

BEL CANTO CHORUS PRESENTS
*CHRISTMAS IN
THE BASILICA*

DECEMBER 8 - DECEMBER 10, 2023



BEL CANTO
CHORUS



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Richard Hynson, Music Director
Presents

Christmas in the Basilica 2023

<i>Hodie, Christus Natus Est</i>		R. Hynson, arr.
<i>In the Bleak Midwinter</i>		Richard Hynson
<i>Angels We Have Heard on High</i> <i>It Came Upon the Midnight Clear</i>	Homestead High School Treble Choir	Richard Hynson Richard Hynson
<i>Still, Still, Still, A Lullaby</i>		Michelle Hynson
<i>The Christmas Story</i>	Rebecca Whitney, soprano	Richard Hynson
<i>The First Nowell</i>		R. Hynson, arr.
<i>My Dancing Day</i> <i>Away in a Manger</i>	Wendelin Lockett, soprano	R. Hynson, arr. M. Hynson, arr.
<i>Hilariter</i> <i>Masters in This Hall</i> <i>The Oxen</i> <i>Of the Father's Love Begotten</i>		Richard Hynson M. Hynson, arr. Richard Hynson R. Hynson, arr.
<i>Joseph, Look East, Ships!</i>		Michelle Hynson
<i>Love Came Down at Christmas</i> <i>Deck the Hall</i> <i>Silent Night</i>	Carly Fitzgerald, soprano Chelsea Betz, mezzo-soprano	Richard Hynson M. Hynson, arr. M. Hynson, arr.
<i>Joy to the World</i>		R. Hynson, arr.

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Richard Hynson, Music Director of Bel Canto Chorus

This season marks Richard Hynson's 36th year as Music Director of Bel Canto Chorus. Additionally, Hynson is in his seventh season as Music Director of the Kettle Moraine Symphony Orchestra.

In 2022, Hynson and his wife, Michelle, were selected by the Civic Music Association of Milwaukee to receive its Lifetime Achievement in Music — that organization's highest honor.

Hynson is in demand as a guest conductor; past engagements include performances with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra, the Skylight Music Theatre, and the Racine, Sheboygan, and Waukesha Symphony Orchestras. Hynson has conducted at Carnegie Hall in New York City, where he led a large national festival chorus and orchestra in Ralph Vaughan Williams's *Dona Nobis Pacem*.

In 2012, Hynson was awarded the American Prize in Choral Conducting — community choral division. This national prize provides evaluation, recognition, and reward to America's finest performing artists, ensembles, and composers. In making the award, the American Prize committee wrote, "During his 24 years as Music Director, Dr. Richard Hynson has transformed Bel Canto Chorus of Milwaukee from a venerable community chorus to a vibrant, successful arts organization respected for its artistic excellence, innovative programming, and impactful outreach..."

Hynson and members of Bel Canto Chorus have performed internationally at the acclaimed Spoleto Music Festival in Italy, the Festivals of Troyes and Rheims in France, the Llangollen Festival in Wales, and the Elora and Huntsville Festivals in Canada. In addition to its annual concert season, the chorus is often called upon to participate in performances by national touring companies. In November 2016, Bel Canto participated in the Milwaukee performance of *The Legend of Zelda: Symphony of the Goddesses: Master Quest*. The chorus has performed with orchestras in Argentina, Uruguay, France, and Ireland. In June 2017, Bel Canto traveled to Germany and the Czech Republic.



Michelle Hynson, Assistant Conductor and Accompanist

Michelle Hynson has performed with Bel Canto Chorus since 1989 as assistant conductor, accompanist, and soprano section leader. She has been active in Milwaukee as a pianist, soprano soloist, accompanist, composer, church musician, and voice teacher since 1981. She has performed extensively throughout the Midwest as a solo artist, singing with a wide range of notables, including Luciano Pavarotti and Mandy Patinkin.

As a concert pianist, Hynson has performed Gershwin's *Rhapsody in Blue* on tour in Spain with the American Festival Orchestra. She was the premiere pianist for Bel Canto's performance of Rossini's *Petite Messe Solennelle*. She has performed in concert with area orchestras ranging from the Homestead Chamber Orchestra to the Milwaukee Chamber Orchestra. Hynson was featured as performer and composer/arranger throughout the 2019-20 season as Bel Canto celebrated her 30th season. In 2022, she was featured by the Kettle Moraine Symphony, playing *Eclogue opus 10* by Gerald Finzi.

Over 4,000 Wisconsin students attended performances of her two original music theater compositions, *Not Me, A.D.*, focusing on drug and alcohol prevention, and *It's Cool To Be Nice*, dealing with middle-school social issues. She has published numerous choral arrangements through Hal Leonard, Shawnee Press, and Lorenz Publishing Company. Her latest arranging endeavors include seven books of violin duets published by Hal Leonard.

As an involved community member, Hynson volunteered at the YMCA for over 25 years, working with people stricken with MS. She has completed six 3-Day 60-Mile Komen Breast Cancer Walks, and is a vocal advocate for both MS and breast cancer research. The Hynsons have five children and six grandchildren.

Biographies (cont.)



Dr. Sheri Masiakowski, Organist

Dr. Sheri Masiakowski is Editor of the Heritage Music Collection for the School Sisters of St. Francis, home of the compositions of Sr. Theophane Hytrek OSF, found at SSSF.org Music Catalog. She plays at numerous Milwaukee sacred sites: Archdiocese of Milwaukee Permanent Diaconate Formation, the Milwaukee Family of Five Cluster, St. Francis of Assisi Parish, and is Director of Music at Greenfield Avenue Presbyterian Church.

A former Dean of the American Guild of Organists--Milwaukee Chapter, proctor for the AGO certification exams and past Chair of ALMA/NPM, the Archdiocesan Liturgical Musicians' Association, she teaches on the Master of Music and Liturgy faculty of Alverno College.

Program Text

Hodie Christus Natus Est

Traditional chant, words from the Liber Usualis, arranged by Richard Hynson

Hodie Christus natus est,
Hodie Salvator apparuit:
Hodie in terra canunt angeli:
Laetantur archangeli:
Hodie exsultant iusti, dicentes:
Gloria in excelsis Deo. Alleluja!

*Today Christ is born,
Today the Savior has appeared:
Today the Angels sing:
The Archangels rejoice:
Today the righteous rejoice, saying:
Glory to God in the highest. Alleluia!*

In the Bleak Midwinter

By Richard Hynson
Words by Christina Rossetti

In the bleak midwinter,
Frosty wind made moan,
Earth stood hard as iron,
Water like a stone;
Snow had fallen, snow on snow,
Snow on snow,
In the bleak midwinter,
Long ago.

What can I give Him,
Poor as I am?
If I were a shepherd,
I would give a lamb;
If I were a wise man,
I would do my part;
What I can I give Him?
I will give my heart.

Angels and archangels
May have gathered there,
Cherubim and Seraphim
Thronged the air;
But his Mother only,
In her maiden bliss,
Worshiped the Beloved
With a kiss.

Program Text (cont.)

Angels We Have Heard On High

By Richard Hynson
Trad. French Carol

Angels we have heard on high
Sweetly singing o'er the plains,
And the mountains in reply
Echoing their joyous strains:

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Come to Bethlehem and see
Christ whose birth the angels sing;
Come, adore on bended knee,
Christ the Lord, the newborn King.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

It Came Upon the Midnight Clear

By Richard Hynson
Words by Edmund H. Sears

It came upon the midnight clear,
That glorious song of old,
From angels bending near the earth
To touch their harps of gold.

“Peace on the earth, good will to men,
From heaven’s all-gracious King.”
The world in solemn stillness lay,
To hear the angels sing.

See Him in a manger laid,
Whom the choirs of angels praise;
Mary, Joseph, lend your aid,
While our hearts in love we raise.

Gloria in excelsis Deo.

Still through the cloven skies they come
With peaceful wings unfurled,
And still their heavenly music floats
O'er all the weary world.

Above its sad and lowly plains,
They bend on hovering wing,
And ever o'er its Babel sounds
The blessed angels sing.

Still, Still, Still

A Lullaby

Arranged by Michelle Hynson
A Lullaby by Michelle Hynson

Still, still, still,
While the baby sleeps, be still.
The little angels softly singing,
Over the manger, watchfully winging.
Still, still, still,
While the baby sleeps, be still.

Lullaby, dear holy infant,
Close your sleepy eyes now and rest.
In the manger safely slumber,
All those around you shall be blest.
Lullaby, whisper and sigh,
Lullaby, lullaby.

Lullaby, angels surround you,
Bringing tidings wondrous and new.
Shepherds, frightened, come to the manger,
Finding God's great love through you.
Lullaby, whisper and sigh,
Lullaby, lullaby.

Sleep, sleep, sleep,
Oh, sweet little Child, now sleep,
As Mary sings so softly around you,
And her true love gently surrounds you,
Sleep, sleep, sleep,
Oh, sweet little Child, now sleep.
Be still and sleep, dear baby.

Hush, hush, hush,
While the baby is sleeping, hush.
Kind Saint Joseph, vigil keeping,
Angels are hovering while he is sleeping.
Hush, hush, hush,
While the baby is sleeping, hush.



Sing Italia!

Bel Canto will tour Italy in June 2024.
All are invited to join the fun.



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belcanto.org

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tour? Email info@belcanto.org to
discuss sponsorships.

Program Text (cont.)

The Christmas Story

By Richard Hynson

I. In the Beginning

In the beginning was the Word, and the Word was with God; and the Word was God.

In Him was life, and the life was the light of men.

II. Mary and Joseph to Bethlehem

Now it came to pass in those days there went out a decree from Caesar Augustus that all the world should be enrolled.

All went to enroll themselves, ev'ryone to his own city. Joseph also went out of Galilee into the city of David, which is called Bethlehem, to enroll himself with Mary who was pledged to him though she was great with child. It happened while they were there that the day came that she should give birth. She brought forth her firstborn son. And she wrapped him in swaddling clothes, and laid him in a manger because there was no room for them in the inn.

III. O Little Town of Bethlehem

Lyrics by Phillips Brooks, 1867;
4th stanza by Richard Hynson

O little town of Bethlehem,
How still we see thee lie!
Above thy deep and dreamless sleep
The silent stars go by;
Yet in thy dark streets shineth
The everlasting Light;
The hopes and fears of all the years
Are met in thee tonight.

For Christ is born of Mary,
And gathered all above,
While mortals sleep, the angels keep
Their watch of wond'ring love.
O morning stars, together
Proclaim the holy birth!
And praises sing to God the King,
And peace to us on earth!

How silently, how silently,
The wondrous gift is giv'n!
So God imparts to human hearts
The blessings of His heav'n.
No ear may hear His coming,
But in this world of sin,
Where meek souls will receive Him, still,
The dear Christ enters in.

Where children pure and happy
Pray unto the blessed Child,
Where misery cries out to Thee,
Son of the mother mild;
Where charity stands watching
And faith holds wide the door,
The dark night wakes, the glory breaks,
And Christmas comes once more.

IV. In Sweet Rejoicing

In sweet rejoicing, sweet rejoicing, sing we now, sing and be joyful!

Sing we of the prophet's story, God's only Son came down from Glory.

Our delight lies in a manger, to our world he came a stranger.

Jesus the babe shines like the sun, sent from God the holy one.

Thou art Alpha and Omega, the beginning and the end.

First and last, O holy Christ, to Thee our knee we humbly bend.

O Christ! Christ!

V. There Were Shepherds

There were shepherds in the same country staying in the field and keeping watch by night over their flocks. Behold! An angel of the Lord stood by them and the glory of the Lord shown upon them and they were terrified! The angel said to them:

"Shepherds, fear not, for behold, I bring you tidings of great joy. For unto you is born this day the Savior of the world."

Alleluia! Glory to God in the highest!

Alleluia! Christ is born! And on earth peace, goodwill to men. Glory to God in the highest! Alleluia! Christ is born!

VI. The Shepherds Go to Bethlehem

It happened when the angels went away from them into the sky that the shepherds said one to another, "Let's go to Bethlehem now and see this thing that has happened which the Lord has made known to us."

They came with haste and found Mary and Joseph and the baby in the manger. When they saw it they shouted to all who would listen, speaking to them about the Child.

VII. Shepherds, What Did You See?

Shepherds, what did you see? Tell us, what did you see? Proclaim to us: who has appeared? Who has appeared upon the earth? "We saw the newborn Child, the blessed son of David. We saw the son of David, and choirs of angels praising the Lord! Announcing the birth of Christ!"

VIII. The Word Was Made Flesh

The Word was made flesh and dwelt among us, and we beheld His glory, as of the only begotten Son of the Father, full of grace and truth.

IX. Today Christ is Born!

Today Christ is born; today the Savior has appeared; today the Angels sing, the Arch-angels rejoice; today the righteous rejoice saying: Glory to God in the highest, Christ is born today! "Glory to God in the highest, the Savior has appeared! Alleluia!"

Program Text (cont.)

The First Nowell

(All are invited to sing the words in **bold print**)

Traditional English Carol

Arranged by Richard Hynson

**The first Nowell the angel did say
Was to certain poor shepherds in fields
as they lay;
In fields where they lay keeping their
sheep,
On a cold winter's night that was so
deep.**

Refrain:

**Nowell, Nowell, Nowell, Nowell,
Born is the King of Israel!**

They looked up and saw a star,
Shining in the east, beyond them far;
And to the earth it gave great light,
And so it continued both day and night.

Refrain

My Dancing Day

Arranged by Richard Hynson

Words and Melody from Sandys, 1833;

3rd Verse by Richard Hynson

Tomorrow shall be my dancing day;
I would my true love did so chance
To see the legend of my play,
To call my true love to the dance.

Refrain:

Sing O my love, O my love, my love,
my love;
This have I done for my true love.

And by the light of that same star,
Three wise men came from country far;
To seek for a King was their intent,
And to follow the star wherever it went.

Refrain

**Then let us all with one accord
Sing praises to our heav'nly Lord,
That hath made heav'n and earth
of naught,
And with His blood mankind
hath bought.**

Refrain

In a manger laid and wrapped I was,
So very poor, this was my chance,
Betwixt an ox and a silly poor ass,
To call my true love to the dance.

Refrain

From humble birth to cross and grave,
I came from heav'n mankind to save,
God's gift of peace and love and joy
Encompassed in a little boy.

Refrain

Away in a Manger

Arranged by Michelle Hynson

Away in a manger no crib for a bed,
The little Lord Jesus lay down His
sweet head.
The stars in the sky looked down
where He lay.
The little Lord Jesus asleep on the hay.

The cattle are lowing, the Baby awakes,
But little Lord Jesus no crying He makes.

Hilariter (Joyfully)

By Richard Hynson

Traditional German, 1623

Hilariter, hilariter!
The whole bright world rejoices now,
Hilariter, hilariter!
The birds do sing on ev'ry bough,
Alleluia, alleluia!

Then shout beneath the racing skies,
Hilariter, hilariter!
To him who rose that we might rise,
Alleluia, alleluia!

I love Thee, Lord Jesus, look down
from the sky,
And stay by my cradle 'til morning is nigh.

Be near me, Lord Jesus, I ask Thee to stay
Close by me forever, and love me, I pray.
Bless all the dear children in Thy tender
care,
And lead us to heaven, to live with Thee
there.

And all you living things make praise,
Hilariter, hilariter!
He guideth you on all your ways,
Alleluia, alleluia!

He, Father, Son, and Holy Ghost—
Hilariter, hilariter!
Our God most high, our joy and boast.
Alleluia, alleluia!



Sing With Us

Try us out at our Try it You'll Like it
rehearsals January 10 and January 17.
The next auditions to join Bel Canto
Chorus are on January 20.

For more info: belcanto.org/singwithus

Program Text (cont.)

Masters in This Hall

Arranged by Michelle Hynson

Masters in this hall,
Hear ye news today!
Brought from over sea,
And ever I you pray:

Refrain:

Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Nowell, sing we clear!
Holpen are all folk on earth,
Born is God's Son so dear:
Nowell! Nowell! Nowell!
Nowell, sing we loud!
God today hath poor folk raised
And cast a-down the proud.

Then to Bethlem town
We went two and two
And in a sorry place
Heard the oxen low.

Refrain

Therein did we see
A sweet and goodly may
And a fair old man,
Upon the straw she lay.

Refrain

The Oxen

By Richard Hynson

Words by Christina Rossetti

Christmas Eve and twelve of the clock.
"Now they are all on their knees,"
An elder said as we sat in a flock
By the embers in hearthside ease.
We pictured the meek mild creatures where
They dwelt in their strawy pen.
Nor did it occur to one of us there
To doubt they were kneeling then.

So fair a fancy, fair a fancy
Few would weave in these years!
Yet, I feel if someone said on
Christmas Eve,
(Gloria, Christ is born! Peace on earth.)

And a little child
On her arm had she,
'Wot ye who this is?'
Said the hinds to me.
Ox and ass Him know,
Kneeling on their knee,
Wondrous joy had I,
This little babe to see.

Refrain

This is Christ the Lord,
Masters be ye glad!
Christmas is come in,
And no folk should be sad.

Refrain

God today hath poor folk raised,
Sing Nowell! Hear ye news today!

"Come, see the oxen kneel
In the lonely barton by yonder coomb
Our childhood used to know."

I should go with him in the gloom,
Hoping it might be so.
(Shepherds come.)

Of the Father's Love Begotten

13th-century Plainsong

Arranged by Richard Hynson

Of the Father's love begotten,
Ere the worlds began to be,
He is Alpha and Omega,
He the source, the ending He,
Of the things that are, that have been,
And that future years shall see.
Evermore and evermore!

O that birth forever blessed,
When the Virgin, full of grace,
By the Holy Ghost conceiving,
Bore the Savior of our race;
And the Babe, the world's redeemer,
First revealed His sacred face,
Evermore and evermore!

Joseph, Look East! Ships!!!

Arranged by Michelle Hynson

Joseph dearest, Joseph mine,
Help me cradle the child divine;
God reward thee and all that's thine in
paradise,
So prays the mother Mary.

Gladly, dear one, lady mine,
Help I cradle this child of thine;
God's own light on us both shall shine in
paradise,
As prays the mother Mary.

People, look East! The time is near
Of the crowning of the year.
Make your house fair as you are able,
Trim the hearth and set the table.
People, look East today
For Jesus, Son of Mary.

He came among us at Christmastide,
At Christmastide, in Bethlehem;
Men shall bring Him from far and wide
Love's diadem.
Jesus, Jesus,
Lo, He comes, and loves, and saves, and
frees us!

I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
I saw three ships come sailing in
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Thee let old men, thee let young men,
Thee let boys in chorus sing;
Matrons, virgins, little maidens,
With glad voices answering:
Let their guileless songs re-echo,
And the heart its music bring,
Evermore and evermore.

O ye heights of heav'n, adore Him;
Angel hosts, His praises sing;
Pow'rs, dominions, bow before Him,
And extol our God and King;
Let no tongue on earth be silent,
Ev'ry voice in concert ring.
Evermore and evermore!

And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And what was in those ships all three?
On Christmas Day in the morning.

Our Savior Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
Our Savior Christ and his lady,
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day, on Christmas Day,
And all the bells on earth shall ring
On Christmas Day in the morning.

And all the angels in heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
And all the angels in heaven shall sing,
On Christmas Day in the morning.
People, look East,
On Christmas Day!

Program Text (cont.)

Love Came Down at Christmas

By Richard Hynson

Words by Christina Rossetti

Love came down at Christmas,
Love all lovely, Love divine;
Love was born at Christmas;
Star and angels gave the sign.

Love shall be our token;
Love be yours and love be mine;
Love to God and all men,
Love for plea and gift and sign.

Worship we the Godhead,
Love incarnate, Love divine;
Worship we our Jesus,
But wherewith for sacred sign?

Deck the Hall

Arranged by Michelle Hynson

Deck the Hall with boughs of holly, fa la la
la la la la la la.

'Tis the season to be jolly, fa la la la la
la la la.

Don we now our gay apparel, fa la la fa la
la la la la.

Troll the ancient Yuletide carol, fa la la la
la la la la...

See the blazing Yule before us, fa la la la la
la la la la.

Strike the harp and join the chorus, fa la la
la la la la la la.

Follow me in merry measure, fa la la fa la
la la la la.

While I tell of Yuletide treasure, fa la la la
la la la la...

Fast away the old year passes, fa la la la la
la la la la.

Hail the new, ye lads and lasses, fa la la la la
la la la la.

Sing we joyous all together, fa la la fa la la
la la la.

Heedless of the wind and weather, fa la la la
la la la la...

Silent Night

Words by Joseph Mohr

Music by Franz Grüber

Arranged by Michelle Hynson

Silent night, Holy night,
All is calm, all is bright,
Round yon virgin Mother and Child.
Holy Infant so tender and mild,
Sleep in heavenly peace.

Silent night! Holy night!
Son of God, love's pure light;
Radiant beams from Thy holy face,
With the dawn of redeeming grace,
Jesus, Lord at thy birth.

Silent night! Holy night!
Shepherds quake at the sight;
Glories stream from heaven afar,
Heavenly hosts sing alleluia!
Christ the Savior is born.

Joy to the World

*(All are invited to sing the words in **bold print**)*

By George F. Handel

Arranged by Richard Hynson

**Joy to the world, the Lord is come!
Let earth receive her King;
Let ev'ry heart prepare Him room,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n and nature sing,
And heav'n, and heav'n, and nature
sing.**

**Joy to the earth, the Savior reigns!
Let all their songs employ.
While fields and floods, rocks, hills, and
plains
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat the sounding joy,
Repeat, repeat, the sounding joy.**

**He rules the world with truth and grace
And makes the nations prove
The glories of His righteousness
And wonders of His love,
And wonders of His love,
And wonders, wonders, of His love.**

Musicians

Bel Canto Chorus

Kelly Bartyczak
Carol Bayne
Janice J. Becker
Chelsea Betz*
Susan Brown*
Jason Clark*
Heather Comiskey
Elizabeth Conway
Pete Craig
Adam Dean
Martha Felton Dobbs
Luella J. Dooley-Menet
Molly Farley
Thayer Fisher
Carly Fitzgerald*
Emily Fox
Karri L. Fritz-Klaus
Ellen Fulton
Ashlyn Galloway
Jaymes Gayhart*
Lauren Gizzi
Lynn Gutoski
Joe Hatchell
Mitch Haycock
Keith Heidmann
David Hillenbrand
Dan Holzmiller
Kathleen Hughes*
Michelle Hynson*
Brent M. Johnston*
Morgan Knigge

Emily Knutson*
Steve Kunda
James LaBelle*
Lindsay Lamm*
Michael LaPlant
Nichole Larson
Angela Lee
Judy Zoelzer Levine
Wendelin Lockett*
Marilyn Mascitti*
Colleen Miner
David Mohr*
Sharon Morrow
Max Mullen*
Katie Mullins
Jaime Murray
Jonathan Nass
Paul Oestreich*
Alexandra Pieper
Josh Pope*
Erin Frey Puccetti
Alison Rada-Bayne
Annalisa Ragatz
Stephen Ragatz
Lisa Rao
Joel Rathmann*
Jessica Rauh
Kristin Raymond
Kirsten Reddy
Kay Richardson
Mary S. Rinehart

Sonya Ropson
Jessie SaLee
Kerry Saver
Kate Schmitt
Marcia Schwager
Brian J. Schwanz
Dean Sievert
Joshua K. Sievert
Delbert J. Slowik
Binette H. Solomon
Erin Stamm
Philip Starr
Tom Thiele
Veronica Thomas
Fausta Urboniene
Mark W. Weller
Kayla Wendlake
Elaine Wessel
Nathan Wesselowski*
Hazel Wheaton
Charles T. White
Rebecca Whitney*
Marie Widder
Andrew Widder*
Natalie Wikstrom
Annie Williams
Evan Witz

*Denotes Section Leader

Homestead High School Treble Choir

Quinn Allen
Ryan Bennett
Ellie Bogaczyk
Reagan Godden
Leah McGowan
Julia Nill
Vivian Reiland
Jacinta Robar
Hannah Willis

Homestead High School Tartan students singing with Bel Canto

Aidan Bigonia
Kseniya Kharoshka
Ryan Kramer
Heidi Mansfield
Greer Patten

Instrumentalists

Trumpet

David Magoon
Steven Erhardt II
Daniel Birnschein

Trombone

Jonathan Winkle
Rick Seybold
Matthew Walker

Percussion

Terry Smirl

Organ

Sheri Masiakowski

About Bel Canto Chorus

Values and Mission Statement

We believe lifelong learning builds thriving communities. At Bel Canto Chorus, we build communities by connecting people through music. We offer world-class choral programs in the Milwaukee Area. Our mission is to connect singers, audiences, and the community through experiences with diverse choral music.

About

Founded in 1931, Bel Canto Chorus is Southeastern Wisconsin's oldest continually performing arts organization. The group includes an auditioned adult performance chorus of approximately 100 singers and a Senior Singers program for those 55 or better who want to sing in an organized performance chorus. Characterized by a heartfelt belief in the value of Bel Canto Chorus's mission and vision, and supported by devoted singers and audiences, talented artistic and administrative staff, and dedicated Board members, the group's passion for sharing the thrill of live choral music has remained steadfast throughout its long, proud history.

Board of Directors

Officers

Marq Truscott – President
Thayer Fisher – Treasurer
Marcia Schwager – Secretary

Directors

Ellen Fulton, Antonina Johnston, Katie Kaminsky, Sibyl McCarley, Theodore Perlick Molinari, Sarah Paul, Stephen Ragatz, Brett Seamons

Artistic Staff

Music Director/Conductor – Richard Hynson
Assistant Conductor/Accompanist – Michelle Hynson
Senior Singers Conductor – Danielle Bridges, Rebecca Renee Winnie
Senior Singers Accompanist – Elna Hickson, Sunkyoung Lee, Lindsay Sheridan

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