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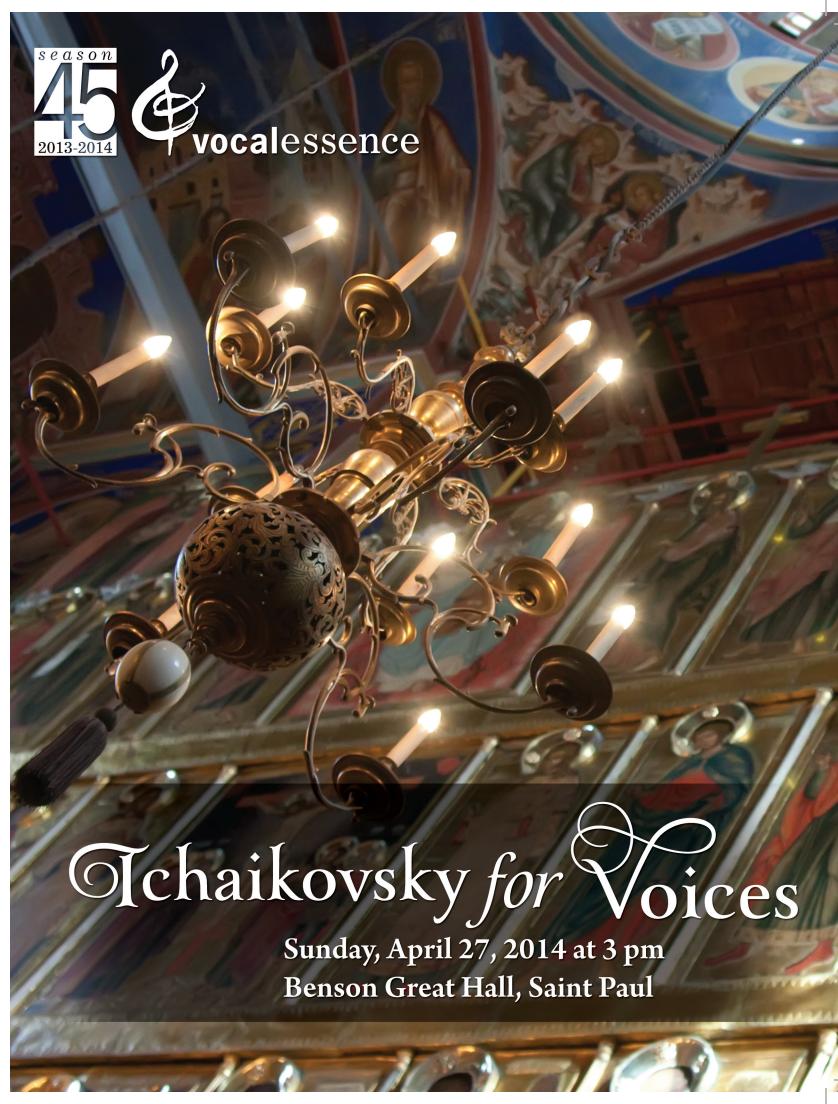
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2013-2014 45th Anniversary Season



Special Thanks for Support of Tchaikovsky for Voices

Albrecht Family Foundation Warren and Donna Beck **Goodale Family Foundation** Philip and Katherine Nason Fund of The Saint Paul Foundation **Piper Family Fund of The Minneapolis Foundation** Sunday, April 27, 2014 at 3 pm Benson Great Hall, Bethel University 3900 Bethel Drive Saint Paul, MN

Concert Conversation with Steve Staruch, Vladimir Rabinstein, and Sarah Schmalenberger at 2 pm

VocalEssence Chorus Bethel Choir The Gustavus Choir **Luther College Nordic Choir** University of St. Thomas Chamber Singers Philip Brunelle, conductor Dennis Port, conductor Gregory J. Aune, conductor Angela Broeker, conductor Allen Hightower, conductor

2013-2014 Season Sponsors









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This activity is made possible by the voters of Minnesota through a Minnesota State Arts Board Operating Support grant, thanks to a legislative appropriation from the arts and cultural heritage fund and a grant from MINNESOTA STATE ARTS BOARD Wells Fargo Foundation Minnesota.



VocalEssence

1900 Nicollet Avenue Minneapolis, Minnesota 55403 612-547-1451 www.vocalessence.org VocalEssence is a 501(c)(3) non-profit organization.

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 moment now to check that all cell phones, paging devices, wristwatch alarms and the like are turned off
 before the concert begins. Thank you for your cooperation.
- Recording devices and cameras are prohibited. No photography, video, or audio recording is allowed in the concert hall. Please abstain from texting, tweeting or checking your email during the concert!
- Student and group discounts are available for most VocalEssence concerts. Half-price tickets are available
 to students (ages 6-18 and college) with a student ID. Groups of 10 or more save 15% on tickets. Children
 under age 6 are not allowed at VocalEssence performances, except for select community and family
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- Latecomers will be seated at appropriate pauses in the concert according to the conductor's wishes. Please
 plan plenty of time for locating the concert venue and parking. Or better yet, allow an extra hour and join
 us for Concert Conversations with the composers and artists, held one hour before most concerts.



-The Program-

Bethel Choir

Cry Aloud John Ness Beck Chorale No. 3 "Unter deinen Schirmen" Johann Sebastian Bach Fire! John Orfe

Krin McMillen, *soprano* Dan Sandberg, *bass*

The Gustavus Choir

Double, Double Toil and Trouble

Very Soon

Eric Whitacre
I Don' Feel No Ways Tired

Negro Spiritual, arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

Audience Sing

God, the Omnipotent "Russian Hymn," Alexis Lvov

University of St. Thomas Chamber Singers

Kara Üzüm Salkimi arr. Erdal Tuğcular Fini La Comedie J. Palmer, K. Ricanek, arr. Robert Delgado

Jared Waln, acoustic guitar

Amazing Grace arr. Will Todd

Greg Theisen, *piano* Steve Cole, *saxophone* Altamir Coelho, *electric bass*

Luther College Nordic Choir

Kyrie eleison (from Missa Rigensis)

Psalm 67

Eriks Ešenvalds
Way Over in Beulah Lan'

Negro Spiritual, arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

- Intermission -

VocalEssence Chorus, Bethel Choir, Gustavus Choir, University of St. Thomas Chamber Singers and Luther College Nordic Choir

The Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky

Russian Poems Read by Vladimir Rabinstein

The Angel Mikhail Lermontov
The Sail Mikhail Lermontov
Winter Night Boris Pasternak
Winter Morning Alexandr Pushkin

Special Thanks

Gregory Aune,

Gustavus Adolphus College

Bethel University

Andrea Hendricks

Dennis Port

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Donna Hackler

Allen Hightower, Luther College

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Aline Ouchveridze Vladimir Rabinstein

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Steve Staruch, Minnesota Public Radio

University of St. Thomas Angela Broeker Sarah Schmalenberger

Deb Warren

Welcome and a Message about Tchaikovsky

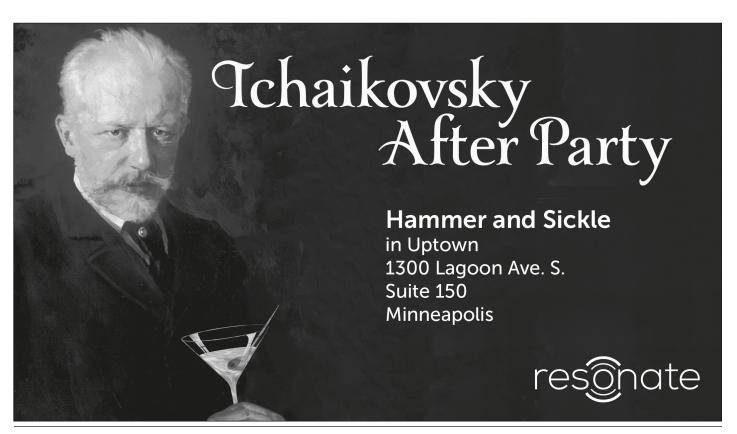


Welcome to Tchaikovsky for Voices! With the glory of more than 300 voices, you are moments away from immersing yourself in the grandeur and romantic beauty of Tchaikovsky's music. That powerful sound not only represents the genius of Tchaikovsky, but also the best of our Midwest choral community from colleges with choral traditions that would make F. Melius Christiansen proud! Together with the talented VocalEssence Chorus, this concert is truly a perfect way to conclude our 45th Season – providing you with the thunderous sound of our present-day community celebrating a centuries-old Russian orthodox tradition.

You may be surprised to see Tchaikovsky's name linked to sacred music as he is so well known for his secular music – his ballets and symphonies. Yet, religion played an important role in his life from early childhood when he sang in the choir for Russian Orthodox Church services and wrote, "the Liturgy had a deep poetic effect upon me in those days." After completing his Liturgy in 1878 he submitted it (as was required) to the Moscow Office of Sacred Censorship for permission to have it published.

The Office approved it, but the Imperial Chapel Director ordered a police seizure of the published scores! He and his colleagues were offended by the fact that Tchaikovsky had composed original music for the Liturgy rather than following the long-standing practice of use simple chord progressions; therefore it was not suitable for church use! It was only after Tchaikovsky's death that his setting became accepted and was used as a model by composers of church music; more than 30 complete settings of the Liturgy followed his lead including that of Rachmaninoff who, in composing his own Liturgy, wrote that he had Tchaikovsky's score in front of him while working on his own setting.

–Philip Brunelle



Bethel Choir

Cry Aloud

No. 1 from "Three Prophecies from Isaiah" John Ness Beck

Cry aloud, spare not, lift up Thy voice like a trumpet, and show my people their transgression. Thy cities are a wilderness, a desolation. Our holy and our beautiful house is burned up with fire, and all our pleasant things are laid waste. Wilt Thou refrain thyself for these things, O Lord; wilt Thou hold thy peace, and afflict us very sore? Cry aloud, spare not; lift up your voice like a trumpet.

Then shall Thy light break forth as the morning, and Thine health shall spring forth speedily. Violence shall no more be heard in Thy land, wasting nor destruction within thy borders. The sun shall no more go down; neither shall the moon withdraw itself: for the Lord shall be Thine everlasting light, and the days of Thy mourning shall be ended.

Chorale No. 3 "Unter deinen Schirmen"

From "Jesu, Meine Freude," BWV 227 Johann Sebastian Bach Text by Johann Franck Translation by Francis Browne

Beneath Your protection I am free from the attacks Of all my enemies.

Let Satan track me down, let my enemy be exasperated— Jesus stands by me.

Even if there is thunder and lightning, even if sin and hell spread terror

Jesus will protect me.

Fire!

John Orfe Poem by Langston Hughes

Fire, Lord! Fire gonna burn ma soul!

I ain't been good, I ain't been clean— I been stinkin', low down, mean.

Fire, Lord! Fire gonna burn ma soul!

Tell me, brother, Do you believe If you want to go to heaven Got to moan an' grieve?

Fire, Lord! Fire gonna burn ma soul! I been stealin', Been tellin' lies, Had more women Than Pharaoh had wives.

Fire, Lord! Fire gonna burn my soul! I means Fire, Lord! Fire gonna burn ma soul!

Gustavus Choir

Double, Double Toil and Trouble

Jaakko Mäntyjärvi Text by William Shakespeare, from "Macbeth"

Thrice the brinded cat hath mew'd.
Thrice, and once the hedge-pig whin'd.
Harpier cries: "'tis time, 'tis time!"
Round about the cauldron go,
In the poison'd entrails throw:
Toad, that under cold stone
Days and nights has thirty-one;
Swelter'd venom sleeping got,
Boil thou first in the charmèd pot.

Double, double toil and trouble,
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

Fillet of a fenny snake
In the cauldron boil and bake;
Eye of newt, and toe of frog,
Wool of bat, and tongue of dog,
Adder's fork and blind-worm's sting,
Lizard's leg and owlet's wing.
For a charm of powerful trouble,
Like a hell-broth, boil and bubble.

Double, double toil and trouble
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

Scale of dragon; tooth of wolf;
Witches' mummy, maw and gulf
Of the ravin'd salt-sea shark;
Root of hemlock digg'd in dark.
Liver of blaspheming Jew;
Gall of goat, and slips of yew
Sliver'd in the moon's eclipse;
Nose of Turk, and Tartar's lips,
Finger of birth-strangl'd babe
Ditch-delivered by a drab,
Make the gruel thick and slab:
Add thereto a tiger's chaudron,
For th' ingredients of our cauldron.
Double, double toil and trouble,
Fire burn, and cauldron bubble.

By the pricking of my thumbs, Something wicked this way comes. Open, locks, Whoever knocks!

Very Soon

Eric Whitacre

Very soon, little lightning, you'll emerge from your mother, Very soon you'll awaken and dream. So here is your boat, And here is your oar, And here is your path to the stream.

Now dream:

Dream of roses, and birthdays, and butterflies, Dream of winter, and water, and night, Dream of lullabies, and Hebrew, and Christmas trees, Dream of angels, and panthers, and light.

Dream of wading out to play among the sea-girls, Dream of stretching in the waves exchanging foam, Dream of flying over rooftops as the midnight watchtower tolls, In a machine that you've designed to take you home.

Dream of marriage full of laughter and compassion,
Dream of winged children soaring as they leap,
Dream of tasting touching hearing seeing breathing, dream of
hope,
And dream of love as you surrender unto sleep.

Row gently, little lightning, and emerge from your mother, Row gently down the stream.

Life, life, life, life, Life is but a dream.

I Don' Feel No Ways Tired

Negro Spiritual arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

Oh, I am seekin' for a city, hallelujah. I am seekin' for a city, hallelujah. For a city into the Kingdom, hallelujah. For a city into the Kingdom, hallelujah.

Oh, Lord, I don' feel no ways tired, children, Oh, glory hallelujah, For I hope to shout glory when this world is on fire, Oh, glory hallelujah!

There's a better day a-comin', hallelujah. There's a better day a-comin', hallelujah. When I leave this world of sorrow, hallelujah, For to join that holy number, hallelujah.



God the Omnipotent



University of St. Thomas Chamber Singers

Kara Üzüm Salkimi

Turkish folksong arr. Erdal Tu cular

A bunch of black grapes!
My Azimem, is the one I love hidden?
Let me see your face just once
Otherwise I will lose my mind.
The springs of the lower town are falling from the side.
Azime's hair is shining.
I went to the vineyard to harvest grapes,
And there you are, Azimem from Yumala.
The one I love who is shy around me

Fini La Comedie

J. Palmer, K. Ricanek arr. Robert Delgado

It is finished. The comedy is finished. Everything began as a successful play in all blue scenery A suburban theatre where there were only two of us.

We loved each other such a long time Almost forgetting about time That throughout the scenes transformed joy into pain. And time has defeated us.

He is happy when he sees us each in turn as strangers. Nothing more connects us except mundane words. The scenery has not changed, but the actors have nothing more to play.

Time to lower the curtain.

It is finished. The comedy is finished. It was a good start and eternity seemed guaranteed. We are alone in the world before all the waves of love. But nothing more remains of our forbidden feelings.

Amazing Grace

arr. Will Todd Text: John Newton

Amazing grace, how sweet the sound that saved a wretch like me. I once was lost but now am found, was blind but now I see.

Through many dangers, toils, and snares I have already come; 'Tis grace hath brought me safe thus far, and grace will lead me home.

When we've been there ten thousand years bright shining as the sun,

We've no less days to sing God's praise than when we first begun.

Luther College Nordic Choir

Kyrie eleison (from Missa Rigensis)

Uğis Prauliņš

Lord have mercy. Christ have mercy. Lord have mercy.

Psalm 67

Ēriks Ešenvalds

God be merciful unto us, and bless us; and show us the light of his countenance,

That thy way may be known upon earth, Thy saving health among all nations.

O God, let the people praise thee, O let the nations rejoice and be glad:

For thou shalt judge the folk righteously, and govern the nations upon earth.

Then shall the earth bring forth her increase; and God, even our own God, shall give us his blessing.

Our God shall bless us; and all the ends of the world shall fear him.

Way Over in Beulah Lan'

Negro Spiritual arr. Stacey V. Gibbs

We gonna have a good, good time Way over in Beulah Lan'.
Oh, when we get way over in Beulah Lan', Yes, way over in Beulah Lan'.
Oh, we gonna have a good, good time Oh, Lordy, way over in Beulah Lan'.
I'm singin', way over in Beulah Lan', Yes, way over in Beulah Lan'.

Oh, we gonna walk them golden streets Way over in Beulah Lan',
Oh, we gonna drink of the Holy wine
Way over in Beulah Lan'.
When we get to heaven, children,
We gonna have a good time,
Oh, yes, way over in Beulah Lan'!

Liturgy of St. John Chrysostom

Pyotr Ilyich Tchaikovsky Translation by Philip Brunelle and Paul Gerike

Russian Poems Translation by Vladimir Nabokov

The Angel (1831)

Mikhail Lermontov (1814-1841)

An angel was crossing the pale vault of night, and his song was as soft as his flight, and the moon and the stars and the clouds in a throng stood enthralled by this holy song. He sang of the bliss of the innocent shades *in the depths of celestial glades;* He sang of the Sovereign Being, and free of guile was his eulogy. He carried a soul in his arms, a young life to the world of sorrow and strife, and the young soul retained the throb of that song —without words, but vivid and strong. And tied to this planet long did it pine full of yearnings dimly divine. and our dull little ditties could never replace songs belonging to infinite space.

No. 1

Lord, our God, have mercy. Hear thou our petition. Unto thee do we cry, Lord. Hearken to our prayer, Lord. Bow thine ear and hear us. Show us, Lord, thy mercy. Grant us our petition. Merciful and gracious Lord, hear our prayer. Amen.

No. 2

Glory to God most high and to the Son and Spirit.

Both now and forever unto ages and ages.

The only Son of God and the everlasting Word of God.

He who deigned for our salvation to become incarnate of the Holy One.

Theotokis without change didst become incarnate of the Virgin Mary, and was crucified,

O Christ God, trampling down death by death.

O blessed and triune Person, who is glorified with God and the Holy Spirit,

O save us.

No. 3

Let us worship and fall down before Christ our Lord.
O save us, Son of God, who has arisen from the dead.
O save us as we sing: Alleluia, Alleluia, Alleluia.
God of love, most merciful and gracious, O hear us, Lord.
Holy Father, Holy Immortal, have mercy on us!
Glory to God and to the Son and Holy Spirit,
Both now and ever and forevermore. Amen.

The Sail (1832)

Mikhail Lermontov (1814-1841)

Amid the blue haze of the ocean a sail is passing, white and frail. What do you seek in a far country? What have you left at home, lone sail?

The billows play, the breezes whistle, and rhythmically creaks the mast. Alas, you seek no happy future, nor do you flee a happy past.

Below the mirrored azure brightens, above the golden rays increase but you, wild rover, pray for tempests, as if in tempests there was peace!

No. 4

The Cherubic Hymn

Like a choir of angels, cherubim in mystic harmony Singing to the life-giving Trinity, Raise our threefold song to the Lord of Hosts. Now let us cast aside all cares of this earthly life, That we may receive thee, O King of all the earth and heaven, Coming to us invisibly with hosts of mighty angels, alleluia!

No. 5

The Creed

I believe in one God, the Father almighty, omnipotent, The Maker of heaven and earth, of all things visible and invisible. And in one Lord Jesus Christ, the Son of God,

Begotten of the Father before all ages began.

Light of Light, true God of very God,

Begotten not created, being made of one substance with the Father,

Who for us sinful creatures and for our salvation came down from heaven

And was incarnate of the Holy Spirit and the Virgin Mary, and became a man.

He was crucified for us under Pontius Pilate; He suffered and was buried;

And rose on the third day according to the scriptures.

He ascended into heaven and sitteth on the right hand of God.

And he shall come again to judge the living and the dead, whose kingdom shall have no end.

And also the Holy Spirit, the Lord and Giver of life,

Who from the Father and the Son is worshipped and glorified, Who spoke by the prophets.

I believe in one Holy Catholic and apostolic church,

I acknowledge and confess one baptism for the remission of sins;

I look for the resurrection of the dead,

And for the life of the age to come. Amen.

Winter Night (1946)

Boris Pasternak (1890 –1960)

A blizzard blew and reached its crest, Was everywhere. A candle flared on the desk, A candle flared.

Like midges in the summer dash To reach the fire, White little flakes flew to the sash In swarms and gyres.

And on the glass the blizzard pressed Its rimy hair.
A candle flared on the desk,
A candle flared.
And on the lighted ceiling lay
The dusk projections,
The crossing arms and crossing legs,
Fate intersections.

And on the floor, with a soft tap, Two shoes fell down. And wax, in tears, from the lamp Dripped on the gown.

All vanished in the snowy haze, The gray-white air. A candle flared on the desk, A candle flared.

The tempting heat swayed in a draft And, like an angel, It heaved two wings with its hot waft And crosswise tangled.

It snowed until March no less, And often there A candle flared on the desk, A candle flared.

No. 6

Gracious lamb-like Victim, we praise thy name.
For this mercy of peace, merciful and gracious Lord.
Worthy is the Lamb that was slain to be worshipped with the heavenly Father and the Holy Spirit;
With one essence with the Father, though undivided.

Holy Lord God of Hosts, heaven and earth are full of thy glory. Blessed are they that come in the Lord's name. Hosanna in the highest.

No. 7

To thee we sing, praise to thy name. Holy Lord, we sing, we pray unto thee. O hear us, O our God.

No. 8

Forever worthy is the Lamb, for he is truth and light. Beautiful are his ways. Forever blessed is he. His the glory without end. Beloved of God is he. Cherubic angels sound his praise.

Seraphic notes beyond compare sound his praise above. Incorruptible, Jesus Christ our Lord was born. My soul longeth to be like thee. Glory be to thee.

Winter morning (1829)

Alexandr Pushkin (1799-1837)

"A magic day — sunshine and frost but you, in dreamland are lost... Come, open your enchanting eyes with honeyed indolence replete... Star of the North, arise to meet Aurora in her wintry skies.

That blizzard yesternight! It spread dimness and tumult overhead. The moon through a lugubrious veil was but a blur of jaundiced gray, and you were listless...But to-day — well, let the window tell its tale:

Fabulous carpets of rich snow under the cloudless heavens glow. Alone the gauzy birches seem to show some black, while green occurs among the frost-bespangled firs, and blue-shot ice adorns the stream.

The room is flooded with a light like amber, and with all its might the hot stove crackles. Lolling there in meditation is no doubt enjoyable... but what about a sledge behind the chestnut mare?

Sweet friend, together we shall speed yielding to our impatient steed on new-born whiteness, fleet and free, and visit silent fields of snow, woods that were lush two months ago a lakeshore that is dear to me..."

No. 9

The Lord's Prayer

Hear our prayer: Our Father who art in Heaven, hallowed be thy

Thy kingdom come. Thy will be done on earth as it is in heaven. Give us this day our daily bread and forgive us our trespasses As we forgive those that trespass against us, And lead us not into temptation, but deliver us from evil. Amen.

No. 10

The Communion Hymn

Sing praises to God most high. Sing praise unto the Lord. Sing praises unto God above. Sing praise in the highest. Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia! Alleluia!



Audition for the VocalEssence Chorus & Ensemble Singers | 2014-2015 Season



Schedule your audition online today at www.vocalessence.org/audition







Biographies



Dennis Port joined the faculty at Bethel University in 1995 as conductor of the Bethel Choir and chair of the Department of Music. Port earned his B.A. from Bethel University in 1966 and

received an M.Div. from Bethel Seminary in 1970. He also holds an M.A. from the University of Minnesota and a Ph.D. from New York University. Port has served at The King's College in New York, where he was named Teacher of the Year in 1987. He also served as assistant director of The Minnesota Chorale, as music director of The East Central Minnesota Chorale, and as an adjudicator and choral clinician in the United States and England. He is the founder and director of Evangelion, a group of 40 adult musicians who travel to Ukraine for a unique classical music ministry.



Gregory J. Aune is in his 19th year as conductor of the Gustavus Choir and holds the John and Anita Thompsen Young Distinguished Endowed Chair in Music at Gustavus

Adolphus College in St. Peter, Minnesota. In addition to directing the college's choral program he teaches choral conducting and serves as Music Director of the annual Christmas program. Choirs under Gregory's direction have frequently appeared at state, regional and national venues, including past appearances at the North Central American Choral Director's Association convention. Under his leadership the Gustavus Choir has toured extensively in the United States, and internationally in South Africa, Spain, Portugal, and Italy. A 1976 graduate of Concordia College in Moorhead, Minnesota, Gregory holds an M.A. and D.M.A. in choral conducting from the University of Iowa.



Recently appointed the first Weston Noble Endowed Chair in Music, Allen Hightower is a Professor of Music at Luther College, where he serves as conductor of the renowned

Nordic Choir and Artistic Director of Christmas at Luther. As Luther's Director of Choral Activities, he gives leadership to a choral program that includes four conductors, six choirs, and over 500 singers. In addition to Luther, he has also served on the faculties at Sam Houston State University in Texas, California State University, and Odessa Permian High School. As a church musician, he has served Baptist, Methodist, Presbyterian, and Congregational churches in Texas and California. Allen holds a bachelor's degree in music education from Sam Houston State University, master's degrees in choral conducting from the Eastman School of Music and orchestral conducting from Baylor University, and doctorate in conducting from UCLA.



Angela Broeker is Director of Choral Activities at the University of St. Thomas where she conducts the Chamber Singers, Concert Choir, and Festival Choir and teaches undergraduate

courses in choral conducting and choral methodology. In the summers, she teaches choral methods, choral conducting, and choral literature courses to students pursuing the Master of Arts in Music Education degree with a choral concentration. Angela has served as a guest conductor for numerous honor choirs including all-state choirs in over 30 states, national OAKE honor choirs, and regional ACDA honor choirs for the North Central, Southern, Southwestern, Central, and Eastern divisions. She received her D.M.A. degree from the University of Oklahoma and her M.M. and B.M.E. degrees from Indiana University.



Vladimir Rabinstein was born in Moscow, Russia in 1949. From early childhood, he was surrounded by classical music because his mother was a piano teacher at a musical college.

Music was a way of life for his family in order to shut themselves off from a drab everyday reality. He vividly remembers the death of Josef Stalin in 1953 and loud weeping on the streets of Moscow. In 1972, he graduated from college with a degree in economics. Later in life, he wrote a book about the Russian economy that circulated underground and consequently was expelled from Moscow.

He immigrated to Germany in 1983, where he spent several years at the University of Mannheim polishing his German. He has lived in Minnesota since 1992. In 1994-98 he received training in "Community Interpreting" from the U of M. Currently, he works as a translator in different institutions and settings around the Twin Cities.

Bethel Choir



The Bethel Choir has developed a reputation as one of the Midwest's best collegiate choirs as a result of the high critical acclaim it has received for performances of choral literature in Europe and the United States as well as major works performed with the Minnesota Orchestra. In addition to its touring repertoire, the choir participates annually in a performance of a major choral-orchestral work. Members of the choir come to Bethel University in St. Paul from across the United States and pursue studies in a wide range of majors within the liberal arts. The choir tours annually in the United States and has traveled to Europe every fourth year since 1968. Recordings by the Bethel Choir are heard over radio stations throughout the world, and the choir's acclaim has developed in large part due to the distribution of its well-received compact discs.

SOPRANO I

Melissa Bargmann Emily Bell Kate Callen Lindsey Danger Ellie Drews Shatera Graham Rachel Griswold Jendalynn Lanz Krin McMillen Raquel Schaper

SOPRANO II

Kelly Anderson Miriam Genheimer Leah Hatzung Alison Kispert Julia Lambert Maddie Larsen Gabrielle Olson

ALTO I

Elianna Adamson Krissi Dines Hilary Engel Holly Gabbert Grace Hanson Madeleine Nelson Kali Schwartz Elisabeth Solfelt Kelsey Van Buren

ALTO II

Cassie Brooks Courtney Brumm Janice Collova Emily Gibson Ellie Korf Mya Kubik Lisa Ohden Ashley Stevens Megan Wuertz

TENOR I

Isaac Ahlquist Paul Flowers Tyler Herwig Jamie Krause Maxwell Nygren Aaron Reesnes

TENOR II

Garrett Anderson Taylor Bothun Micah Latty Grant McEachern Benjamin Oie Taji Onesirosan Chris Sjolander Jesse Webb

BARITONE

Brian Bristol
Tim DeJonge
Jonathon Engelien
Sam Kratzer
Jacob Larson
Aaron Meissner
Jason Moyer
Daniel Rimmereid
Alex Steddom

BASS

Brian Borscheid Matthew Brocker Jay Brooks Joel Bruessel Ian Frei Josh Johnson Lowell Rice Daniel Sandberg

Gustavus Choir



Now in its 82nd year, the Gustavus Choir is the premier touring choral ensemble and one of five choirs in a highly integrated and active choral program at Gustavus Adolphus College. Many of the singers in the Gustavus Choir hold Jussi Björling Music Scholarships, which enable them to study voice with one of six applied voice teachers in the Department of Music and receive significant financial support for their education. In recent years the Gustavus Choir has premiered newly commissioned choral compositions by Eric Whitacre, Stephen Paulus, Jaakko Mäntviärvi, Imant Raminsch, Kenneth Jennings, David Cherwein, and Robert Buckley Farlee. The students who sing in the Gustavus Choir are enthusiastic ambassadors of a liberal arts education philosophy in that they represent a broad spectrum of academic, service, and intellectual interests while sharing a common passion for and commitment to excellence in choral performance.

SOPRANO I

Karen Holt Makayla Seeley Korbel Elisabeth Krane Olivia Reininger Kelli Remboldt Allison Schmidt Rebecca Snapp Hannah Walters

SOPRANO II

Kelsey Abele Darcy Coulter Kate Day Jessie Erickson Elizabeth Hable Zoë May Brianna Titus

ALTO I

Madeline Cacciatore Grace Clough Hannah Enright Kaylena Greenwell Hanna Mahan Nikki Rom Rebecca Thompson Breanna Wegner

ALTO II

Brennie Benson Sonja Johnson Maren Legeros Alex Lyon Leah Rodmyre Bethany Schulz Alecia Woods

TENOR I

Erik Carlson Connor Haugen Riley Lass Michael Morimoto David Roland Joseph Stagg Ben Westphal

TENOR II

Eric Best Luke Fanning Daniel Felton Andrew Kendall Erik Lundgren Dan Marino Andrew Rome

BASS I

Elliot Bell Joey Bies Aaron Bogen Michael Eastwood Cory Lau Sam Panzer Matt Timmons Jonathan Warling

BASS II

Dan Britt Chase Fasbender Karl Grant Gabriel Hanson Samuel A. Knutson Paul Lucken Gary Meyer Fric Pothen

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Vice President: Alecia Woods

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Chaplain: Bethany Schulz

Crew Chief:

Librarian: Eric Pothen

Luther College Nordic Choir



Luther College's Nordic Choir, founded in 1946, enjoys national and international acclaim as a premier collegiate choral ensemble in the United States. Allen Hightower, director of choral activities at Luther College, has led the group since 2010. The Nordic Choir is Luther's flagship choir which has toured extensively throughout the United States, including performances at Lincoln Center, New York; Kennedy Center, Washington, D.C.; Orchestra Hall, Chicago; Walt Disney Concert Hall and the Crystal Cathedral, Los Angeles; and the Mormon Tabernacle, Salt Lake City. The choir was selected to perform at the 50th anniversary national convention of the ACDA in Oklahoma City, March 2009. ACDA also selected them as the featured performer at the 2014 North Central ACDA convention in Des Moines, Iowa. They have made numerous concert tours of Europe, the Caribbean, Mexico, Russia, and Eastern Europe. In 2000 and 2003, the choir revisited the college's founding roots with tours to Norway and Scandinavia. Most recently, Nordic Choir completed a tour of Ireland and England in May 2012.

SOPRANO I

Betsy Austin Emily Clay Aly Danielson Bridget Keenan Christine O'Brien Rachel Selvig Allison Vollinger Jenna Hoge

SOPRANO II

Hannah Butler Mary Lieberman Genevieve Myran Alexandra Polk Julia Reimann Emily Rauch Marissa Satern Brianna Shelly

ALTO I

Sami Eilers Kristy Housholder Andrea Keuper Megan Kundel Brittney Leemon Melissa Newhouse Jaimie Rasmussen Isabela Rosales Alison Smith

ALTO II

Hariana German Hannah Delzer Holly Fusco Kari Jensen Alme Karam Alli Kephart Megan Law Annie Waniger

TENOR I

Patrick Fagan Lucas Jackson Sam Jones James Odegaard Sam Raiche James Russell Scott Senko Nathan Wiley

TENOR II

Wesley Frye Martin Kulstad Logan Larson Cole Melby Casey Tecklenburg Bryan Waznik

BASS I

Kalle Akkerman Jimmy Deignan David Geist Steven Halloin Eric Jaques Ben King Quale Evan Mitchell Patrick Pauloski Alex Sievers Zachary Stottler

BASS II

David Baxter Colin Berry Aaron Budihas Dan Gibson Logan Grado Lukas Hampton Dietrich Jessen Chelanga Langason Anders Nilsen

University of St. Thomas Chamber Singers



The University of St. Thomas Chamber Singers is a select, mixed ensemble of undergraduate students representing a number of major fields. Their performance repertoire includes historic and contemporary selections, works with professional orchestra, and pieces representing folk idioms from around the world. The choir's convention performances include the American Choral Directors Association (ACDA) National Convention in 2011, the North Central Division Convention 2008 and in 2014, the MN Collegiate Choral Festival in 2009, the ACDA-Minnesota convention in 2004, and the Minnesota Music Educators Association conventions in 2001, 2007 and 2013. The choir tours locally, regionally, and internationally, having traveled to Ireland, Greece, Italy, Central Europe, and Spain in recent years.

SOPRANO

Azlin Almanzar Molly Behun Caitlin Davis Shannon Kelly Magdalena Koebele Mary Morley Ellie Musser Jess Nesbit Angela Richard Lesley Salz Amy Steingas Tess Wang Rachel Weber Maxee Whiteford

ALT0

Molly Amundson Hilary Cotter Elizabeth Harris Sólveig Hommema Heather Kascht Laura Landvik Carolyn Light Meghan Lowe Maddie O'Brien Haley Olson Gabrielle Pepin Mikaela Pierson Laura Vance

TENOR

Greg Billion
Alexander Eide
John Eilen
Jacob Goodwin
John Hayes
Michael Jeffrey
David Kirsch
Tony Klein
Jake McEwing
Robin Nault-Maurer
Dalton Neu
James Smyth
Ben Tillinghast
Aaron VanDanacker

BASS

Chad Berg Michael Chmielewski Thomas Glass II Jordan Graf Bennett Jasmin Matthew Kopp Nick Meyerson Thomas Motz Joseph Pohl Trevor Rolando **Daniel Saunders** Elliott Skogen Jonathan Temte Samuel Wasberg Benjamin Waterfield Enan Zelinski



About VocalEssence

The Mission of VocalEssence

VocalEssence champions choral music of all genres, celebrating the vocal experience through innovative concerts, commissions, and community engagement programs.

VocalEssence is renowned for its innovative exploration of music for voices and instruments under the enthusiastic direction of Artistic Director and Founder Philip Brunelle. Each season, VocalEssence presents an eclectic series of concerts featuring the 100-voice VocalEssence Chorus, the 32-voice professional Ensemble Singers, and an array of guest soloists and instrumentalists.

VocalEssence was founded in 1969 as the Plymouth Music Series, an arts outreach program of Plymouth Congregational Church in Minneapolis and incorporated as a separate 501(c)(3) non-profit in 1979. In 2002, the Plymouth Music Series changed its name to VocalEssence, capturing the essence of its mission to explore music for the human voice, from the spoken word to choral singing.

In addition to championing lesser-known works of the past, VocalEssence has an unwavering commitment to today's composers, which has resulted in more than 160 world premieres to date. The organization has received the ASCAP/Chorus America Award for Adventurous Programming of Contemporary Music six times and has been honored with more Chorus America awards than any other ensemble nationwide, including the oncein-an-organizational-lifetime Margaret Hillis Achievement Award for Choral Excellence.

Beyond its work in performances and recordings of choral music, VocalEssence reaches into the community with programs that impact thousands of students, singers and composers every year. WITNESS celebrates the contributions of African Americans to our shared American heritage through concerts, recordings and comprehensive school programs. ¡Cantaré! brings the talents of composers from Mexico directly into Minnesota classrooms. VocalEssence partners with American Composers Forum to offer the annual Welcome Christmas Carol Contest.

Philip Brunelle

Artistic Director and Founder



Philip Brunelle, artistic director and founder of VocalEssence, is an internationally renowned conductor, choral scholar and performer. Believing that listeners and musicians alike must experience music of many genres and styles, he has worked enthusiastically—and tirelessly—to expand audiences for rarely heard works of the past and worthwhile new music. In addition, to date VocalEssence has commissioned more than 150 works. Philip has conducted symphonies (New York Philharmonic, Seattle Symphony, and Minnesota Orchestra among others) as

well as choral festivals and operas on six continents.

Over the past decade Philip has been deeply involved with the International Federation of Choral Music (IFCM). He served as president of the Sixth World Symposium on Choral Music held in Minneapolis (2002), was on the Artistic Committee for the Eighth Symposium, held in Denmark (2008), and the Ninth Symposium, held in Argentina (2011). He is a Vice President of the IFCM Board and is now serving as Executive Director for the 2014 World Symposium on Choral Music to be held in Seoul, South Korea.

Philip holds five honorary doctorates, was invested as an Honorary Member of the Order from the British Empire (MBE) in 2005 for his services to music, and Commander of the Royal Norwegian Order of Merit in 2007. He has also been honored by the governments of Sweden, Hungary, and Mexico.

Sigrid Johnson

Associate Conductor



As the associate conductor of VocalEssence, Sigrid Johnson is affectionately known as "Ears" — for her unique skill in helping develop the choral blend and balance that give the VocalEssence Chorus and Ensemble Singers their signature sound. She provides expert input in the selection of repertoire and assists throughout the audition process. Her ability to achieve excellence in choral blend and intonation is a priceless asset to VocalEssence.

Sigrid is a member of the voice and choral faculty of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minnesota, and the conductor of the Manitou Singers, St. Olaf's 100-voice first-year women's chorus. She maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician at choral festivals, workshops and all-state music festivals across the country. She is known internationally for her work with musicians at all levels, having conducted workshops in Australia, the Netherlands, Sweden and Finland. In August 2008, Sigrid was one of the featured lecturers for the Eighth World Symposium on Choral Music in Copenhagen, and in 2011 was featured in the Ninth World Symposium, held in Argentina.

Sigrid is active in the American Choral Director's Association, the Music Educator's National Conference, the International Federation for Choral Music, and Chorus America.

Tesfa Wondemagegnehu

Assistant Artistic Director



Tesfa Wondemagegnehu, Assistant Artistic Director of VocalEssence, previously served as Director of Choral Activities at Freedom High School in Orlando, Florida. During his tenure at FHS, Tesfa was named Orange County Public School Teacher of the Year (2013) and received the Macy's National Gift of Teaching Award (2013). He led his choirs in performances at state conventions of the American Choral Directors Association (2010 & 2012) and the Florida Music Educators' Association (2011). Tesfa has presented workshops and conducted honor choirs in Florida, Tennessee,

Ohio, and Costa Rica. As a tenor soloist, he has performed both in the United States and internationally in Germany, Austria, Hungary, and Costa Rica under the batons of such conducting luminaries as André Thomas, Anton Armstrong, Krzysztof Penderecki, and Rodney Eichenberger. Tesfa is active in the American Choral Directors Association, the Music Educator's National Conference, and the National Association of Teachers of Singing. Tesfa holds a Master of Music degree in Choral Conducting and Vocal Performance from the Florida State University and a Bachelor of Music degree in Vocal Performance from the University of Memphis.

Charles Kemper

Accompanist



Charles Kemper, pianist, has taught at St. Olaf College, Northwestern College and Bethel University, and is currently organist for Calvary Baptist Church in Roseville, MN. A native of Houston, Texas, Charles made his debut with the Houston Symphony at the age of 17, playing Rachmaninoff's Second Piano Concerto. He has earned several degrees in piano performance, including a doctor of musical arts degree from Yale University. He has appeared as a soloist with the New Haven Symphony, University of Houston Orchestra, Yale Philharmonia, and the

Jacksonville Symphony. Charles has been the VocalEssence staff accompanist since 1993. Philharmonia, and the Jacksonville Symphony. Charles has been the VocalEssence staff accompanist since 1993.

VocalEssence Chorus

The VocalEssence Chorus is an exceptional group of talented, committed singers from many walks of life: doctors, lawyers, nurses, educators, homemakers, business people, and others. Most have college level or higher training in classical music and voice. Chorus auditions are held every spring, and returning members of the Chorus re-audition every two years.

VocalEssence Chorus

SOPRANO Amanda Allen

AnnaLisa Anderson

Barbara Anderson Stacey Athorn Hannah B. Bolt Dana Brinton Maria Therese Deutsch Judy Drobeck Vickie Dunn Elizabeth Egger Kristina M. Guiffre Katie Henrichsen Ashley Jacobson Sharanya Johnson Meghan Kane Anika Kildegaard Jan Kilton Kartra Kohl Heidi Larson Benta LeMunyon Hannah Lindahl Joy MacArthur Jessica McMahan Christina Pederson Laura Roche Ann M. Sather Cheryl E. Roberts Saunders Alicia M. Thompson Jennifer Vickerman Jennifer E. Wallis Sharon Williams

ALTO

Alanna Bach Kucera Jo Michelle Beld Rebecca Bellman Kristin Borski Anne K. Gleeman Kate Gordhamer Yvonne Grover Autumn Gurgel Dee Hein Katherine Scholl Holisky Kristin Howlett Sally Jaffray Kirkja Anna Janson Jeanne Kavanaugh Jennifer Kisner Sheri Lieffring Kristi Mueller Laura J. Nelson Brandee Polson Signe Reistad Coral Sampson Laura Tanner **Ruth Torkelson** Andrea Young Cynthia L. Youtz

TENOR

Steve Aggergaard Max Athorn Scott Berger Richard J. A. Cedergren Lloyd Clausen Nicholas Mattsson Jordan Ray Spencer Rudolf Luke Slivinski Bryan Oliver Smith

BASS

Elwyn Alexander Fraser Junior John R. Henrich Stephen Kemp Benjamin Kucera Joshua LaGrave Philip Lowry Robert Metzger Paul L. Nevin Milo Oien-Rochat Sheridan O'Keefe David Olson Christopher William Paulson Jonathan Pinkerton Brian D. Ruhl Jake Runestad William B. Smale Trent Stenoien Dwight S. Williams Shane Wilson Michael Reid Winikoff

A Sneak Peek into ¡Cantaré!

During the 2013-2014 school year, **nearly 500** elementary and high school students throughout the Twin Cities have been gaining a greater understanding of Mexican culture firsthand through the **VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! Community Engagement Program**. Using the choral arts to foster a cross-cultural exchange between Mexican and American people, ¡Cantaré! has actively engaged VocalEssence audiences and the wider community in the discovery, celebration and creation of music from Mexico since 2007.

After their initial October 2013 visit, Mexican composers Pamela Mayorga and José Galván wrote a total of 13 pieces, which choirs have been rehearsing since February 2014. Both composers spent two weeks in residency in the Twin Cities in March 2014 refining the pieces in partnership with music teachers, and teaching the unique Mexican characteristics of the music. ¡Hola, hola! (Hello, Hello!) by Pamela Mayorga and Creo (I Believe) by José Galván are two of these songs.



The fourth graders at Mississippi Creative Arts Magnet have loved learning the song ;Hola, hola! (Hello, Hello!). Inspired by Pamela's love of travel, she has learned to greet people in various languages, developing friendships all over the world, with people of all ages, ideologies,

professions and personal beliefs. For this reason, she decided to create a piece where she could teach others to say hello in Spanish. The festive and cheerful nature of the music is inspired by Mexican rhythmic patterns typical of jarocho and huasteco, two of Mexico's most popular musical styles.



The choir director at Eagan High School asked José Galván to write a song where his students could focus not only on technique, but also on the emotion of the music. *Creo (I Believe)* has deep meaning to José, because it talks about the importance

of singing from the heart and the power musicians have when this happens. José explores seven different qualities that a singer embodies during the act of singing: stability, sensuality, trust, love, communication, intuition and divinity. Each of these relate to the seven colors of the rainbow: red, orange, yellow, green, blue, indigo and pink, which combined become the purest white of unconditional love. They are also related to the musical scale of seven sounds and the seven energy centers in the body called chakras. José believes that a choir can do more than to sing very well – by singing honestly, the voices become the sound of the soul and embrace the audience with love and passion.

We hope that you all come to hear *Creo*, *¡Hola*, *hola!* and more at the the free *¡Cantaré! Community Concert* at Ordway Center for the Performing Arts on May 20, 2014 at 7pm.



For more information visit VocalEssence.org/cantare15

Ensemble Singers.

Donor Spotlight

Jerry Johnson and Larry Montan 15 Years with the Ensemble Singers Transforms into a Lifetime Together.



If you're a longtime fan of the Ensemble Singers, you probably already know Jerry Johnson. His booming bass helped form the foundation of the group for 15 years. And, that's where Larry Montan heard him. As a fan, he attended many concerts, and knew about Philip Brunelle since his days at Minnehaha

Academy. While we can't claim to be the matchmaker, we know that VocalEssence was a big part of their lives.

And this August their lives will continue on together as they celebrate their wedding, with a soundtrack provided by Jerry's former conductor, Philip Brunelle.

"When Philip said that he'd do the musical arrangement for our wedding, I knew it would be one-of-a-kind," Jerry said. "Our choral community is strong and we've always felt supported by it."

Their wedding helps celebrate the end of Jerry's 15-year career with the Ensemble Singers. His whirlwind ride from Minnesota to England not only introduced VocalEssence to the world, but the deep connection between choral artists everywhere.

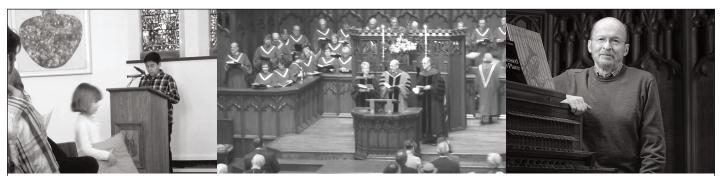
"During our tour in England, John Rutter – for lack of a better term – wanted to be our roadie. Our roadie? He's John Rutter!" Jerry remembered. "No one asked him to do it, but he helped us load and unload and recorded our sessions. It floored me that he wanted to do that."

While at times he misses being an Ensemble Singer, and it's a time in his life he knows he can never repeat again, Jerry knows that he left for the right reasons: love. Love for his partner and a love for the sound of VocalEssence.

"In order to keep a high level of quality, the Ensemble Singers give a huge time commitment." Jerry said. "Now I can give treasure to ensure that other singers will give their time to keep the high quality of VocalEssence for others to experience."

Larry agrees. As a fan, he describes himself as someone with "no musical talent," but fell in love with a singer of the "highest caliber of professionalism." And, he no doubt will continue to be delighted with every concert he attends.

They'll continue to give, and even commission new works of choral music, like "My Dancing Day." But, before they'll return their focus to new music, they'll have a long-anticipated meeting with Philip to finalize the music for their wedding.



Plymouth Church in Minneapolis— Worship with us: 9:50, especially for families; 10:30 Sanctuary service



PLYMOUTH CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH
Philip Brunelle, Organist and Choirmaster
Proud to be the home of VocalEssence

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The Endowment Honor Roll

VocalEssence salutes the individuals and corporate and private foundations whose generosity and leadership sparked the creation of the Endowment Fund. This permanent fund was established in 1987 and is now valued at \$3 million. Its interest income provides ongoing support to VocalEssence. We welcome new contributions to the Endowment Fund and extend our deepest appreciation to the following for their generous gifts.

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Although we make every effort to ensure that our Honor Roll list is accurate and complete, we are capable of error. Please let us know if your name does not appear the way you prefer so we may correct it in the next program listing. Please call us at 612-547-1473 to make a correction. Thank you!

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Page 22 2013-2014 Season ± Includes Matching Gift Contributions + Includes In-Kind Donations * In Remembrance

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Page 24 2013-2014 Season ± Includes Matching Gift Contributions + Includes In-Kind Donations * In Remembrance