

minnesota BOYCHOIR

Helping Boys Find Their Voice

50

1962 – 2012

Mark Johnson, Artistic Director
Todd Price, Accompanist

THE MINNESOTA BOYCHOIR, founded in 1962, is the oldest boychoir in the Minneapolis/Saint Paul metropolitan area. The Boychoir's reputation for excellence has brought invitations from local and national music conventions, as well as sporting events and touring Broadway companies. The Boychoir has performed with the Minnesota Orchestra, the Minnesota Opera, the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, the Baltimore Symphony, the Prague Philharmonic, Garrison Keillor's *A Prairie Home Companion* on National Public Radio, and a long list of local and national performers. To highlight our 50th Season, our choirboys will be featured in two different collaborations with the Minnesota Orchestra (Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel* and *A Scandinavian Christmas*), have first-time appearances with the St. Catherine Choral Society (Rutter's *Mass of the Children*) and TigerLion Arts (*The Dragons Are Singing Tonight*), and will perform Britten's *War Requiem* with the University of Minnesota Orchestra and Chorus and the Quad Cities Symphony. The choirs will also share the stage with gospel great Robert Robinson and premiere new choral works by Carol Barnett, Ralph Johnson and Todd Price. The choir's schedule includes national and international tours. Past tours have thrilled audiences in twelve states and on five continents. In celebration of our 45th Anniversary, the boys headlined the World Voices Australia International Choral Festival at Sydney's famed Opera House in 2007. We kicked off our 50th Anniversary Season by touring to Milan, Venice, Florence and Rome, Italy in June 2011, featuring a performance for Mass at Saint Peter's Basilica at the Vatican. Our 50th season culminates with solo performances at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis, the State Capitol in Saint Paul, and a tour of Greater Minnesota.

The Minnesota Boychoir trains young men to be outstanding musicians and strives to help them develop a sense of poise and self-confidence through education and performance. A choirboy is challenged to sing well, stand tall, stay on schedule, take pride in his appearance, respect those in charge and tap into the best part of who he is and what he can accomplish. *The Minnesota Boychoir challenges boys and young men from many backgrounds to the highest standards of choral music, nurtures the development of exceptional character, and inspires and benefits the community.*

ALLEGRO Graduates of the Boychoir program are invited to return to sing in **Allegro**. Singers range in age from fourteen to eighteen, rehearse once a week, and perform works for tenor and bass, the changed voice. They also regularly sing with our treble choirs, increasing the range of literature we are able to perform.

CANTABILE Participation in **Cantabile** is reserved for those choirboys ages nine to fourteen who have demonstrated high levels of musicianship, leadership, responsibility, discipline and commitment. Our most visible choir, Cantabile rehearses twice a week and performs at well over thirty events a season, singing music in a wide variety of styles and languages.

CANTAR Comprised of our youngest and newer singers, **Cantar** functions as a training choir. These developing singers, ages seven to twelve, rehearse once a week with emphasis placed on the basics of singing: posture, breathing, tone production, and reading music. As Cantar members grow older, they continue to hone their singing and musical skills.