

EDUCATION

2014-2015 SEASON



Mission

"The education programs are exemplary, a model for other organizations to follow."
— California Arts Council

Education as Mission

Education programs are central to Pacific Chorale's mission. It is our vision to enrich and educate our community. Toward this aim, Pacific Chorale has produced innovative educational initiatives that have opened the door to the art of choral music and the magic of the creative process for as many as 10,000 students and adults annually.

Education Awards

Orange County Department of Education
Outstanding Contributions to Education Award, 2002

Chorus America
Education Outreach Award, 1997
(Inaugural national award)

Programs

Pacific Chorale Academy

Pacific Chorale's newest education program! Based on the Venezuelan *El Sistema* model that produced Gustavo Dudamel, Pacific Chorale recently piloted an after-school music education program for underserved 4th, 5th, and 6th graders at schools in Costa Mesa. The 2014-2015 season marks the first full school year of program implementation. We believe this program will help to create "complete" citizens for the future by building self-esteem and a sense of belonging through the transformative power of music!

Choral Camp

Pacific Chorale began this amazing education program in association with California State University, Fullerton (CSUF) in August 2012. This summer intensive music program for high school students is focused on building a strong understanding of music theory and vocal production. Taught by professional singers and educators, students are introduced to choral music literature and sing in large and small ensembles throughout the week. The 2014 Choral Camp featured a masterclass by world renowned opera singer Renée Tatum. The program concludes with a performance showcase on CSUF's campus, highlighting the students' entire week's work.

Pacific Chorale's Choral Festival

Based on the success of Pacific Chorale's "American Masterpieces Choral Festival," sponsored by the National Endowment for the Arts in 2008, **Pacific Chorale's Choral Festival** unites approximately 400 choral singers from throughout a diverse community with members of Pacific Chorale to sing onstage at the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall. Pacific Chorale Festival chorus members range in age from 16 to 80 and represent many different community organizations including local universities, high schools, churches, temples, senior retirement homes, and community choirs. Members experience an intensive week of rehearsing great choral works under the direction of Artistic Director John Alexander. The Festival culminates in a free performance at which thousands of friends, family and members of the community will be invited to hear the combined Festival Chorus. Our 2014 Choral Festival takes place August 22-24.

Musicianship Classes

Addressing a community outcry for affordable training in the vocal arts, Pacific Chorale provides adult singers with opportunities to hone their musical skills using a tailor-made curriculum that includes important concepts such as rhythm, melodic reading, language skills, and practicing and audition techniques. Classes are taught throughout the year from October through June for both professional choral singers and community singers interested in personal development and growth in musicianship and sight-singing. In order to give participants the best experience possible, we offer beginning to advanced level classes to suit individual needs.

Intro to the Arts and Passage to the Arts

The *Intro to the Arts* and *Passage to the Arts* programs are partnerships with local social service organizations and high school choral directors and singers, which provide scholarships for at-risk youth, high school choral music students, individuals with disabilities, and low-income seniors and families to attend our season concerts at the world-class Segerstrom Center for the Arts at no charge. Program participants have the opportunity to attend Pacific Chorale's season concerts, including thirty-minute educational concert previews and receiving educational study guides before the concerts, and a chance to experience Pacific Chorale preparing for concerts by attending our dress rehearsals.

Concert Previews

Led by Pacific Chorale Assistant Conductor Robert Istad, accessible and insightful **Concert Previews** give audiences a richer understanding and deeper appreciation for the repertoire being performed.

Young Composers Competition

Pacific Chorale's biennial **Young Composers Competition** was created to encourage the proliferation of America's choral music. In May 2007, the Chorale put out a nationwide call to composers under the age of 35 to submit work samples for consideration. In addition to the premiere performances and a cash prize of \$1,500 each, the two young winning composers, Michael Eglin and Zachary Wadsworth, were guests at Pacific Chorale's American Masterpieces Choral Festival in 2008, where they heard their works performed and had the opportunity to meet and work with Festival Composers-in-Residence Alice Parker, Morten Lauridsen and Eric Whitacre. Joseph Gregorio's "Love, thrice-wise," the winning composition of the 2010 Young Composers Competition, was performed by the 24-voice John Alexander Singers on the February 12-13, 2010 *A Romantic Affair* performances at Samueli Theater. John Orfe and Michael Rickelton were co-winners of our 2011-2012 Young Composers Competition. Orfe's "Fire!" and Rickelton's "Pentecost" were premiered by the John Alexander Singers on their *American Voices* concert on March 11, 2012. "Love, thrice-wise," "Fire!" and "Pentecost" have all been recorded by the John Alexander Singers for commercial release. Pacific Chorale's next competition will be held in 2016.

Youth Honor Choir

According to the 2009 Chorus Impact Study by Chorus America, "The decline in choral singing opportunities for children and youth is a key area of concern." In response to this concern and to the current needs of the local arts community, Pacific Chorale launched an Honor Choir in partnership with the 16-year old Pacific Symphony Youth Orchestra (PSYO) in February 2010. Performing with the PSYO provides an unprecedented and unique experience for area high school students to perform choral/orchestral works in professional venues, including the Renée and Henry Segerstrom Concert Hall and CSU Fullerton's Meng Hall. Dr. Robert Istad will be the conductor working in conjunction with the PSYO artistic staff. The Honor Choir is currently on hiatus in order to re-evaluate the program and maximize its effectiveness when relaunched.

Elliot and Kathleen Alexander Memorial Scholarship

Pacific Chorale awards the **Elliot and Kathleen Alexander Memorial Scholarship** annually to an outstanding choral conducting student at California State University, Fullerton.

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