

THE MINNESOTA BOYCHOIR FACT SHEET

Helping boys find their voice

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.

MEMBERSHIP

The Minnesota Boychoir is an amateur, non-denominational group of metro area boys whose membership represents Minneapolis, Saint Paul and over 15 other communities. Selected through annual audition and ranging in age from 7-17, the boys are placed one of the following ensembles: *Cantar*, *Cantabile* or *Allegro*.

EDUCATION AND DIVERSITY

The Boychoir recruits and includes members of diverse faiths, races, social and economic backgrounds who perform, from memory, the best choral literature from a wide variety of styles, periods and cultures. This enhances and reinforces their music, social studies and language curricula in school. Current repertoire includes texts in many languages including: Chinese, Czech, English, Finnish, French, German, Hebrew, Japanese, Ladino, Latin, Maori, Norwegian, Polish, Russian, Serbian, Spanish, Swahili, Swedish, Ukrainian, Yiddish, Zulu and American Sign Language.

THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Mark Johnson began his work with the choir in 1992 as the accompanist. He was hired as Artistic Director in 1993. During his tenure, the size of the organization has grown from fewer than 20 singers to over 100 singers. Mr. Johnson holds a degree in music education from St. Olaf College. He is also active as a clinician and accompanist for various local and national choirs.

HISTORY

Founded in 1962 as the Morris Nilsen Boy's Choir

Renamed the Minnesota Boychoir in 1973

Incorporated as a non-profit organization in 1975

RECOGNITION

The choir's reputation for excellence has brought invitations to perform for the National Convention for Music Educators (MENC), the Minnesota Music Educators Association (MMEA), the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA), the American Guild of Organists (AGO) National Convention, the Organization of American Kodaly Educators (OAKE), and Her Majesty Queen Sylvia of Sweden. Singers from the choir are regularly invited to sing with the Minnesota Opera, the Minnesota Orchestra, and the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra as well as other local and national theater companies. Members have also participated in local, regional and national honors choirs.

LOCAL AND REGIONAL PERFORMANCES

The choir performs for audiences totaling about 25,000 people at approximately 30 local concerts, conventions, schools and church services during their season. The choir sings outside the Minneapolis/Saint Paul on weekend trips or longer tours.

NATIONAL TOURS

Wisconsin Dells (1995), South Dakota (1997), Chicago (1999), Seattle (2000), Northern Minnesota (2001), Washington, D.C. (2003), Minnesota-South Dakota-Nebraska (2005), New York City (2006), California (2008), Alaska (2009), Oregon (2010)

INTERNATIONAL TOURS

Eleventh International Youth and Music Festival in Vienna, Austria (1982)

Tour of Japan as Ambassadors of Minnesota (1987)

Performances with the Prague Symphony in Prague, Czech Republic (1991)

Bournemouth Music Makers Festival and England and France (1994)

Costa Rica (1996), Norway (1998), New Zealand (2002), Canada (2004)

World Voices Australia International Choral Festival (2007)

Italy (2011)