

Washington Chorus and DC Public Schools join forces to launch DC Honor Chorus

Students in grades 3-12 will participate in an intensive choral workshop and concert, March 17-18 at Stuart Hobson Middle School.

This March, students across the District will come together for the DC Honor Chorus, thanks to the combined efforts of The Washington Chorus and DC Public Schools. More than 140 students in grades 3-12, chosen by their music teachers, will participate in a two-day intensive choral workshop at Stuart Hobson Middle School in Northeast DC on March 17-18, 2017, culminating in a live performance on March 18 at 5pm. The DC Honor Chorus also provided professional development training to DCPS music teachers with a youth choral directing workshop on February 17, 2017.

The Washington Chorus will lead the musical coordination of the DC Honor Chorus as an extension of its commitment to youth education through its Side-By-Side and Junior Washington Chorus programs. Staff and volunteer singers will assist in recording rehearsal tracks for students and teachers, and creating an educational program consisting of both in and out of school time. Award-winning Artistic Director of the Boston Children's Chorus, Anthony Trecek-King, will join TWC staff to lead student rehearsals.

"The DC Honor Chorus is a wonderful collaboration effort to provide our many talented DC Public Schools students the opportunity to work hard to achieve a mutual goal," remarked Raymond Mueller, Music Education Specialist for DCPS. "The best part is that every student is learning through music while also having fun!"

The concert program, which includes songs such as *Ain't Gonna Let Nobody Turn Me Round*; *This Land is Your Land*; *Joyful, Joyful*; and others, is thematically linked to social issues affecting youth today and pays homage to the history of music as a form of public discourse in DC. By responding to real-life events through choral music, it is hoped that students will develop a greater appreciation for the importance of music in their lives. The DC Honor Chorus will bring together students from Wards 1, 3, 5, 6, 7, and 8, enhancing their sense of belonging to a community that extends beyond their school population.

About The Washington Chorus

The Washington Chorus (TWC), now in its 56th season, is one of the foremost symphonic choruses in the nation. Noted for the superb artistry of its performances and recordings of the entire range of the choral repertoire, TWC is widely recognized as a cultural leader in the nation's capital. In June 2016, Chorus America, the national association for choruses, honored The Washington Chorus with the prestigious Margaret Hillis Award for Choral Excellence.

TWC's commitment to the greater Washington community is evidenced by outstanding education and outreach programs, including the **Junior Washington Chorus** for teens ages 16 to 18; the **Side-by-Side high school program**; and TWC's **Outreach Singers** who bring music to underserved groups throughout the area. The Chorus is also known for innovative programs that focus on contemporary composers with award winning *New Music for a New Age* concerts and composers of earlier times with *The Essential concerts* of classic masters.

TWC is committed to the performance of contemporary music and was proud to receive Chorus America's 2011 ASCAP **Alice Parker Award**, recognizing a chorus programming significant, recently- composed music that expands the mission of the chorus and challenges the chorus' audience in a new way. Other awards include the **2000 Grammy Award for "Best Choral Performance"** for the live-performance recording of Benjamin Britten's *War Requiem*. Additional recordings include *Christmas with The Washington Chorus*, *Glorious Splendor*, *Sing Noel!*, and the Berlioz Requiem (Gothic Recordings); Dvorák's *Stabat Mater* and *Psalms 149* (Naxos International); Mussorgsky's *Boris Godunov* (nominated for a Grammy Award in 1988); and the Grammy Award-winning *Of Rage and Remembrance* by John Corigliano with the National Symphony Orchestra under the baton of Leonard Slatkin.

About The DC Public Schools Arts

Music education in DC Public Schools cultivates each students' ability to create and empowers them to use their voice with courage. DCPS Arts develops students' musical vocabulary to expand and enrich their communication, a skill that is vital in today's complex society. Through curriculum development (the Framework for Arts Learning) and enrichments, DCPS Arts provides students, schools and teachers with the resources and strategies they need to move arts education forward for the 21st century.

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