



Masterworks Celebrates 42 Years Of Choral Excellence In The Metro East

Masterworks

CHORALE

CHILDREN'S CHORUSES

Join us as we embark on the next 40 years to continue our mission: Singing to cultivate a lifelong love of choral music with a commitment to excellent artistic performance and music education that inspires our diverse audience in the Metro East of St. Louis.





A Message From The President Of The Board

Masterworks CHORALE CHILDREN'S CHORUSES

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and Conductor**

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Dear Masterworks Friend,

You are invited to support Masterworks Chorale and Children's Choruses as we celebrate our 42nd season presenting cultural performances for the Metro-East community. We have six major concerts in this season's performance schedule including multiple performances of two concerts. We have many ways that you can support Masterworks and we invite you to contemplate these today,

Every year since 1974, hundreds of concertgoers have enjoyed moving and beautiful performances presented by the Masterworks Chorale and Children's Choruses in a variety of venues throughout the area. Our Music Director and Conductor, Dr. Stephen Mager, is a nationally recognized composer and has brought a high level of professionalism and excellence to our organization at all levels.

Our audience is exactly the one you, as a businessperson, would like to target. They are educated, sophisticated and affluent. There is no doubt that the stable presence of fine arts in a community has a major impact on quality of life and economic growth. People want to live where there is an enriched cultural environment. Southwestern Illinois has had the good fortune of claiming Masterworks as a major part of its musical culture for the past 40 years. Only with your support, can this tradition continue.

We thank you in advance for your role in keeping the sound of music in our community. Please know that your support in any form is greatly appreciated.

Sincerely,

Michael Wagner

Michael Wagner, Board President
The Masterworks Chorale



Become A Sponsor of Masterworks Chorale

Concert Sponsor:

Masterworks Christmas - \$5,000

For your sponsorship of this concert, we would like to give you:

- Banner and Verbal recognition at the concert
- Reserved seating for up to 20
- Recognition as THE sponsor in all promotional and advertising campaigns
- A full page ad in all seven concert programs for the entire season
- Recognition as a supporter in each program
- Recognition on the web site and Facebook
- Four tickets to our Annual Gala and Auction at the St. Clair Country Club (March 7, 2015)

Concert Sponsor:

Fall Concert - \$1,500

TWO Broadway Pops! - \$1,500 each

Spring Concert with Orchestra - \$3,500

For your sponsorship of one of these three concerts, we would like to give you:

- Verbal recognition at the concert
- Reserved seating for up to 10
- Recognition as THE sponsor in all promotional and advertising campaigns
- A full page ad in this particular concert program
- Recognition as a supporter in each program
- Recognition on the web site and Facebook

Program Ad Sponsor:

1/4 page - \$125

1/2 page - \$250

Full page - \$500

Ads will appear in all seven concert programs for the 2015-2016 season

**www.singmasterworks.org - [Facebook.com/Masterworks Chorale and Children's Choruses](https://www.facebook.com/MasterworksChorale)
(618) 416-1839**



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Join Us For Our 42nd Concert Season: 2015-2016

The Masterworks Chorale
All American Jubilee

October 11, 3 p.m. at Saint Clare Catholic Church, O'Fallon

The Masterworks Children's Choruses
Music for Young Voices

November 1, 3 p.m. at Saint Paul UCC, Belleville

The Masterworks Chorale, Children's Choruses and Orchestra
A Masterworks Christmas

December 13, 7:30 p.m.

Saint Clare Catholic Church, O'Fallon

The Masterworks Chorale, Children's Choruses and Jazz Ensemble
Broadway Pops

TWO Performances on February 27, 7:30 p.m.; and February 28, 3 p.m.

Lindenwood University Auditorium, Belleville

The Masterworks Children's Choruses
Voices of Spring

April 17, 3 p.m. at Saint Paul UCC, Belleville

The Masterworks Chorale and Orchestra
Of Conflict and Triumph: Haydn's Lord Nelson Mass

May 1, 3 p.m.

Saint Clare Catholic Church, O'Fallon



Meet Our Conductor; Dr. Stephen Mager



An active choral and opera conductor, Stephen Mager has conducted for Opera Theatre of Saint Louis in their education outreach performances. In this capacity he conducted the Midwest premiere of Hans Krasa's *Brundibár* (1997), and the world premiere of Adolphus Hailstork's *Joshua's Boots* (1999), as well as Lukas Foss' *The Jumping Frog of Calaveras County* (2000) and Cary John Franklin's *Thunder of Horses* (2001). In 2004 Mager composed and conducted his own one-act opera, *Dream of the Pacific*, and conducted this work for Washington National Opera (2006).

He holds a Doctor of Music degree from the Jacobs School of Music, Indiana University, where he also completed his master's studies. His doctoral recital performances included Igor Stravinsky's *Mass* (February 18, 2007); *L'Enfance du Christ* by Hector Berlioz (April 20, 2008); and Poulenc's *Un Soir de Neige* (November 18, 2008).

Dr. Mager has also conducted the Arcangeli Chamber Chorus, a professional ensemble with whom he recorded a full-length album of his own Christmas carol settings (1998). In 1999, he conducted the chorus in a performance of the *Requiem* by Maurice Duruflé. Mager was conductor of the Masterworks Children's Chorus, Belleville, from 1989 until 2000. Other credits include the Saint Louis University Chorale; the Baden Chamber Orchestra; the Providence Singers, Saint Louis; and the St. Louis Chamber Chorus.

An active composer, Stephen Mager has written for chorus and orchestra. His works have been performed by the Cleveland Orchestra and Chorus; VocalEssence, Minnesota; and the Dallas Symphony Chorus.

His choral symphony, *Sinfonia Pastorale*, received its Saint Louis premiere in 1997 with the Bach Society of Saint Louis, to critical praise: *"The music does indeed have a painterly quality to it. The orchestration is complex and colorful, and the music is inclined to linger over beautiful images... [Mager] writes gratefully for the voice..."* (Saint Louis Post-Dispatch).

In 2004, he was appointed composer-in-residence by the Bach Society, which has since commissioned several major choral works: an Easter choral cycle, *The Lamb's High Feast* (2005); *I saw eternity* (2006); and in 2008, *Missa lucis* ("Mass of Light"), aptly described as "lushly lyrical" (Saint Louis Post-Dispatch).

His carol settings have also received critical attention: *"Mager's settings... went well beyond mere arrangements; the Noël de la Vierge had a simple dignity and deft orchestral touch that set it above the usual holiday fare"* (Saint Louis Post-Dispatch). His carols are featured on the compact disc, *Joy for Every Age* (1998). *"These excellent carol settings... exhibit a slightly different kind of charm and sophistication that owes much to their more expansive... fully integrated orchestrations"* (David Vernier, Classicstoday.com).

His opera, *Dream of the Pacific*, was commissioned by Opera Theatre of Saint Louis for the bicentennial of the Lewis and Clark expedition (2004), and subsequently produced by Opera Omaha (2005), Kansas City Lyric Opera (2005), and Washington National Opera (2006). *"Mager excels at conveying a wide variety of feelings... all in a musical language that is both lyrical and comprehensible"* (Washington Post).

Stephen Mager is also an accomplished organist and pianist. His publishers include Oxford University Press and MorningStar Music.



The Masterworks Chorale

The Masterworks Chorale is an ensemble of auditioned singers who enrich the cultural environment of the Metro East with outstanding performances of significant choral literature. The Chorale sponsors the Masterworks Children's Chorus which shares the same musical objectives of a disciplined and professional approach to the understanding and appreciation of music through musicianship, quality literature and performance.

The Chorale membership represents a six-county area in Illinois and Missouri and includes a wide variety of professions and musical backgrounds. Many members have music degrees, most have studied voice privately, and several are church organists, choir directors or music teachers.

The Chorale was joined by the Dave Brubeck Quartet in 1982 for a performance of Brubeck's *The Gates of Justice*. In 1985 the Chorale made its first European Concert Tour and that fall presented the Midwest premiere of a new critical edition of Mozart's *Requiem*. In 1987 the Chorale was invited to join the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and Chorus under maestro Leonard Slatkin to perform Berlioz' monumental *Grande Messe de Morts*. And in 1993 the Chorale combined with the Bach Society of Saint Louis to perform Haydn's *The Creation* at Powell Hall. In 1995 the Chorale commissioned and premiered Stephen Mager's *Sinfonia Pastorale*.

Outstanding soloists who have appeared with the Chorale include soprano Erie Mills (1987 and 1999), tenor William McDonald (1988), Grammy award-winning narrator William Warfield (1989), mezzo soprano Nancy Maulsby (1989), Gospel composer/conductor Robert Ray (1994 and 1996), and soprano Christine Brewer (1983, 1985, 1988 and 1993).





The Masterworks Children's Choruses

The Masterworks Children's Choruses are sponsored by the Masterworks Chorale and share the same musical objectives of a disciplined and professional approach to the understanding of music through musicianship, quality literature and performance.

Founded in 1985, the Masterworks Children's Choruses are based on the premise that all children possess the capacity for artistic expression if provided an opportunity for its nurturing. To achieve its artistic goals, the Children's Choruses are directed by respected artist/teachers who believe in the importance of challenging young people to pursue excellence.

In its 25 year history, the Choruses have performed with the Saint Louis Symphony Orchestra and the Bach Society of Saint Louis, and at the Missouri Botanical Garden for the St. Louis Children's Art Festival, the Salute to the Masters Art Festival, Art on the Square, and St. Clair County Teachers' Institute. They have performed on tour in St. Louis, Chicago, Peoria, Kansas City and Indianapolis. Every year the Children's Choruses perform with orchestra at the Masterworks Christmas concert, present their own full-length spring and fall concerts, and participate in the annual "Give My Regards to Broadway" concert. They also make selected appearances at local community events.

www.singmasterworks.org

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