

CHATTANOOGA BOYS CHOIR

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.

Founded in 1954, the Chattanooga Boys Choir is the oldest boychoir in the southeast United States. Started by local residents as a choir of some thirty boys from several schools in the Chattanooga area, the organization now includes over 140 boys from across the Chattanooga area and northwest Georgia in five different ensembles. They represent over forty different public, private, and parochial schools, and include several home-schooled students.



PERFORMANCE

From performing sacred masterworks in the great cathedrals of Europe to the National Anthem at the White House and major league baseball games, the choir represents the Chattanooga community around the world, designated by the mayor as Chattanooga's "Ambassadors of Goodwill."

Since 1964, the beloved *Singing Christmas Tree* has ushered in the Holiday Season for all of greater Chattanooga with numerous guest artists, musicians, dance troupes, and local celebrities.

Throughout its long history, the CBC Concert Choir, the main performing and touring ensemble of the CBC, has presented concerts in 40 states and in 20 countries across five continents.

Recent and Upcoming Performance Tours:

2003: Asheville NC – Williamsburg VA – Philadelphia PA – New York City – Washington D. C.

2004: Czech Republic: Prague, Hradec Kralove, World Festival of Singing for Men & Boys

2005: Louisville KY - Cleveland OH - Philadelphia PA - New York City (Carnegie Hall)

2006: Piccolo Spoleto Festival - Charleston SC—Birmingham, Auburn, Montevallo AL

2007: Ireland: Dublin, Limerick, Galway, Connemara

2008: Hernando MS, Shreveport LA, Houston, Dallas, Austin TX, New Orleans LA

2009: Tampa, Apopka, Orlando, Gainesville FL—Louisville KY—St Louis MO—Chicago IL

2010: Canada: Quebec City, Montreal, Toronto

Recent artistic collaborations include:

Chattanooga Symphony and Opera: Puccini *Tosca* and *La Boheme*, Humperdinck *Hänsel und Gretel*, Reitz *Journey of Sir Douglas Fir*, CSO *Home for the Holidays!*

American Boychoir (2006, 2009)

Simmons-O'Neal Memorial Concert with the Chattanooga Choral Society for the Preservation of African-American Song

Local church choirs: Rutter *Mass of the Children* (2005), Chattanooga Boys Choir Hymn Festival (2005, 2007, 2009)

Dan Landrum (hammer dulcimer), Ballet Tennessee, Baylor School String Orchestra, Barbershop Harmony Society



EDUCATION



Members of the Chattanooga Boys Choir typically enter the choir in the third grade after a simple audition, and stay in the treble (unchanged voice) choirs through the voice change. Membership and participation can begin in any grade, however. Changed-voice (tenor/bass) graduates of the treble choirs remain an active part of the CBC through high school and college.

Each boy works through a rigorous musicianship and music theory curriculum, which includes music theory, voice training, ensemble skills, and individual musicianship. Those members who achieve the highest curriculum level have completed musicianship and theory curriculum similar to the first semester of college-level music theory.

The choir has a fifteen-station Computer Music Theory Lab in which the boys receive computer-aided music theory and choral musicianship instruction.

The CBC includes artistic interns from local universities each year working in rehearsal and

CHATTANOOGA BOYS CHOIR

4315-B Brainerd Road • Chattanooga, TN 37411

Tel: (423) 622-3033 • Fax: (423) 622-1182

www.chattanoogaboyschoir.org

performance with the choir, giving unparalleled experience for future teachers and conductors.

Extending its educational reach far into the community, the choir has held and participated in workshops for choral directors and teachers in our community and throughout the state and region, including music teacher in-service events and conferences of the American Choral Directors Association, Music Educators National Conference, Music Teachers National Association, and various denominational church music workshops.

The annual Music Camp is held for a week each summer on a local school campus. At camp, the boys are engaged in rehearsals, theory classes, voice lessons, computer music theory instruction, art activities, and recreational time with a staff of several staff and chaperones.

APPRECIATION

The Chattanooga Boys Choir often hosts and performs with other choirs that travel through the Chattanooga area. Recent choirs which the CBC has hosted include the American Boychoir, the Maryland Boychoir, the St. Olaf College Choir, and the Varna Choir of Men and Boys from Bulgaria.

Recent commercial recordings including the Chattanooga Boys Choir include the Ravel *L'enfant et les de Sortilèges* by the Nashville Symphony (2006, NAXOS) and *Peace on Earth* by contemporary artists Casting Crowns (2008, Reunion Records).

The choir has produced several programs of musical significance and notoriety, including masterworks, pre-concert lectures, and other educational activities. Among these are community hymn festivals (held every other year), concerts on the works of W.A. Mozart (2006) and F. Schubert (2010), and a program centered around music of the Holocaust (2008).

The choir regularly commissions and premiers several new works, including recent new pieces and arrangements by composers Eric Nelson, Ken Berg, and Russell Robinson.

The Chattanooga Boys Choir regularly participates in special projects with other community entities and agencies, including:
KidSing Neighborhood Community Concerts: Saint Andrews Center, Concord Baptist Signal Mountain Arts Center
Tennessee Aquarium, Chattanooga Lookouts, UT-Chattanooga Athletics, American Heart Association Heart Walk
Tennessee Arts Commission Legislative Reception, Arts Advocacy Day, National Assembly of State Arts Agencies
Riverbend Music Festival
Krystal® World Hamburger Eating Competition
Chattanooga Area Food Bank: Food Drive, Benefit Concert, *Share Your Christmas*, and Distribution Center Grand Opening

SUPPORT

The CBC receives financial assistance from the Tennessee Arts Commission and Allied Arts of Greater Chattanooga. Choristers' families pay a yearly tuition and participate in fundraising events, including our annual pecan sale each fall. Families cover most of the costs incurred by the Summer Tour.

The CBC has partial scholarships available for boys who would otherwise not be able to participate in the choir due to financial reasons. Since 2003, every family who has requested scholarship assistance has benefited from the scholarship fund. The annual *Catering to the Boys Choir* is a fundraiser specifically to raise money for scholarships.

Sponsorships help the choir to assist boys going on tour and allow the choir to present several concerts throughout the community each year at no charge.

Sponsors can help the choir by underwriting several specific programs or events. These include tuition sponsorship, sponsorship of the summer tour, or sponsoring a concert or local appearance.

THEY SAID IT...

"The Chattanooga Boys Choir taught him all the fundamentals of music, such as ear training, sight-reading, and voice training."
Onyx Business Report article on **Sam Sims** - professional bass player and singer

"Chattanooga Boys Choir membership was an outstanding experience of boyhood."
Kenneth Douglas Thrasher - Family Practitioner Physical Medicine & Rehabilitation Staff, Fauquier Hospital

"I certainly owe my career in music to the Chattanooga Boys Choir. It was a tremendous experience."
R. Wade Kelley - Director of Development, Chattanooga Symphony and Opera

PERSONNEL

Vincent Oakes, Artistic / Executive Director

Kristen Wiram, Associate Director

Judy Brittingham, Training Choir Director

Cynda Holmes, Training Choir Director

Stephanie Randall, Musicianship and Music Theory Coordinator

Merry Lee Wilson, Accompanist

Mark Laseter, Accompanist

Dawn Oakes, Administrative Director

Azusa Dance, Operations Manager

Melanie Doss, Volunteer Coordinator

For more information, to include the choir in your event, or to inquire about member auditions, contact the CBC office:

4315-B Brainerd Road • Chattanooga, TN 37411

Tel: (423) 622-3033 • Fax: (423) 622-1182

WEB: www.chattanoogaboyschoir.org

E-MAIL: info@cbchoir.org

