



▲ Neighborhood Choir Program Swells

▲ Let Freedom Ring!

▲ Successful Arts Programming During School

A Message From The Artistic Director

Our challenge: How do we possibly summarize 50 years of creating a better world through music in a single culminating concert program on June 2nd, 2007?

First, we bring together Chicago Children's Choir alumni from the past five decades to join our current singers, and we present these **500 voices** in the acoustically superior **Civic Opera House**. Next, we enlist the **Lyric Opera Orchestra** and honor the past by presenting great works for chorus and full orchestra with renowned alumni soloists Nicole Heaston, Jonita Lattimore, Michael Preacely and Isaiah Robinson. We also honor the future as we premiere **new works commissioned for the Choir's 50th Anniversary** so that we may leave our mark among the greatest of choral repertoire for decades to come.

Most importantly, however, **we honor the present**: Today the dynamic and enduring vision of founder Reverend Christopher Moore is continually affirmed each day as Choir programs bring together the multiracial, multicultural children and youth of this great city to better understand themselves

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50th Anniversary Alumni Weekend

The 50th Anniversary Alumni Weekend, June 1-3, is a wonderful opportunity to meet with the many people who have sustained and participated in Chicago Children's Choir over its fifty year history.

Highlights of the weekend include:

- **Friday**: a free sing-a-long concert at Chicago Temple, conducted by Nick Page (who many might remember from the 40th anniversary celebration, if not from his tenure as a Choir conductor)
- **Saturday**: the annual Spring Concert at the Civic Opera House, featuring a glittering cast (see *Message from the Artistic Director* for all the exciting details)
- **Sunday**: a concert of Choir favorites, at the Rubloff Auditorium, Art Institute of Chicago, by the registered alumni and with former conductors and accompanists

Chicago Children's Choir would like to extend a very special *Thank You* to Susan McMillan for all of her help in planning and making possible the 50th Anniversary Alumni Weekend. This weekend will be a highlight in the Choir's history as we will gather alumni from every generation of the Choir. These are the people who have truly made the Choir what it is today!

For more information about attending the Friday sing-a-long or the Sunday concert, please contact Mary Rhodes at 312.849.8300 ext. 23 or mrhodes@ccchoir.org



Founder Christopher Moore takes a rare opportunity to sing with the Choir.

and each other through musical excellence. In bringing together our alumni, Concert Choir and the rising stars in our Neighborhood Choirs, we hope to demonstrate that over these past fifty years Chicago Children's Choir has truly grown into a world class organization.

The centerpiece of the program is a commissioned oratorio by South African composer P ter Louis van Dijk. *Windy City Songs*, for solo soprano, solo baritone, mixed choir, children's choir and orchestra, commemorates the 40th Anniversary of poet Carl Sandburg's death with text from his *Chicago Poems* (1916). In honor of our close relationship with the people and music of South Africa throughout the years, we will be joined by the acclaimed NMMU (Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University) Choir.

Also on the program are commissioned works by Uruguayan-born composer Elbio Rodr guez Barilari and Chicago-based musician/composer/arranger Greg Jasperse, and Borodin's dramatic *Polovtsian Dances* with full orchestra. Additionally the concert will include songs that reflect the struggle of the Civil Rights Movement.

As a grand finale, we will present Bernstein's inspiring "Make Our Garden Grow" from *Candide*. We will begin with just four solo voices and orchestra, add the Concert Choir, then Alumni Chorus and Neighborhood Choirs, building to a triumphant finish with all 500 hundred singers!

This concert, 50 years in the making, is not to be missed!

Josephine Lee, Artistic Director

Thank you to Latham & Watkins LLP, Comcast, and Susan McMillan for making the 50th Anniversary Spring Concert possible.

NEW! Receive Choir newsletters, announcements and ticket offers through email. Sign up by July 1, 2007 at www.ccchoir.org and be entered to win 4 tickets to the 2007 *Songs of the Season* concert at the Harris Theater (December 9).



Concert Choir singers will embark this summer on the Freedom Tour, honoring Chicago Children's Choir's birth fifty years ago at the very height of the Civil Rights Movement. The tour will include stops in Birmingham, Montgomery, Selma, Memphis, and New Orleans.

Singers will meet people who experienced the rich history of the Civil Rights Movement and incomprehensible struggles firsthand. They will learn from those who dedicate their lives to educating children about non-violence, tolerance, and Civil Rights struggles. In turn, the Choir will demonstrate to audiences the beauty of youth from different backgrounds working and singing together in perfect harmony. Singers will also help rebuild homes devastated by Hurricane Katrina on a service day with Habitat for Humanity.

The Freedom Tour is made possible in part by the McCormick Tribune Foundation, Columbia Sportswear Company, United Airlines, and contributions from *Chocolate is Love*.



Neighborhood Choir Program Swells

With the opening this year of a seventh community-based after-school choir in the Pilsen/Little Village area, participation levels in the Neighborhood Choir program are at a record high. Two of the longest running Neighborhood Choirs, in Hyde Park and Lincoln Park, are each nearing one hundred singers.

Serving the communities of Beverly, Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, Hyde Park, Lincoln Park, Pilsen/Little Village, and Rogers Park, the Neighborhood Choir program truly reflects the diversity of the city of Chicago.

This spring, Neighborhood Choirs are touring Colorado Springs/Denver, Detroit, Philadelphia/Washington D.C., Seattle as well as locally. Tours include unique personal and musical experiences, such as visits to an Amish farm, a Motown museum or a performance of *Wicked*, as well as community performances.

Auditions for the Neighborhood Choir program will be held in June and September. Bi-weekly rehearsals begin in mid-September and continue through the school year.



Successful Arts Programming During School

Higgins Community Academy is a fine arts school on the far south side with only one full-time arts teacher on staff. However, through grants and partnerships, they provide \$100,000 worth of arts programming, including choral education by Chicago Children's Choir, to its 500 students each year.

Dean Niedenthal, Higgins' Arts Coordinator, credits their success to the availability of outside funding, such as special grants through Chicago Public Schools. Niedenthal reports, "These highly disciplined art forms require responsibility from each kid." He adds, "You can feel the self-esteem in the building" because of these programs.

Chicago Children's Choir's supplemental music program, incorporated into the school day curriculum, allows Higgins to reach more students and offer a unique multicultural program. Niedenthal states, "Even the students that don't engage in a specific program benefit from performances for the entire school."

Valuable programs such as these would not be possible without corporate, foundation and government funding and individual contributions, to the Choir and the schools.

To find out more about our In-School choral program, please contact Jocelyn Smith at 312.849.8300 ext. 19 or jsmith@ccchoir.org

Creative Community Partnerships

We would like to thank the following generous organizations for giving back to the community through creative partnerships with Chicago Children's Choir:

The Boeing Company, for supporting the Choir's first Women's World Music Festival featuring KITKA, an all-female ensemble that specializes in traditional and contemporary Eastern European music.

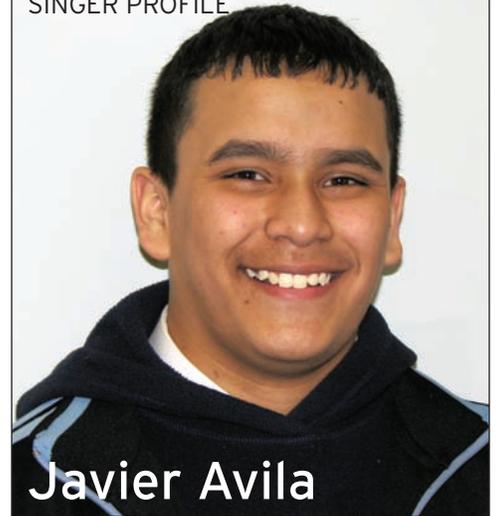
Columbia Sportswear Company, for outfitting the Concert Choir with fleeces during the winter and comfortable uniforms for the summer Freedom Tour. Columbia employees and Choir singers will join forces with Habitat for Humanity to rebuild Hurricane Katrina devastated homes during the tour.

McCormick Tribune Foundation, for providing significant support for the Freedom Tour as well as a new studio-recorded Choir CD of works reflecting the struggle for freedom and an accompanying curriculum guide for educational institutions.

The Parent Association of Chicago Children's Choir, for raising net revenue of approximately \$35,000 for the Freedom Tour scholarship fund through their *Chocolate is Love* benefit in March.

University of Chicago Graduate School of Business, for naming the Choir one of three recipients for their annual Giving Something Back Charity Auction.

SINGER PROFILE



Javier Avila

Javier Avila, new singer in DiMension

Javier recently joined the Choir family in January, 2007 as a singer in DiMension, the Choir's program for young men whose voices are in the process of changing. Currently a sophomore at Archbishop Quigley Preparatory Seminary, he and his family live in the Little Village neighborhood on Chicago's near southwest side.

He first heard Chicago Children's Choir during a concert at St. Agnes of Bohemia Church in Little Village at which all three levels of Choir programs performed together to promote the new Neighborhood Choir opening in the Pilsen/Little Village community.

Javier aspires to be a professional baseball player but proudly states the value of his Choir experience: "A choir and baseball team have a lot in common – just like a choir has sopranos, altos, tenors and basses, every player on the team needs to tend to their own position in the field. However, to do best everyone must also work together as a team."

Chicago Children's Choir would like to welcome new board members Anne Kritzmire and Raymond Millien.

Thank you to the Board of Directors for contributing more than \$750,000 towards the Choir's 50th Anniversary Campaign.

In the second year, total funds raised for the Campaign are \$3.5 million towards the \$5 million goal. We need your help. Did you know that the Choir accepts gifts of stock? During this fiscal year alone, we received over \$30,000 in gifts of stock. To find out how you can make a gift by cash, credit card or appreciated securities, please contact Eileen Epstein at 312.849.8300 ext. 18 or eepstein@ccchoir.org.

chicago children's choir 50^c

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Upcoming Events

Paint the Town Red ▶ Monday, May 21, All-day Event

Keep your eyes and ears open throughout this day for the nearly 3,000 red-clad youth of Chicago Children's Choir's In-School, Neighborhood Choir and Concert Choir programs. After a joint performance in the Auditorium Theatre at 11:00am, the singers will "paint the town red" as they give free performances throughout the Loop as well as in the communities of Beverly, Garfield Park, Humboldt Park, Hyde Park, Lincoln Park, Pilsen/Little Village and Rogers Park. **For more information, please contact Jenny Jacobsen at 312.849.8300 ext. 10 or jjacobsen@ccchoir.org.**

See inside for complete details

50th Anniversary Spring Concert – Tickets on sale now!

Saturday, June 2, 7:00pm ▶ Civic Opera House, 20 N. Wacker Drive

Don't miss Chicago Children's Choir's 50th Anniversary Spring Concert - with Concert Choir, Alumni Choir and soloists, all seven Neighborhood Choirs, plus the Lyric Opera's full symphony orchestra - featuring several new works commissioned in honor of the Choir's 50 years. Additionally, the Choir welcomes back five decades of alumni for a celebratory reunion weekend (June 1-3), concluding with a concert at the Art Institute of Chicago. Presented by Latham & Watkins LLP and Comcast, with media support by Chicago Tribune. **Order Today! For tickets (\$15 - \$60) call Ticketmaster at 312.902.1500 or visit www.ccchoir.org.**

These are but a few of our upcoming events open to the public. For more information visit www.ccchoir.org or call the Choir at 312.849.8300. If you receive duplicate mailings, or wish to be added or removed from our mailing list, please contact Kristin Andrews at kandrews@ccchoir.org or 312.849.8300 ext. 11.



The perfect gift for clients and employees!

It is never too early to begin planning for the Holiday Season... Chicago Children's Choir's studio recorded CDs make the perfect gift for clients and employees – and you will support Choir programs too! Both *Open Up Your Heart* and *Sita Ram* (or even a custom CD card) are available for bulk discounts in any quantity. Reserve today by calling Emily Jacobs at 312.849.8300 ext.12.

"I have gotten a bigger reaction from the CD holiday cards than I have ever gotten from anything I've ever sent. Phone calls praising the music, handwritten thank you notes, personalized emails, etc. People love the group." –Partner, Baker & McKenzie LLP

A special *Thank You* to Baker & McKenzie LLP and Mesriow Financial for their bulk CD orders in 2006.