



OUR CHOIRS

The **VocalEssence Chorus** is a group of talented and enthusiastic singers from many different walks of life, united by their love of singing and community. Performing a wide variety of musical styles, premiering new works, and sharing the stage with a diverse array of guest artists, the Chorus is a welcome home for singers who wish to continue making music throughout their adult lives.

The **VocalEssence Ensemble Singers** have established an international reputation because of their extensive catalog of recordings and broad range of unique repertoire. This chamber choir, whose members hail from a wide variety of professions, is bound together by their skilled artistry to create what *The Times* of London has described as a “flawless” sound.

The **VocalEssence Singers Of This Age (VESOTA)** is a community of Twin Cities teenagers engaged in expanding what it means to be a choir and encouraging a wider circle of participation in the artform. Presenting music ranging from classical to hip-hop, they use creativity and collaboration to build an accepting community, equipped with the skills to lead social change in our society.

VocalEssence Vintage Voices is an exciting choral program that integrates the arts into the everyday lives of older adults. Guided by a desire to create a welcoming atmosphere and remove barriers for participation, these choirs sing to build community, combat loneliness and isolation, and improve physical and emotional wellbeing.



OUR PERFORMANCES

The **VocalEssence Concert Season** features our choirs in performances celebrating music of the past and present. Over 500 new works have been premiered by VocalEssence in prominent concert spaces throughout the community and artists from John Rutter to James Earl Jones have made guest appearances. Highlights from season concerts are available on our website.



VocalEssence ¡Cantaré! connects Mexican composers to school choirs and community choruses to share Mexico's vibrant music and cultural traditions and compose new Spanish language songs for each school. ¡Cantaré! connects composers to schools through in-person experiences and online resources. In addition, VocalEssence supports Chicago *a cappella* as they implement ¡Cantaré! in the Chicago metro area.

VocalEssence Music Press is a dynamic music publishing company that offers a select group of emerging composers the opportunity to make their music available to choirs everywhere.

Singing from the Heart: VocalEssence partners with Longfellow School, a community school for pregnant and parenting students and their children, to provide regular opportunities to sing together and connect more deeply with their children and to their culture through music.

Supporting Composers: VocalEssence seeks to expand the impact of choral music through commissioning as well as mentoring and nurturing emerging artists.

VocalEssence WITNESS celebrates the contributions of African Americans to our shared American heritage through in school and virtual workshops with teaching artists for students grades 4-12, professional development and classroom resources for teachers, and **VocalEssence WITNESS Young People's Concerts** featuring VocalEssence singers.



During the COVID-19 pandemic, VocalEssence developed several different online resources including **Musical Moments** hosted by Philip Brunelle and **Take 5 with GPS** hosted by G. Phillip Shoultz, III to keep audiences connected and bring them joy. Each of these resources can be viewed on our website.

In addition to the larger programs described above, VocalEssence brings together more than 5,000 community members through song at smaller, one-time programs, including:

- Osher Lifelong Learning Institute programs for older adults
- Greater Minnesota tour visits to schools, senior centers, and other community venues
- In-depth pre- and post-concert conversations at most of our season concerts
- Community Sings with guest artists