

---

# CHATTANOOGA BOYS CHOIR



HAVANA, CUBA, 2013

---

The mission of the Chattanooga Boys Choir is to positively influence and develop the lives of boys by providing a music program of the highest quality which includes education, appreciation, and performance.

## EDUCATION & PERFORMANCE

Participation in the Chattanooga Boys Choir is so much more than preparing repertoire, learning proper singing technique, and presenting concerts (though we're certainly proud of those as well!). Singing in the choir is an exercise in effort and humility, grit and artistry, excellence and community that transcends the lone effort of any individual. Numerous studies from recent years espouse the health benefits of singing, the increased neural activity observed in music-making, and the accelerated learning of the musically-oriented mind. As the boys breathe life into a variety of pieces from different cultures, languages, time periods, and perspectives, and as they work side-by-side with others to create beautiful moments which can never be replicated, they are participating in something that makes them not just better singers and musicians, but provides them with a foundation to be outstanding young men and citizens of our community.



UPON COMPLETION OF THE CBC MUSIC THEORY CURRICULUM, A CHORISTER HAS THE MUSIC THEORY KNOWLEDGE OF A FIRST YEAR COLLEGE LEVEL COURSE.

“  
*Thank you not only for teaching them to sing and all that entails, but also for expecting excellence, teaching responsibility, helping them to experience and appreciate more beauty in this world. We very much appreciate the variety of venues and experiences you seek to give the boys.*

*-Jennifer Wells,  
CBC Parent*

”

---

## COLLABORATION & COMMUNITY

Performance collaborations with other choirs, instrumental ensembles, dance companies, and others are wonderful opportunities for choristers to participate in the broad nature of artistic expression and to provide audiences with unique experiences. Recent examples include recording projects with commercial music artists, performances with regional symphony orchestras (Nashville Symphony, Chattanooga Symphony & Opera), and joint concerts with university and professional choirs (Florida State Singers, University of Georgia Men's Choir, Auburn University Men's Chorus, Tennessee Chamber Chorus). The choir regularly collaborates with professional guest musicians including Dan Landrum (hammer dulcimer), Bobby Horton (music producer for Ken Burns' *Civil War* PBS Series), and Scott Coulter (Broadway vocalist and CBC alum).



ANNUAL HOLIDAY COLLABORATION WITH THE CHATTANOOGA SYMPHONY & OPERA YOUTH ORCHESTRA

## COMMISSIONS & NEW WORKS

The Chattanooga Boys Choir has built relationships with composers around the United States and regularly commissions pieces to be premiered by the choir. As part of the process, choristers have an opportunity to meet with composers, often via Skype, to ask questions and make observations about the pieces. The choir has recently premiered pieces by Eric Nelson (Emory University, Atlanta Master Chorale), Ken Berg (Birmingham Boys Choir), Sarah Tullock (Chattanooga elementary music teacher), and Ethan McGrath (Chattanooga composer).

---

---

## THEMATIC DEVELOPMENT

Selecting music for a performance according to a specific theme or purpose creates interesting programming opportunities which expose choristers to new and interesting repertoire while also appealing to a broader audience. Recent thematic programming for the choir has included entire concerts on specific themes such as music of the Civil War, the British Invasion, Earth Day, songs of the Civil Rights movement, and musical settings of poets. The choir has collaborated with the Jewish Community Foundation to present a program of selections commemorating the Holocaust on Yom Hashoah (Holocaust Remembrance Day) and hosted Community Sings for hundreds of local singers that have broadcast on social media as part of the #AVOICE4PEACE effort. These thematic concerts present an opportunity for choristers to learn in a meaningful way.



PERFORMANCE AT THE NATIONAL CENTER FOR CIVIL & HUMAN RIGHTS (ATLANTA), 2016

---

---

## CITIZENSHIP

Inherent in the choral art is the demand placed on each individual to be at his best, to be fully prepared for the role that he is to perform, and to work tirelessly to breathe life into the notes and texts to create something that might exist for an instant, but makes impressions that last a lifetime.

Along this journey, choristers know that they are not simply an assemblage of soloists, but they are all important members of a group that necessarily functions and succeeds with the hard work and cumulative achievements of everyone involved.

“

*He has learned to work as part of a team and he knows that each part of the puzzle is important and adds significance. He has gained self-confidence and has learned that hard work pays off.*

*- Denise Craig, CBC Parent*

”

---

## TOURING & LEADERSHIP



ESCUELA ALFREDO COMEZ ZAMORA, GRECIA, COSTA RICA



*Participating in tour - whether to Cuba or to Charleston - has been instrumental in my son's development as a musician, a leader, and a world citizen. He has learned many great life lessons including the unifying power of music and that laying out your clothes at night really does make your morning go more smoothly!*

*- Lee Ann Adams, CBC Parent*



*I now realize that tours mean more to me than bags full of souvenirs - they planted in me the travel bug and wanderlust that is propelling my postgraduate opportunities.*

*-Ron Walters,  
CBC Alum*



Traveling and performance tours are a signature part of the Chattanooga Boys Choir experience. Named Chattanooga's official "Ambassadors of Goodwill" by the mayor each summer before departing on their travels, CBC members have presented performances throughout the United States and in over twenty foreign countries throughout its 65-year history. Recent notable domestic performances have seen the choir perform on some of the country's most notable stages, including Carnegie Hall, National Cathedral, Duke University Chapel, and the Piccolo Spoleto Festival. The choir has also been positively received in recent appearances in Canada, Ireland, and the Czech Republic. In 2013, the choir made its debut in Havana as invited guests of the Cuban Ministry of Culture, marking the first appearance of an American children's choir there in nearly half a century. The CBC represented the United States in the International Choral Festival for Peace in San José, Costa Rica in 2019.

While these experiences provide unmatched performance opportunities, unique musical exchanges, and lasting memories for audiences and choristers alike, Chattanooga Boys Choir members also learn and practice valuable skills of responsibility and independence through their travels. These skills, along with piquing their interest in global travel, give the choristers a solid foundation to increase their awareness of the world around them and develop their role as responsible global citizens.



CARNEGIE HALL, NEW YORK, 2017

*This experience was special, and I am proud to have been a part of it. And your boys were incredibly polite, warm, and wonderful. The quality with which you came to the table was outstanding! Moreover, their professionalism was astounding - both musically and back stage demeanor! I'm sure that I can speak for my colleagues when I say that we want to work with you and your choristers again!*

*- Dennis Rupp (Zuniga in Carmen), Chattanooga Symphony & Opera, 2019*

*What a treat it was to hear your choir sing for us! Many people have raved about the wonderful music and especially how well behaved the young men were. It is obviously a result of proper training, not only in music, but also in how to conduct ones self. Well done on both counts!!*

*- Pat Gould - St. Phillips Episcopal Church, Charleston, SC*

*I was SO proud of your singers. They demonstrated the very best of singing and choral musicianship, and were excellent ambassadors for choral music in the United States.*

*- Tim Sharp - Executive Director, American Choral Directors Association*

---

## BE PART OF THE TRADITION

Today, the choir contributes richly to Chattanooga's diverse cultural landscape. As one of the most highly regarded boychoirs in the country and respected children's choirs in the region, the organization provides an assortment of nearly thirty performances, programs and workshops throughout the year for the purpose of advancing the choral art and improving the lives of its choristers and community in song. Through its performance tours, the choir represents the best of Chattanooga throughout the country and around the world. Through its innovative computer music theory lab to its outreach workshops for area teenage singers, and from its annual performances for thousands of local school children to special themed concerts, the choir provides its own members with unmatched performance opportunities and its audiences with entertaining and enriching experiences, providing Chattanooga with its own soundtrack of artistic excellence and community.

