.**

**How are the events evaluated?**

Following a student's performance in dance, drama, or music, students will receive learning based feedback by a Concordia student or Faculty member. Feedback will be based on an evaluation form designed for each event, which the students will also receive. Concordia students (majoring in related subjects) evaluate the events. One advanced student, the Division Chair, supervises the judging of each division along with a faculty advisor.

Please remember that this event is predominantly organized, executed, and judged by volunteer students. These students do not have professional judging experience, therefore comments and results may vary as they, too, are students. This event is intended to glorify God and share the God-given talents of all the young people involved.

Art and creative writing events will be evaluated in a one-on-one setting. Students will be scheduled a time to meet with a judge. At this meeting, the judge will give the student feedback and coaching concerning their work.

Again, the purpose of the evaluation is to encourage students and give them valuable feedback and coaching, which will help each student thrive and excel in their respective division.

**If you have any questions about the Gathering of the Talents, please contact Rebecca Bimler, GOTT Coordinator, or Michelle Porath, GOTT Assistant Coordinator, at 1-800-535-5494, ext. 7485, , or by email at [gathering@cune.edu](mailto:gathering@cune.edu).**

## DIVISION I – Artwork

### Types of Entries:

1. 2-Dimensional: Drawing (any medium), painting, collage, graphic design, poster, banners, etc.
2. 3-Dimensional: Sculpture, pottery, leather, metal, beads, basketry, craft, etc.

### Requirements:

1. **Only ONE art project per student will be accepted in the art division; each student may also participate in the Art Experience Workshop. Please do not submit entire class assignments (unless it is one large group entry.)**
2. **NOTE: All entries must have labels attached.** Label template will be available online at [www.cune.edu/GOTT](http://www.cune.edu/GOTT).
3. All entries should be properly mounted. Mounting may be done by gluing the work of art to construction paper or tag board, or by framing the work with mat board. Heavy frames with glass are not permitted.
4. All artwork must be that of the students themselves and must not have been exhibited previously at a Concordia event.
5. Individual school projects are acceptable. **But NO paint by number.**
6. No kits (including paint by number) are allowed, such items will be automatically disqualified.
7. Properly labeled art entries must be received by **February 28, 2020**. Please take all entries to the University Admissions Office in Weller 101. No entries will be accepted after the deadline.
8. Art entries should be picked up by the teacher or student-artist after 3:30 p.m. on the day of the event in the Hall of Fame room and the Track Viewing Suite in the Walz Human Performance Complex. Concordia University is not responsible for anything left behind. **Entries will NOT be mailed back.**
9. All artwork left behind will be disposed of after **April 24, 2020**.
10. The judges reserve the right to reject any entry. The judges' decisions are final.
11. The Gathering of the Talents event committee does not assume any responsibility for loss or damage of entries; however, due care is exercised while entries are in the hands of the committee. Please note that every year Concordia receives projects that have been damaged during shipment.

**Students must be present the day of the Gathering to receive feedback and coaching on their artwork.**

**Standards for Evaluation:**

1. Art events will be evaluated in a one-on-one setting. Students will be scheduled a time to meet with a judge. At this meeting, the judge will give the student feedback and coaching concerning their work.
2. Guided by an evaluation form, art will be judged based on: craft, creativity, and execution.

**EXPERIENCE ART WORKSHOPS INFORMATION**

These workshops will be hosted by the Concordia Art Club. Each student must register to participate in either activity, which will take place the day of the Gathering. Students may **ONLY register for ONE** of the Experience Art Workshops, but can participate in the other music, drama, etc. events. During either workshop, students will learn more about different art techniques and be able to try their own hand at a new art project. The art demonstrations are as follows:

**Grades 4-8: “Gesture Drawing”**

Participants will be given the opportunity to learn gesture drawing techniques alongside Concordia students.

**Grades 4-8: “Still Life Drawing”**

Participants will be given the opportunity to learn still life drawing techniques alongside Concordia students.

## DIVISION II - Creative Writing

**Types of Entries:** Poetry, Short Story, and Creative Nonfiction.

### **Requirements:**

1. **Only ONE entry per student will be accepted in creative writing. Please do not submit entire class assignments.**
2. It is preferred that all entrants use a computer to generate their work. Please use 8 1/2 x 11 paper and produce work only on one side of each sheet.
3. If entries are NOT computer-generated the following rules apply:
  - a. Entries should be original manuscripts in ink.
  - b. Handwritten entries should be neat and legible.
4. All entries must be original and not previously published, nor may they be translations of any kind.
5. No plastic binders with slide holders are allowed.
6. Judges have the right to reject any creative writing piece; their decision is final.
7. Book reports are not acceptable.
8. The teacher or student writer should pick up all creative writing manuscripts after 3:30 p.m. on the event day. Concordia is not responsible for anything left behind.
9. **All creative writing manuscripts must be received by February 28, 2020.** No entries will be accepted after this date.
10. **All entries should have a coversheet or label including the student's name, grade, school (city and state), title of the entry (if applicable), and the type of creative writing (ex. poetry, short fiction, or creative nonfiction).** This will assist the judges in organizing the entries as well as judging efficiently. Label template will be available online at [www.cune.edu/GOTT](http://www.cune.edu/GOTT).

### **Standards for Judging:**

1. Creative writing events will be evaluated in a one-on-one setting. Students will be scheduled a time to meet with a judge. At this meeting, the judge will give the student feedback and coaching concerning their work.
2. Creative writing will be evaluated based on: original concept, organization, craftsmanship (i.e., skills specific to the creative piece, such as the use of metaphor or character development), voice, and writing mechanics.

**Entries may be categorized as: Poetry, Short Fiction, or Creative Nonfiction. The choice of subject matter is left to the entrant. Entries should not exceed 700 words.**

***Students must be present the day of the Gathering to receive feedback and coaching on creative writing entries***

**CREATIVE WRITING WORKSHOP INFORMATION**

The workshop below will be hosted by the Concordia's English honors society, Sigma Tau. Each student must register to participate in this activity, which will take place the day of the Gathering. Students may be entered into the Creative Writing Workshop AND participate in the other music, drama, dance, etc. events. During this workshop, students will learn more about different writing strategies and techniques. The creative writing offering is as follows:

**Grades 4-8: "Poetic Pictures"**

This workshop will lead participating students through various ways they can employ creative diction to depict the world around them. Through examples, interaction with objects, and considerations of metaphor, Concordia's English honors society will encourage students to express wonder at their world.

**An additional event that has been added this year:****Grades 4-8: "Literary Recitation"**

This recitation event offers participating students an opportunity to share some of the literature that they find most memorable and meaningful. Participants will recite a published work of either poetry or prose from memory. Each participant will have up to **five minutes** for the recitation. There is a limited number of spaces available for this event, so register early.



## Division III – Music

### Types of Entries:

1. Vocal: Solo or groups (duet, trio, quartet, sextet, octet, chorus). Please be specific. Groups of 11 or more are considered a choir.
2. Instrumental: Strings, brass, woodwind, percussion or instrumental (combination of two or more instruments)
3. Keyboard: piano or organ

### Requirements:

1. **Each student may have up to THREE entries in the Music Division. There is a maximum of TWO individual events or TWO large group events.** (Ex: one vocal solo, one choir, and one hand bell choir OR one instrumental solo, one vocal solo and one large ensemble.)
2. Each vocal, instrumental, or keyboard entry may only perform one selection.
3. Each band, choir, handbell, or other large ensemble entry may perform two selections in contrasting styles, not to exceed 10 minutes. Groups will be allowed extra time for setup.
4. All music events are open to the public and students should be prepared to perform before an audience. Due to time limitations, performance areas will not be cleared. Door monitors will be on hand to prevent spectators from entering during performances.
5. All selections should be carefully chosen and should be appropriate for a music festival. Styles such as pop or rock 'n roll are discouraged.
6. No lip-sync will be accepted.
7. Selections that have been used for competition or private lessons are appropriate.
8. **Bring ORIGINAL copies of music for the evaluator. Illegal photocopies are prohibited by law. Performers will only be allowed to participate if they have legal music. Measures must be numbered to facilitate comments from the evaluator.**
9. **Participants must provide their own accompanist.** When registering, please register the accompanist and indicate which events they are accompanying so there is no overlapping in scheduling. CD accompaniments are allowed but entrants must provide their own media player.
10. Memorization is encouraged for vocal entrants, piano, and choirs.
11. Participants must provide their own instruments, other than organ and piano. Groups are to bring their own handbells (tables and pads will be provided). If this is an issue please contact the Gathering Coordinators BEFORE the Gathering date by emailing [gathering@cune.edu](mailto:gathering@cune.edu). If extra equipment or instruments are needed please contact GOTT staff prior to the Gathering to make arrangements.
12. Choir Requirements:
  - A choir should select 2 differing styles of music that demonstrate the group's talents and abilities.
  - Choral performances will only be allowed if legal music is being used. This includes music for evaluators, accompanists, and conductor. If illegal photocopies are present, those groups will forfeit their opportunity to perform.

### Evaluation Procedures:

- Solo performers will be given constructive comments on their performance. These comments are designed to be educational, and will be stated in a positive manner. Performers and parents/teachers are encouraged to use these comments for future improvement and encouragement.

- Music should be carefully prepared for the festival. Evaluators will be making comments based on things like: posture, breathing, technique, intonation, quality of tone, rhythmic and note accuracy, expression and dynamics, etc.

### **CHORAL MUSIC WORKSHOP INFORMATION**

This workshop will be hosted by the Concordia Music Department. Each student must register to participate in this activity, which will take place the day of the Gathering. Students may be entered into the Choral Music Workshop AND participate in the other music, drama, etc. events.

#### **Grades 4-8: “Choral Music”**

Choirs will perform two selections in contrasting styles. Following each performance, Dr. Kurt von Kampen, Professor of Music, will lead a 10-minute on-stage clinic intended to encourage and instruct singers and their directors.

**A mass song number will be performed with all participating choirs and the A Cappella at the closing ceremony.**

## Division IV – Dance/Drama

### Types of Entries:

1. Specialty acts: Suggested acts are pantomimes, skits, one act plays, mock radio broadcasting, puppetry, etc.
2. Dramatic Readings/Monologues: Humorous or serious readings should be at least two minutes but not more than five minutes long.
3. Choral Speaking: The maximum time for these presentations is ten minutes.
4. Dance: Optional types are tap, ballet, jazz, hip-hop, lyrical, contemporary, modern, clogging, or musical theater. Additional options: tumbling, baton, martial arts, cheerleading, drill team or color guard, etc. The maximum time allowed is ten minutes.

### Requirements:

1. **Entrants may participate in TWO drama entries AND ONE dance entry.**
2. Presentation must be wholesome entertainment and must be suitable for presentation at school or church functions.
3. The entrant must provide their own music accompaniment, props, supplies and any special equipment.
4. Entrants should be prepared to perform before an audience. Due to time limitations, performance areas will not be cleared. Door monitors will be on hand to prevent spectators from entering during performances.
5. ***CD or accompaniments on a device are allowed but entrants must provide their own media players. NOTE: For dance events there is an auxiliary cord hook up available for a cellphone to be used.***
6. If mats are needed for a performance, please make a note in the comments section when registering for the events. One mat is 6'W x 42'L x 1 3/8"D.

### Standards for Judging:

Drama: Judging standards are based on general oral interpretation, speech techniques, and dramatic characterization.

Dance: Judging standards are based on technical skills and execution, staging transitions, uniformity, choreography, degree of difficulty, and performance impression.

### **DRAMA WORKSHOP INFORMATION**

This workshop will be hosted by the Concordia Drama Department. Each student must register to participate in this activity, which will take place the day of the Gathering. Students may be entered into the Drama Workshop AND participate in the other music, drama, etc. events.

#### **Grades 4-8: “Improvisation Workshop”**

Members of the **CUNE IMPROVables** will present and teach acting-based techniques that are useful in improvisational, or non-scripted, theatre, including voice, body language, characterization, object permanence, imagination, and collaboration. Students will practice and develop these skills through interactive exercises, games, and scenes. **Students will have a chance to participate in the Improv Performance immediately following the workshop.**