



## Chorus America Partners with the Kennedy Center for 2014 National Choral Celebration

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Chorus America, the advocacy, research, and leadership development organization serving the field of choral music, will partner with the John F. Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts on *Voices of Our Nation*, a weeklong celebration of America's choral tradition taking place in June 2014. The *Voices of Our Nation* series will coincide with Chorus America's 2014 Annual Conference, which will bring together hundreds of choral conductors, administrators, singers, board members, and business members for professional development and training opportunities.

"From big cities to small towns, choruses bring communities together and are the most popular form of participation in the performing arts in the United States," said Ann Meier Baker, president & CEO of Chorus America. "We are thrilled to join with the Kennedy Center in celebrating the vibrant choral field."

"We are so pleased to be partnering with Chorus America on the *Voices of our Nation* initiative that will celebrate the rich diversity of choral artistry across the U.S.," said Kennedy Center president Michael Kaiser. "Chorus America is a skilled collaborator that strengthens North America's entire choral community, and their participation will help make this project a success."

The Opening Night Concert of Chorus America's Conference will be included in the series and take place in the Kennedy Center's Concert Hall on Wednesday, June 11, 2014. Featuring Conference co-hosts The Washington Chorus and the Choral Arts Society of Washington, as well as guest ensemble The

Children's Chorus of Washington Concert Chorus, the performance will celebrate American choral composers and the DC region's rich African-American musical heritage. The program will conclude with a concert version of Leonard Bernstein's *Mass* – the work composed for the opening of the Kennedy Center in 1971.

In addition, Chorus America will partner with the Kennedy Center on a citywide opening event that will fill the nation's capital with choral music. From 5:00-7:00 pm on Monday, June 9, 2014, more than 30 regional choruses will sing at sites across the city from the Kennedy Center to non-traditional venues like memorials and Metro stations. Performing ensembles ranging from a Latin-American chamber choir to a barbershop quartet will showcase the diversity and vitality of the local choral scene.

DC-area groups will also join choruses from across the United States and individual singers for a closing concert at an iconic location in the heart of Washington, DC. Held on the Saturday, June 14 Flag Day holiday, the concert is a 200th Anniversary Celebration of "The Star-Spangled Banner" and will feature other iconic America music as well.

To highlight the uniquely participatory nature of choral singing, Chorus America will also provide free interest sessions for the general public that will take place throughout the Voice of Our Nation series. Choral aficionados will be able to observe masterclasses on topics like contemporary *a cappella* singing and choral conducting or participate in workshops that cover techniques like shape-note singing and performing spirituals.

### **Featured Choruses**

DC-area choruses participating in *Voices of Our Nation* include the following. The list is expected to grow over the coming months.

**Cantate Chamber Singers**, Gisele Becker, Music Director

**Cathedral Choral Society**, J. Reilly Lewis, Music Director

**Children's Chorus of Washington - Bel Canto Chorus**, Michael Wu, Conductor

**Children's Chorus of Washington - Concert Chorus**, Joan Gregoryk, Founder and Artistic Director

**Choral Arts Society of Washington**, Scott Tucker, Artistic Director

**Choralis**, Gretchen Kuhrmann, Founder/Artistic Director

**Congressional Chorus**, David Simmons, Artistic Director

**Coral Cantigas**, Diana V. Saez, Founder and Artistic Director

**Encore Chorale**, Jeanne Kelly, Founder, Director

**Glorystar Children's Chorus**, Cherie Jeng, Artistic Director

**Heritage Signature Chorale**, Stanley J. Thurston, Artistic Director

**MAXX Factor**

**Mosaic Harmony**, David K. North, Director

**National Philharmonic Singers**, Stan Engebretson, Artistic Director, Chorale  
**NoVA Lights Chorale**, Barbara Stefan, Artistic Director  
**Six Degree Singers**, Rachel Carlson, Artistic Director  
**Slaveya Vocal Ensemble**, Anne Harrison, Music Director  
**St. Maries Musica**, Anne Harrison, Music Director  
**The 18th Street Singers**, Benjamin Olinsky, Artistic Director  
**The Capital Hearings**, Dileep Srihari, Music Director  
**The Metropolitan Chorus**, Barry Hemphill, Artistic Director  
**The Thomas Circle Singers**, James Kreger, Artistic Director  
**The Washington Chorus**, Julian Wachner, Music Director  
**Vienna Choral Society**, Jennifer Rodgers Beach, Music Director  
**Voce Chamber Singers**, Kenneth Nafziger, Artistic Director  
**Washington Bach Consort**, J. Reilly Lewis, Music Director  
**Washington International Chorus**, Dimitar Nikolov, Conductor  
**Washington Master Chorale**, Thomas A. Colohan, Artistic Director  
**Washington Men's Camerata**, Frank S. Albinder, Music Director  
**Zemer Chai**, Eleanor Epstein, Artistic Director

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