

## *Clark County Male Chorus*

The Clark County Male Chorus, originally begun as the Thorp Area Male Chorus in 1947, was reorganized in 1964 and is based out of Greenwood. Currently under the direction of Mr. Joe Anderson of Loyal and accompanied by Deon Spangler of Neilsville, the chorus performs at many functions during its season from September to May. Performances include an annual Christmas concert with the Clark County Choraliers, the women's counterpart to the male chorus, church tours in Greenwood, Loyal, Neilsville, Granton, Chili, Owen, Withee, Thorp, Abbottsford, Colby, and Cadott. The group joined the upper midwest district of the Associated Male Choruses of America in 1948 and participates in the annual Big Sing adjudicated recital/concert. This event takes place in area cities like Minneapolis/St. Paul, Jamestown, North Dakota, Grand Rapids, Minnesota, Winnipeg, Ontario in Canada, Marquette, Michigan, and as far away as Buffalo, New York. The group also sings in area nursing homes, legion events, and club functions in Marshfield and Chippewa Falls.

Current membership is 20 including the director and accompanist. Membership is drawn from Greenwood, Loyal, Neillsville, Granton, Willard, Thorp, and Cadott. It is of interest to note that many of the members were graduates and former athletes of the aforementioned area schools. Also of note: one of the charter members from the 1964 chorus continues to sing with the group and also, a former staff member/coach of the Greenwood High School staff from the 1957-58 school year sings with the group. Ages of the men range from 36 to 78. The group is always looking for a few good men and invites scholar athletes to join after high school to continue the proud tradition of the Clark County Male Chorus. Being able to read music is not a requirement to join the group. Just bring an enthusiasm for singing and plan to be dedicated to Monday night rehearsals for 8 months every year! Enjoy the concert!

## *Cold Spring Area Maennerchor*

1937 marks the beginning of male chorus singing in the Cold Spring area. This involved about 24 men. Their first concert was presented that winter to an area school for the Christmas season. Now the group numbers 48 official members. The Maennerchor provides programs in a wide area during Christmas holidays, dinner concerts in the fall and early summer and programs that are contracted to various service groups. Member churches are visited periodically throughout the year with liturgical music with additional selections being presented.

They have traveled in Europe and Canada presenting concerts within these ventures. This has included singing in St. Peter's in Rome for a Saturday evening mass, presenting a broadcast concert on Austrian radio plus other concert programs at a variety of international facilities and events. Currently membership is growing again with 2 new members. Everyone is working and planning for the 2007 Big Sing, the Maennerchor's first venture into hosting this program.

## *Eagan Men's Chorus*

The Eagan Men's Chorus was organized in 1999 under the sponsorship of the City of Eagan's Parks & Recreation Dept. The chorus traces its heritage to Lockheed Martin, Loyal, Unisys and Sperry (1982) when it operated under corporate sponsorship and restricted its membership to singers affiliated with the companies. Membership in the chorus is now open to men from Eagan and all surrounding communities. The chorus performs about 30 concerts a year at senior citizen centers, nursing homes, churches and civic functions in addition to concerts in association with other AMCA choruses in the Upper Midwest District. The chorus occasionally joins with the Eagan Women of Note in concerts in and around the Eagan, MN community.

## *Eau Claire Male Chorus*

The Eau Claire Male Chorus was organized in 1946, making it the longest continuous performing arts group in the Eau Claire area. Ed Hagan, the first director, auditioned prospective members, setting a cap at 75 singers. In the 1940's the chorus was instrumental in developing the Upper Midwest District of the AMCA.

Directed by David Fehr, and accompanied by Karol Hommen, the Eau Claire Male Chorus draws members from throughout the Chippewa Valley of western Wisconsin. In addition to winter and spring concerts in Eau Claire, the chorus entertains at sporting events, civic celebrations, nursing homes, churches, banquets and parties. Known for enthusiastic style, the chorus performs a wide variety of music including show tunes, rap, folk songs, spirituals, pop, classical, sacred and humorous selections. Each year generous individuals and businesses financially support the chorus through membership subscriptions. Chorus members and spouses also assist at Eau Claire area events such as Country Jam and Air Shows.

## *Jamestown Choralaires*

The Jamestown Choralaires were organized in 1955 in North Dakota and have presented concerts ranging from minstrel shows to classical performances throughout the state. They have provided scholarships to Jamestown College music students and to area high school students for music camps. The Choralaires also mentor and offer support to the Jamestown Boys' Choir. The group presents formal concerts, dinner concerts, and an annual church and nursing home "sing in." In 1983 the Choralaires joined the AMC of A as the only North Dakota member. In 1995, they were named the North Dakota Governor's Chorus and gave several command performances during the year.

The Choralaires are celebrating their 50th Anniversary this year with 3 charter members still singing. They do it all for the enjoyment of singing, as suggested in their theme song, "Brothers, Sing On!"

## *Knights of Columbus Male Chorus (Minneapolis)*

The Minneapolis Area Knights of Columbus Male Chorus was formed in 1957 and is in its 48 year as a male chorus. The chorus joined the Associated Male Chorus of America in 1957 and has been an active participant and was the host for 2 Big Sings. The chorus is composed of singers from 4 Twin City Knights of Columbus Councils.

The group sings regularly at nursing homes, senior centers, masses, weddings, Special Olympics, civic functions, and for various Twin Cities Knights of Columbus Councils and Auxiliaries.

The group sings a wide variety of music from popular song arrangements, spirituals, religious and Broadway showtunes. We love to sing and enjoy the camaraderie associated with practices of at performances.

The chorus is under the direction of Don Rowe since 1994. Don has been directing various choirs in the Twin Cities area for the past 50 years.

## *Marshall Area Men's Chorus*

The Marshall Area Men's Chorus was established in 1967 for the purpose of bringing fine music and entertainment to Marshall and the surrounding area. The chorus is composed from 10 southwestern Minnesota communities. Singing engagements include dinner concerts in the spring and annual Christmas concerts. These concerts are performed in Marshall and the surrounding communities. The chorus also performs whenever requested in support of many community functions. They hosted the 1999 Big Sing.

## *Rochester Male Chorus*

The Rochester Male Chorus, established in 1930 by the late Dr. Harold Cooke, has become known as Rochester's ambassadors of music by its local, national, and overseas performances. The Rochester Male Chorus traditionally presents 2 concerts in the city annually, and also performs at receptions and business related events in Rochester and its neighboring communities. Other performances, through which the RMC earned the title of Rochester's Ambassadors of Music were singing the national anthem at the Sugar Bowl in New Orleans and at the Cotton Bowl in Dallas, and through concerts at the World's Fair in Seattle, at the Hemisfair in San Antonio, and at the White House on Palm Sunday 1973. The chorus also conducted a highly successful 13-day tour of England, Scotland and Wales in 1983. As a member of the AMCA, the Rochester Male Chorus has participated in AMCA Big Sings in 8 of the last 9 years. The chorus is celebrating its 75th year of singing and is very proud to be hosting the Big Sing for 2005.

## *South St. Paul Male Chorus*

The South St. Paul Male Chorus began singing in 1943 on the occasion of Harold Stassen leaving the Minnesota governorship to enter the U.S. Navy during World War II. The chorus has proudly represented South St. Paul for more than 60 years, presenting concerts and performing for charitable and civic functions, including the annual "Christmas in South St. Paul" celebration and Minnesota Twins games. Previously sponsored by the City of South St. Paul, the chorus is now self-supporting, with generous help from the city council, local businesses and fraternal organizations. A popular "Spaghetti Dinner" fundraiser is held twice a year.

## *Staples Area Men's Chorus*

The Staple Area Men's Chorus has provided the people of central Minnesota with the finest in male chorus singing for more than 60 years. Under its present director Stan Carlson, the chorus has grown to include diverse members who come from communities throughout the area. The chorus performs musical literature of many periods and styles, from light pop and Broadway show music to classical, patriotic, and religious works. Our annual agenda usually includes a dinner concert in September, Christmas concert in December featuring a major work every other year, performing at a couple of Retirement/Care Centers during January and February, the annual Variety Show with the Staples Area Women's Chorus for March, and completing the year with another dinner concert followed by our recording session. During the summer we occasionally perform at different community festivals and/or reunions. Last October we fulfilled our dream by hosting the area's young high school males in a workshop-concert setting. The "Real Men Sing" forum included guest choruses, clinicians, training, rehearsal sessions, and ended with an evening concert set to a Big Sing idea. We were excited with the excellent attendance of nearly 200 people and young men from 13 area communities.

The Staples Area Men's Chorus is an active member of the AMCA. In fact, the local group was a founding member of the Upper Midwest District of the AMCA in 1947.

## *SineWave*

SineWave or  $(u(t,x) = u \cdot \sin(Tt - kx))$ , if you want to be really technical, is the new name of the 3M Male Chorus. We changed our name along with our focus and a new energy to rebuild and renew the group. The proud history of SineWave began in 1947 with a long, active and successful singing history of the 3M Male choir. 3M employees, retirees and local members bring their love of singing together to perform throughout the St. Paul region. Always pursuing and performing new and entertaining music has made SineWave a much appreciated and enjoyed performing male ensemble.



# The Associated Male Choruses of America Upper Midwest District

*Proudly Presents:*

## *“Together We Sing” Big Sing 2005*



*April 30, 2005 • 7 p.m.*

*Hosted by the  
Rochester Male Chorus  
Celebrating 75 Years of Singing*

**Mayo Civic Center  
Taylor Arena  
Rochester, Minnesota**



# Big Sing 2005

Master of Ceremonies

**Roy Achter**

Presentation of the Colors  
**Olmsted Co. Sheriff's Dept.**

<i>Jon Strum</i>	<i>Joe Trygstad</i>
<i>Dean Thompson</i>	<i>Jeremiah Karsten</i>
<i>Tracy Pagel</i>	<i>Todd Peterson</i>

Welcome Proclamation  
**Mayor of Rochester, Ardell Brede**

## Massed Chorus

Star Spangled Banner .....F. Scott Key, arr. by Roger Wagner  
*Director: Daniel Kuhlman, Rochester*

Salutation .....W. Bentz  
*Director: Daniel Kuhlman*

It's A Grand Night For Singing .....Rodgers / Hammerstein / arr. W. Stickle  
*Director: Dave Fehr, Eau Claire*  
*Accompanist: Karol Hommen*

## Welcome

Roy Achter .....Master of Ceremonies

## South St. Paul

Swingin' With the Saints .....arr. Mark Hayes  
*Director: Patricia Bjorklund*  
*Accompanist: Ken Denzer*

## Staples

All That Have Life and Breath Praise Ye the Lord ....R. Clausen/R. Scholz  
*Director: Stan Carlson*  
*Accompanist: Ted Masog*  
*Soloist: Steve Hoemberg*

## Massed Chorus

Bring Him Home .....arr. J. Leavitt  
*Director: Don Rowe, Knights of Columbus*  
*Accompanist: Ken Denzer*

Steal Away .....arr. B. Dennard  
*Director: Dave Campen, Egan*  
*Accompanist: Iva'Nell Monson*

## Clark County

Goin' to the Holy City .....Williams/J. Martin  
*Director: Joseph Anderson*  
*Accompanist: Dean Spangler*

## Sine Wave

All That Jazz .....Ebb/Kander/arr. Becky Warnock  
*Director: Paul Nixdorf*  
*Accompanist: Becky Warnock*

## Massed Chorus

Who Are the Brave .....Williams/J. Martin  
*Director: Loy Hunter Fennell, Marshall*  
*Accompanist: Anna Jeanne Flessner*

Stouthearted Men .....arr. W. Scotson  
*Director: Tim Jarnot, Cold Springs*  
*Accompanist: Ingrid Loewen*

## Egan

If Music Be the Food of Love .....D. Dickau / H. Hevening  
*Director: David Campen*  
*Accompanist: Iva'Nell Monson*

## Rochester

Elijah Rock .....J. Hairston  
*Director: Daniel Kuhlman*  
*Accompanist: Margaret Clark*

## Massed Chorus

I Hear America Singing .....Whitman/C. Kraft  
*Director: Pamela Burkhardt, Jamestown, N.D.*  
*Accompanist: Carrie Kraft*

Shenandoah .....arr. James Erb  
*Director: Patty Bjorklund, South St. Paul*

Man of La Mancha .....arr. K. Shaw  
*Director: Daniel Kuhlman*  
*Accompanist: Margaret Clark*

The Awakening .....J. Martin  
*Director: Doug Kutschat, Blandin*  
*Accompanist: Alan Fritz*

# Thank You!

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*Special thanks to the Rochester Area Girls Choir and their Founder/Director, Diane Toogood, for assisting with the Big Sing Concert activities. Of note, auditions are May 24, 2005. For information, please call 507-289-6644. RMC appreciates your ongoing support. Thank you.*

*Tonight's program may be purchased from Advance Audio. 2-DVD/VHS set for \$29.95 • 2-CD set for \$19.95 Contact: Advance Audio 201 South Broadway • Gilbert, MN 55741 (218) 749-4056*

## The Associated Male Chorus of America

Good singing, good fellowship, public service - that is the motto of the Associated Male Chorus of America, Inc. (AMCA). The AMCA had its earliest beginnings in 1924 at which time the Associated Glee Clubs of America was born. On July 1, 1945, the corporate name of the association was changed to its present name.

The AMCA is composed of adult male community choruses and has a membership of more than 1600 men. The choruses are organized in seven regional districts. During the year, each district holds a Big Sing concert, sponsored by a local chorus, in which each member chorus performs individually and with the massed chorus. The International Big Sing is held every five years.

Most of the members of the choruses are amateur singers who are devoted to the cause of better music for men and who cherish the fellowship of men singing together. Giving freely of their time, singers across the United States and Canada provide concerts which delight young and old alike, touching on all musical tastes.

The AMCA maintains a scholarship fund for promising college-age music students.



## About the Performers

### Blandin Male Chorus

The Blandin Male Chorus was officially organized in 1955 with thirteen members. In 1956, officers were elected and a name was chosen. They named the group the Grand Rapids Male Chorus. By 1957 there were 30 members. About that time the chorus changed its name to the Arion Male Chorus, named after a mythological Greek poet and musician.

In 1959, the group joined the Associated Male Choruses of America (AMCA) and performed a solo at the organization's Big Sing at Fort William, Ontario in 1960. In 1962, there was another significant addition when Alan Fritz joined the chorus as its accompanist. He continues to hold this position today.

Our first director, Betty Kauppi retired in 1970, Harry Aune took over the baton. The Blandin Male Chorus continued under his direction for 17 years. Upon Aune's retirement in 1987, Ron Nelson took over as director until he passed away in 2001, at that time the baton passed to Doug Kutschat, the current director.

In 1994, the Blandin Male Chorus was inducted into the Minnesota Music Hall of Fame. Formed in 1962, "to recognize musicians, both past and present, who have contributed significantly to the Minnesota music scene", this institution includes among its inductees Judy Garland, Dr. Frank Bencriscutto (long-time director of the University of Minnesota Bands), Bob Dylan, "Whoppee" John, and F. Melius Christiansen (founder of the St. Olaf Choir).

Presently the chorus consists of 24 members from the Grand Rapids and the surrounding area. The men practice weekly and perform at functions ranging from church services to fund raisers for various groups to entertainment for conventions. A home concert is performed every spring to culminate the year's work. One week later the chorus participates in the Big Sing of the AMCA.