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A Message from Josephine Lee

It is an exciting time to be a member of the arts community in Chicago. Last month, Mayor Rahm Emanuel released an abstract of the forthcoming Arts Education Plan, which states that by 2015 every child in the Chicago Public School System will receive arts education in music, visual arts, drama and dance. The Choir has been at the forefront of this movement to increase student participation in the arts, last year serving more than 3,000 singers across Chicago. Our goal is to allow all children, not just those in Chicago, to have the opportunity to participate in and experience the power of the arts. Christopher Moore dreamed of this when he founded the Choir 56 years ago during the Civil Rights Movement by connecting children of different backgrounds. We are now experiencing a different type of connection, with a mission of inspiring global audiences, an idea from which *Sita Ram* was created 12 years ago. As we tie worlds together, old and new, east and west, we must remember that what truly ties us together is music – a universal language which connects us all on a deeply humanistic level.

Sincerely,

President & Artistic Director

World Music Takes Center Stage with Choir

As the Voice of Chicago, the Choir has engaged both singers and audiences in connecting our city to the diverse cultures of the world through musical ambassadorship. To strengthen our international ties and promote Chicago as a truly global city, the Choir will take a world music focus through all aspects of its programming this year. It all begins with a new production of *Sita Ram*, a world musical based on the ancient Indian epic, the *Ramayana*. Collaborating with David Kersnar of Lookingglass Theatre Company and Krithika Rajagopalan of Natya Dance Theatre, President and Artistic Director Josephine Lee and Judy Hanson, Director of Choral Programs, will bring the *Ramayana's* universal message to life at the Harris Theater for Music and Dance on December 14 and 15 for three highly-anticipated shows. Be sure to buy your tickets today to witness this amazing production. *(Continued on page 2)*



Sita Ram in its 2006 production at Lookingglass Theatre

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World Music Takes Center Stage (continued)

Singers will have the opportunity to deepen their understanding of Indian culture – and the affects of globalization on a country that is rising in international influence – this winter. On January 25, 45 singers will depart for a ten-day tour of India to visit New Delhi, Bangalore, Chennai and Jaipur. Through performances and outreach activities in collaboration with the US Embassy in New Delhi and the Jaipur Literature Festival, singers will have the opportunity to experience the social dynamics of a country

that blends its history with the influence of the modern world, helping them to further understand the story of *Sita Ram* and how the *Ramayana* connects to present-day India. As Mayor Emanuel stated, “It is essential that we showcase everything that Chicago has to offer to the world” by fostering economic relationships in conjunction with cultural outreach. To promote this strategy, members of World Business Chicago will join the Choir to strengthen business ties to India and expand Chicago’s global footprint.

As a final step to enhance this year’s focus of world music, the Choir has named Mollie Stone as Director of World Music. She will spearhead a World Music Festival on March 3rd, bringing together Concert Choir singers and all of the Neighborhood Choirs for a day of song-sharing and workshops, culminating in a performance. This Festival will provide more than 600 singers the opportunity to present music representing the many cultures they have studied throughout the year.



Neighborhood Choirs Kick Off 2012-13 Season

It’s only November, and already the Chicago Children’s Choir’s Neighborhood Choir Programs have kicked off the 2012-13 season with three exciting and high-profile events. In mid-September, members from all eight Neighborhood Choirs came together at Millennium Park for the annual *Community Sing*, where fans enjoyed a brief, high-energy performance that showcased the Choir’s broad range of repertoire. Following *Community Sing*, a small group of Neighborhood Choir singers joined Riccardo Muti and the Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus for a performance of Carl Orff’s famous showpiece *Carmina Burana*. At the beginning of October, those same singers took a plane to New York City, where they again performed *Carmina Burana* with the CSO and Chorus at Carnegie Hall’s opening night gala.

The Choir’s first *Target Community Concert Series* event took place on November 15 at the Irish American Heritage Center, featuring the Albany Park Neighborhood Choir, DiMension and the In-School Programs at Edison Regional Gifted Center and Wildwood World Magnet. This concert was the first in a series of five this year.

Those interested in singing with one of Chicago Children’s Choir’s eight Neighborhood Choir Programs are welcome to join during the spring enrollment period starting in January. For more information, call 312-849-8300, ext. *10.

Record-Setting Year for In-School Programs



For the first time in Chicago Children’s Choir history, the Choir will be partnering with 60 schools. The Choir began their In-School Program in 1962 working in only one school, and the program has grown to meet the needs of Chicago students and schools over the years. More and more, teachers and principals are realizing the importance of the arts to create a well-rounded education for their students. As a teacher from Alice L. Barnard Computer Math & Science Center states, “(In Chicago Children’s Choir) they are able to express themselves in a different environment and learn songs from every different culture. Seeing the students sing, smile and collaborate with others throughout the city is truly amazing.”

For the second year in a row, the Choir was able to offer a free program to two schools as part of our *Paint the Town Red* in celebration of arts education. The event and free school initiative were made possible by generous support from Target. We are pleased to announce that Laura Ward Elementary School in Garfield Park was awarded a free program as a new school partner and Thomas A. Edison Regional Gifted Center in Albany Park is able to continue their partnership with the Choir after being awarded a free program this year. The Choir would like to thank JPMorgan Chase & Co. for continued support of the In-School Program.

Fall Benefit Honors Rose Ann Grundman



Chicago Children’s Choir celebrated its 56th anniversary *Red Jacket Optional* gala honoring board member Rose Ann Grundman. She has made it her life’s work to advance our city’s cultural vibrancy by discovering and supporting local musicians in the beginning of their careers. It was Rose Ann’s mother, Rose McGilvray Grundman, who began this legacy by founding the Classical Music Scholarship program in 1976 through the Union League Civic and Arts Foundation. Rose Ann has kept this program going for decades and further contributed to building Chicago’s reputation as a leader in the arts through her highly coveted Rose M. Grundman Scholarship and the Distinguished Musician Award through the Musicians Club of Women. Many world-class Chicago musicians owe their success and gratitude to Rose Ann’s generosity and keen eye for talent, including our very own Josephine Lee.

Rose Ann joined the Choir’s Board of Directors in 2004. Her dedication to fostering new talent makes Rose Ann one of the Choir’s most ardent advocates in Chicago’s musical arena. We are grateful for all of the supporters, alumni, and friends who came out to celebrate and raise more than \$625,000 for the Choir.

Chicago Children’s Choir Welcomes New Board Members

We are excited to welcome four very inspiring and accomplished individuals to our Board of Directors:

Caroline Dettman is Executive Creative Director for Edelman U.S. Ms. Dettman has led the strategy and creative for the company’s work for Levi’s, Hilton, Jim Beam, Quaker, Girl Scouts of America and Microsoft. Caroline achieved PR Week’s “40 under 40” in 2010 and is a graduate of Indiana University.

Priscilla Kersten is President of the Square One Foundation, a private family foundation active in civic, educational, and social justice issues and the proud parent of a Concert Choir Singer. Ms. Kersten is a trustee at The Latin School of Chicago and board chair of High Jump—an organization serving academically talented and under-resourced middle school students. Ms. Kersten graduated from the University of Michigan and from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management.

Sona Wang is Managing Director at Ceres Venture Fund, a Chicago-based venture capital fund. She currently serves on the Board of Trustees of Northwestern University. In 2004 and 2008, Ms. Wang was recognized as one of the “100 Most Influential Women in Chicago” by Crain’s Business Chicago. Sona graduated from Stanford University and received an M.B.A., magna cum laude, from Northwestern University’s Kellogg School of Management.

Madelaine Mooney is the Choir’s new Alumni Representative on the Board of Directors. Ms. Mooney is the Prospect Research Coordinator for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra. She graduated from Chicago Children’s Choir in 2004, having advanced through all levels of the organization during her 10 years as a singer. Madelaine graduated from Pace University in New York City.

chicago children's choir



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Upcoming Events

Sita Ram

presented by
Walgreens

December 14, 7:30pm & December 15, 2:00pm and 7:30pm

Harris Theater for Music and Dance

Tickets start at \$15 at www.harristheaterchicago.com,

or call Harris Theater Box Office at 312-334-7777. Use code SRFAMILY for a 10% discount.

David Kersnar of Lookingglass Theatre Company, Josephine Lee of Chicago Children's Choir, Krithika Rajagopalan of Natya Dance Theatre and Jai Uttal will bring *Sita Ram*, an original world musical, to the stage at Harris Theater for Music and Dance for three highly anticipated shows.

Music@Bethel

December 1, 2012, 3:30pm & 7:00pm

Bethel United Church of Christ, Elmhurst

Tickets \$12 - \$35

The Concert Choir and Associate Director Judy Hanson return to Bethel United Church of Christ for its second annual Christmas Celebration. Due to the popularity of last year's show, a second performance has been added. Tickets can be purchased at www.musicatbethel.com, or by calling 630-279-4040.

Chocolate Is Love

February 10, 2013

Union League Club

Chicago Children's Choir hosts its annual fundraiser, bringing together Choir family members, alumni, fans and supporters for an afternoon of music, food, auctions, raffles and decadent desserts. With the support of the Chocolate Is Love Parent Committee, proceeds directly benefit scholarships for the Concert Choir's tour to India and help support Neighborhood Choir tuition assistance programs. For more information, contact Emily Hallock at ehallock@ccchoir.org, or 312-849-8300, ext. *23.

SITA RAM
TICKETS ON SALE NOW!

Tickets are now on sale for the Choir's holiday special, *Sita Ram*! Tickets can be purchased at the Harris Theater box office or through the Theater's website at www.harristheaterchicago.org.

Families can use the code SRFAMILY for a 10% discount.