

2026-2027 SEASON



LINEAGE: FRENCH CHORAL MASTERWORKS

Friday, October 30, 2026, 7:30 PM, Cathedral of Saint Paul

Step into the Cathedral of Saint Paul for an evening of music as awe-inspiring as the space itself. Four generations of French composers converge in one performance, linking teacher to student in this grand season opener. The evening concludes with Berlioz's *Te Deum* featuring more than 200 voices, full orchestra, and twelve harps. VocalEssence brings to life this masterwork of epic proportions written for the architecture of the Cathedral itself—where organ and orchestra play across the nave, answering each other in dialogue. Join us for an immersive experience that's sure to take your breath away!



BACH CHRISTMAS ORATORIO

Friday, December 4, 2026, 7:30 PM, St. Thomas More Catholic Church
Saturday, December 5, 2026, 4 PM, Westwood Lutheran Church

Period instruments join forces with virtuosic voices for a beloved holiday tradition. Join the Bach Society of Minnesota and the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers for Cantatas 1, 2, and 6 from Bach's *Christmas Oratorio* along with an Advent special: Cantata BWV 41. Like your family's annual holiday cookie bake, enjoy treasured favorites along with something new. Conductors Philip Brunelle and Matthias Maute lead the way on this vivid musical journey through the mystery of the nativity.



WELCOME CHRISTMAS

Friday, December 11, 2026, 7:30 PM
Saturday, December 12, 2026, 12-1 PM (Sensory & Kid-Friendly) & 3 PM
Plymouth Congregational Church, Minneapolis

Sing in the Season of Joy with VocalEssence! **Welcome Christmas** is an interactive celebration of holiday favorites from around the world—performed by all four VocalEssence choirs with harp, marimba, brass, guitar, piano, and you—the audience! Commissions are at the heart of this cherished tradition, and this year brings two: Conrad Susa's beloved *Carols and Lullabies: Christmas in the Southwest* (commissioned in 1992), alongside the world premiere of a new commission by Minnesota's own Shruthi Rajasekar, set to the poetry of Christina Rossetti. Experience glorious sounds that will leave you feeling festive and ready to celebrate the season.



WITNESS: THE POET SINGS

Sunday, February 28, 2027, 4 PM, Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

WITNESS: The Poet Sings will explore how social change evolves through music and poetry. Minneapolis based hip-hop artist, Nur-D and Minneapolis Poet Laureate, Junauda Petrus will join forces with the VocalEssence Chorus, Singers Of This Age, and Vintage Voices to trace the lineage of West African griots and African American poets from the Harlem Renaissance and beyond, juxtaposed alongside present-day storytellers (spoken word artists, rappers, poets, etc.) who use their voices and make good trouble.



CHOIR OF KING'S COLLEGE, CAMBRIDGE

Friday, April 16, 2027, 7:30 PM, Cathedral of Saint Paul

Presented in collaboration with the Cathedral Heritage Foundation

Experience the magnificent voices of the world-renowned Choir of King's College, Cambridge, in the soaring acoustics of the Cathedral of Saint Paul. Celebrated for its stunning artistry and centuries-old legacy, the Choir—under the direction of Daniel Hyde—will present an uplifting evening of choral music that is sure to inspire you.

Please note: VocalEssence will not perform on this concert.

"I would happily sit in King's College Chapel listening to this choir sing for the rest of my days."—*The London Times*



TEMPTATION TO TRANQUILITY

Friday, May 14, 2027, 7:30 PM, Ted Mann Concert Hall, Minneapolis

One of the most serene works in the choral tradition, Requiem by Gabriel Fauré, comes face to face with the genre-defying song cycle *SEVEN: A Cycle of Sins*. In an all-star lineup of composer-lyricist teams spanning opera, Broadway, jazz, and experimental music, each piece confronts a single deadly sin: *Lust, Gluttony, Sloth, Envy, Wrath, Greed, Vanity*. Conceived as a modern mirror to Fauré's masterpiece, *SEVEN* channels the noise and pull of daily struggle, capturing the weight of being human. In his Requiem, however, Fauré offers something we rarely get to feel: stillness. Setting aside judgment and fire, Fauré built a work of quiet reassurance—proof that peace isn't something that waits for us at the end, but something we can find in the midst of living.