



“Music expresses that which can not be said and on which it is impossible to be silent.”  
— Victor Hugo

The Boychoir of Ann Arbor

# Bravo!

The Newsletter of the Boychoir of Ann Arbor  
Volume 17, No. 1

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## ON THE TRAIL TO OREGON

### Portland, *picfest*, perfect!

In July 2015, the Boychoir of Ann Arbor traveled to Oregon to participate in the first ever Pacific International Choral Festival for Boys and Young Men.



Dr. Strode was able to finally take the Boychoir to visit his hometown of Portland, Oregon, where we met some of Dr. Strode’s family, who came to hear us sing.



We also were able to find Dr. Strode’s brick at Pioneer Courthouse Square, enjoyed some famous VooDoo

donuts, visited amazing rose gardens, traveled along the Columbia River Gorge Scenic Highway, sang the



Oregon state song (and the Victors!) inside the historic Vista House, hiked to several waterfalls, and even saw a few resident grey whales out on the Pacific Ocean!





After a whirlwind of sightseeing, we traveled on to the University of Oregon in Eugene for *picfest*, joining boychoirs from Canada, California, Pennsylvania and Florida.



Guest conductor Francisco Malvar-Ruiz, Director of the American Boychoir, led the boys in engaging daily warm-ups, energizing rehearsals, and generally inspiring music-making.



We were able to have a private workshop with him, in which he complimented our boys on their “small, but mighty” excellent sound.



We attended a wonderful concert as part of the Oregon Bach Festival and performed in a concert in which each choir sang a few pieces for all the other participating choirs.

The festival encouraged a wonderful spirit of brotherhood and sharing in the joy of making music together, and the boys made fast friends right away.



We enjoyed a few trips to visit the town of Eugene, and our daily walks through the beautiful campus.



The grand finale concert featured all of the choirs, combined into one, a powerful musical experience that will surely stay with these boys for a very long time.



*A special thank you to the alumni & families who helped make it possible for another group of choristers to have a wonderful festival opportunity. We hope to return in 2017 for Dr. Strode's final Boychoir tour.*



## *A note from Dr. Strode*

The Boychoir, now in its 29th Season, has a full slate of performances in the offing. Elsewhere in this newsletter you will find a list of upcoming appearances; let me just say that our current crop of boy singers are fully up to the task of producing wonderful sounds.



It is always a great “upper” for me to experience the full flowering of our boys’ treble voices in great choral works, as well as the magical music of our “A Boychoir Christmas” concert.

We are preparing Benjamin Britten’s *Ceremony of Carols* for performance at this concert, and I relish the opportunity to have these boys become familiar with this masterpiece.



I welcome our new Assistant Music Director, Matthew Abernathy. He is in the graduate choral conducting program at the University of Michigan, studying under Dr. Jerry Blackstone.

Mr. Abernathy brings to our program a wealth of experience in the choral art and I'm particularly pleased with the progress he has made with our Young Men's Ensemble.



We have made the decision to return to the Baltimore Boychoir Festival in May 2016. Most of this year's trebles have not yet been to this festival, so I am anxious to return with as many boys as possible, to make a strong showing for Michigan!



We will prepare high-quality repertoire for our several appearances slated for Winter/Spring. It is wonderful to see boys’ faces light up with joy as they sing great choral literature!

Please know that I deeply appreciate the several ways in which so many have supported the Boychoir through the years; not least of which is proposing future candidates for admission to the choir. Please think about intelligent, musical boys you may know who could become part of our Boychoir family, and who could benefit from the musical training they will receive with us.

— Dr. Thomas Strode  
Founder/Director

## ***"A Boychoir Christmas"***

Please join us on Saturday, December 12<sup>th</sup>, for the 29th annual "***A Boychoir Christmas.***" This year there will be two performances, at 3 p.m. & 7 p.m., both at the First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor (1432 Washtenaw).



The program will once again feature perennial favorite Benjamin Britten's *Ceremony of Carols*. Originally written for boychoir and harp, the work contains extraordinary settings of mediaeval and renaissance carols in modern guise, which exploits the beauty of boys' soprano voices with the celestial harp accompaniment. Our harpist this year will be Brittany DeYoung.

Other featured pieces will include Vaughan Williams's beautiful "No sad thought His soul affright" from the cantata *Hodie*; the traditional "Quem pastores laudavere" with four solo boy sopranos singing from the four corners of the sanctuary; the Spanish carol "Riu, riu, chiu" sung by the Young Men's Ensemble of changed voices; and William Mathias's exuberant setting of "A Babe is Born."

As in recent years, the audience will be invited to join in singing a few traditional hymns, and alumni will



once again be welcomed to join the choir for "Tomorrow shall be my dancing day" by John Gardner, a setting that has been performed at every Boychoir Christmas concert for nearly 30 years!

Purchase tickets for "***A Boychoir Christmas***" online at <https://mkt.com/boychoir-of-ann-arbor> aaboychoir.org, from a chorister, or at the door.

We can also take reservations online, by email [tickets@aaboychoir.org](mailto:tickets@aaboychoir.org) and by phone (734) 663-5377. Order your tickets today! You won't want to miss out!

## Boychoir of Ann Arbor December Performances

<http://www.aaboychoir.org/upcoming.html>

- Dec. 4** 7 p.m. — An Organist's Christmas with Boychoir alumnus Glenn Tucker  
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor  
1432 Washtenaw
- Dec. 5** 2:00 p.m. — Caroling at Whole Foods  
990 W Eisenhower Pkwy, Ann Arbor
- Dec. 11** 8:00 p.m. — Holiday Pops with the Ann Arbor Symphony Orchestra Hill Auditorium, Ann Arbor
- Dec. 12** 3:00 p.m. — "***A Boychoir Christmas***"  
7:00 p.m. — "***A Boychoir Christmas***"  
First Presbyterian Church of Ann Arbor  
1432 Washtenaw Avenue

## Upcoming 2016 Events

- Feb. 28** 4 p.m. — "*Let all the world in ev'ry corner sing*" First Congregational Church of Battle Creek, 145 Capital Ave, SE, Battle Creek, MI 49017
- April TBA** Young Men's Ensemble Performance
- Apr. 22** 4:00 p.m. — Joint concert with St. Francis of Assisi Handbell Choir  
2250 E. Stadium Blvd. Ann Arbor
- May 15** 4 p.m. — Evensong  
St. Andrew's Episcopal Church  
306 N. Division, Ann Arbor
- June 5** 5:00 p.m. — Spring Concert, location TBA
- June 20-24** Boys' Summer Singing Camp
- Dec. 10** ***A Boychoir Christmas***



Boys' Summer Singing Camp



*Yes! I want to help keep the Boychoir of Ann Arbor singing!*

\$1000    \$500    \$250    \$100    \$50    \$ \_\_\_\_\_

Please allocate my gift for:    Wherever needed    Scholarships    Tours/Festivals  
 Endowment Fund    CD Fund

*Many companies match employee donations; ask your employer for details. United Way contributions may also be designated for the Boychoir.*

Please make checks payable to Boychoir of Ann Arbor. We also accept credit cards, online or by mail.

<https://mkt.com/boychoir-of-ann-arbor>

Credit Card # \_\_\_\_\_ Exp Date \_\_\_\_\_ CVV# \_\_\_\_\_

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Signature: \_\_\_\_\_

- Please send me 2 tickets for "A Boychoir Christmas" as a premium benefit with my donation of \$50 or more. (Donations must be received by December 10 for tickets; tickets will be mailed or held for pick up at will call.)
- Thanks, but no concert tickets needed; please use my full donation to help the Boychoir of Ann Arbor.
- Please update my contact information.

Name: \_\_\_\_\_ Phone: \_\_\_\_\_

Address: \_\_\_\_\_

City: \_\_\_\_\_ State: \_\_\_\_\_ Zip: \_\_\_\_\_

E-mail Address: \_\_\_\_\_

Send updates to [office@aaboychoir.org](mailto:office@aaboychoir.org) or mail to:

**The Boychoir of Ann Arbor**

1100 North Main Street, Suite 215

*3 more ways to help support the Boychoir*

*Shop as usual and retailers will donate to Boychoir!*

**Tell Kroger to donate to the Boychoir of Ann Arbor**



Join the Kroger Community Rewards Program and register your Kroger Plus card to support the Boychoir of Ann Arbor. Then just scan your card (or enter alt ID) when you check out, and Kroger will donate a percentage of your purchase to the Boychoir. It's that easy! (Just remember to re-enroll every year!)

<http://krogercommunityrewards.com> Search for Boychoir or use our NPO #82892



If you shop online, register at [iGive.com](http://iGive.com) to support the Boychoir, and then just start your online shopping at [iGive.com](http://iGive.com). You can also use the iGive app or install the [igive.com](http://iGive.com) browser button to automatically donate whenever you shop online; hundreds of national retailers will donate to the Boychoir! <http://www.iGive.com/Boychoir>



Use Boychoir 'enrollment code' **8D2C188F368**

Purchase gift cards (at face value) to use for things you already buy. Digital (email & smartphone) and reloadable cards are available for many retailers.

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<http://www.youtube.com/BoychoirA2>