

Headliner Choir

Seraphic Fire



Seraphic Fire is a national “All Star” ensemble of professional singers chosen for their exceptional talent. Seraphic Fire flies these renowned artists to Miami for intensive rehearsals followed by engaging performance tours. Founded in 2002 by Artistic Director Patrick Dupré Quigley, Seraphic Fire has garnered critical acclaim both locally and nationally.

Lauded by The Miami Herald as “one of the best choirs anywhere,” Seraphic Fire has gained a reputation for dynamic, cutting edge performances. In an exciting crossover collaboration in 2004, Seraphic Fire was invited to record with international pop star Shakira on a track for her album *Oral Fixation II*, which ultimately went Platinum on the *Billboard* Pop Charts.

Seraphic Fire’s programming is broad, including classical and contemporary, sacred and secular choral works. This style of programming has won the organization both awards and wide-ranging praise. Over the past eight seasons, the organization has commissioned and premiered works by up-and-coming young composers. In 2005, Seraphic Fire commissioned a 50-minute work from 28-year-old composer Shawn Crouch, *The Road From Hiroshima: A Requiem*, which was subsequently nominated for a Pulitzer Prize.

In recent years Seraphic Fire has made significant organizational and artistic strides. Recent seasons have experienced record-breaking ticket sales, with many sold-out performances. In 2007, Seraphic Fire was awarded a Knight Foundation grant for the formation of the Firebird Chamber Orchestra, which made its debut in 2008. Seraphic Fire currently performs full seasons in several South Florida venues including Coral Gables, Miami Beach, Key Biscayne and Ft. Lauderdale. In 2007 the ensemble began touring nationally. In 2010 Seraphic Fire debuted to sold-out crowds in Mexico City’s Palacio de Bellas Artes and Catedral Metropolitana de la Asunción de María in its first international tour.

The ensemble continues to expand its touring schedule and has signed onto the roster of Barrett Vantage Artists, one of the top five classical music management firms in the country. Currently, Seraphic Fire has eight CDs in circulation, including the critically-acclaimed Monteverdi Vespers of the Blessed Virgin 1610. The Vespers soared to instant iTunes popularity, becoming the number one best-selling new classical release and number six best-selling classical download overall on the week that it was released.

Both Seraphic Fire and the Firebird Chamber Orchestra present a series of programs featuring rarely-performed masterpieces and newly-written works in a patron-friendly atmosphere. Young audiences are heartily welcomed and cultivated with free rush tickets available 10 minutes before any concert. A well-established hub of pop, Latin, and hip-hop music, the continued growth of Seraphic Fire adds to Miami’s cultural appeal as a growing center for classical music.

SERAPHIC FIRE MISSION

Seraphic Fire aims to present high-quality performances of under-performed music with cultural significance. Simultaneously, Seraphic Fire encourages the occupational advancement of musicians by providing a forum for the development and presentation of their talents, and promotes community well-being through musical education programs.

Listen to musical examples at www.seraphicfire.org or listen to the feature from NPR’s “All Things Considered” <http://www.npr.org/templates/story/story.php?storyId=129321950&sc=emaf>

CONCERT:
FRIDAY, 7:30 PM
PATRICK DUPRE-QUIGLEY,
DIRECTOR

RALPH HOLTER
AUDITORIUM,
GREEN BAY WEST HS

Auditioned Choirs *in order of appearance*

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

7:30 pm APPLETON WEST “KANTOREI,” **Kevin Meidl**, director
8:00 pm VITERBO UNIVERSITY CONCERT CHOIR, **Jean Saladino**, director
8:30 pm CARTHAGE COLLEGE CHOIR, **Eduardo Garcia-Novelli**, director



Kantorei is Appleton West High School’s top performing choir. Over the past two decades it has brought its own special brand of music-making to the Fox Valley and across the globe. On Facebook: “Kantorei will be performing for two state conventions, premiering a Classical masterwork, recording a CD, singing at the Marcus Center for the Performing Arts in Milwaukee...AND...at the Weidner Center for the Performing Arts in Green Bay...and some regular concerts, too.” Appleton West High School has the most historic choral program in the Appleton Public Schools with the longest existing choral education department—now embarking on its second century of excellence in song! The Appleton West Choirs have performed for conferences of the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association, the Music Educators National Conference, the Wisconsin Music Teachers Association, with symphonies, professional artists, for the 50th anniversary of D-Day in Normandy France, for Pope John Paul II in Rome, and in over thirty countries around the world. Their nine performing choirs and two-hundred plus singers set a standard for choral music-making and continue a long tradition of excellence in the study and performance of exceptional choral repertoire.



KEVIN MEIDL
ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL
THURSDAY, 7:30 PM

Kevin Meidl is the choirl director and chair of the performing arts department at Appleton West High School and principal choral director of Kantorei. He is artistic director of the Appleton Boychoir, and founder and principal conductor with the Badger State Girl Choir. As a public school teacher, he has taught at Einstein Middle School and West High School in Appleton for the past twenty-eight years.

Kevin Meidl has conducted honors and all-state choirs throughout the country and is in demand as a guest clinician and adjudicator. Most recently, he conducted the 1,000 voice South Dakota All-State Chorus in a performance carried live throughout the state on public television. As a speaker he has presented on a variety of subjects on national conventions programs for MENC and ACDA and has delivered keynote addresses at professional music gatherings across Midwest. In November he presented an address to the 19-country international symposium on community singing held in Newcastle, England.

Within the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association, he has held positions of leadership since 1984 including District Representative, R&S Chair for Boychoirs, Visions Committee Chair, Chair for the International Youth Symposium on Choral Music (Alttoting, Germany), NextDirection Chair and WCDA President from 1995-1997. With the North Central Division, American Choral Directors Association, he was R&S Chair for Boychoirs, Membership Chair, and NCACDA President from 2008-2009.

Kevin Meidl is a member of ACDA, MENC (The National Association for Music Education), The International Federation for Choral Music, the VoiceCare Network, Phi Mu Alpha Sinfonia, Pi Kappa Lambda, and the Mayday Group. He has completed undergraduate and graduate work at Lawrence University, Northwestern University, and Boston University. He was selected as Secondary Teacher of the Year in 1995-1996 for the Appleton Area School District and the Helble Outstanding Teacher at Appleton West in 2007-2008.



JEAN SALADINO
ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL
THURSDAY, 8:00 PM

The **Viterbo Concert Choir** is comprised of students who are majoring in music as well as auditioned students from other majors. Conducted by Dan Johnson-Wilmot for over 30 years, the choir was a finalist in the International Choral Competition at Tours, France, won a second place award in the Johnny Mann Great American Choral Festival and performed for an ACDA National Convention. The choir has performed with the LaCrosse Symphony in many oratorios including the Orff Carmina Burana, Beethoven Ninth Symphony, Haydn Creation and Verdi Requiem. The choir tours annually in the United States and to an international destination every four years.

Jean Saladino is in her 4th year as conductor. In 2009 the choir performed for the Wisconsin Music Educators Association State Convention. The same year the choir took part in the Kingsway International Festival presentation of Messiah in Southwark Cathedral in December and performed a program of American choral music at St. Martin-in-the-Fields on New Year's Day, 2010. Last spring the choir performed Music of Solace by Howard Goodall in an interest session for the North Central ACDA Convention in Minneapolis.

Jean Saladino received her degrees from Wichita State University and Florida State University in Tallahassee, Florida. She has sung professionally in opera, oratorio and choral ensembles including the Robert Shaw Festival Singers and with Helmut Rilling and the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus. Her teaching experience has been in high schools and universities across the United States. Prior to coming to Viterbo she taught at Walnut Hill School in Natick, Massachusetts. This is her 13th year as Associate Professor of Voice at Viterbo University where she also teaches sight singing and conducts the Concert Choir. In 2003 she was selected Outstanding Teacher of the Year at Viterbo University.

Judy Stafslie has accompanied the Concert Choir for the past 35 years; she is one of two full-time coach accompanists on faculty. Her degrees in Piano Performance and Music Education are from Viterbo University. She directs the La Crosse Boy Choir. She is staff accompanist for the Classical Music Festival in Eisenstadt, Austria and has performed in Master Class with Jorg Demus in addition to studying with Hans Kann in Vienna.

Auditioned Choirs in order of appearance

THURSDAY, JANUARY 20

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

- 7:30 pm APPLETON WEST "KANTOREI," **Kevin Meidl**, director
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8:30 pm CARTHAGE COLLEGE CHOIR, **Eduardo Garcia-Novelli**, director

The Carthage Choir, now in its 84th year, is believed to be one of the oldest touring college choirs in the United States. In recent years it has sung in thirty states and since 1973 it has taken 12 two to three-week tours to Europe, including Austria, the Czech Republic, England, France, (the former) East and West Germany, Holland, Italy, Poland, Scotland, Switzerland, and Wales. Every year Carthage Choir is featured in the traditional Carthage Christmas Festival, reaching an audience of approximately 4,500 people. The choir was selected to perform before the membership of WMEA in October, 2009 and will be honored to present a 30-minute solo performance at Carnegie Hall, New York, on Sunday, May 29th, 2011.

Eduardo García-Novelli, director of choral activities at Carthage College in Kenosha, and choral director at Mount Pleasant Lutheran Church in Racine, was born in Argentina. He has held positions as high school choral director, assistant conductor of the National Young People Choir of Argentina, assistant director of the Houston Symphony Chorus, and director of the Symphony of Southeast Texas Chorus. He received the Faculty Merit Award for distinguished teaching while serving as director of choral activities at Lamar University in Beaumont, TX. He holds two undergraduate degrees from state conservatories in Argentina, an MM from Westminster Choir College, Princeton, NJ, and the DMA from the University of Houston, TX. His choirs were selected to perform at the Texas MEA convention, Wisconsin MEA convention, National Collegiate Choral Organization National Conference and the IV International Choral Festival in Panama City, Panama. Dr. Garcia-Novelli has conducted in several national, European and South American tours. He was recently appointed music director of the Master Singers of Milwaukee, and currently serves as the WCDA Repertoire & Standards state chair for Ethnic and Multicultural Perspectives.



EDUARDO GARCIA-NOVELLI
ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL
THURSDAY, 8:30 PM

Auditioned Choirs in order of appearance

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

11:30 am UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MILWAUKEE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR, **Miriam Altman**, director

11:45 am LAKE DENON MIDDLE SCHOOL, **Sean DeBoth**, director

12:00 pm WAUKESHA WEST CONCERT CHOIR, **Tom Ajack**, director



MIRIAM ALTMAN
ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL
FRIDAY, 11:30 AM



University School of Milwaukee Middle School Chorus

University School offers an independent, coeducational, college preparatory education for students in prekindergarten through twelfth grade. The Middle School is comprised of approximately 300 children, grades five through eight. All students in the Middle School participate in a performing ensemble of their choice—band, orchestra, harp, world drumming or chorus. The students performing for the 2010 convention represent Choruses 6, 7 and 8. They rehearse in sections of 25 to 50 students, meeting every other day for one period throughout the school year.

The Middle School Choruses perform a wide variety of choral literature. Progressing through the four-year curriculum spiral, a student will perform repertoire from all periods of the traditional Western canon, a wide variety of authentic styles from around the globe, jazz standards, and musical theatre and pop selections.

Miriam Altman knew from the beginning of her career that her passion lay in working with young adolescents at the middle school level. She began her teaching career in Franklin, Massachusetts, has taught in West Bend, Wisconsin and is now in her tenth year at University School of Milwaukee Middle School.

An enthusiastic advocate for a richer learning experience in chorus, she is a member of the Wisconsin Comprehensive Musicianship through Performance project (CMP). CMP works to equip teachers with a process for planning instruction that enables music students to have a deeper understanding and more meaningful experiences in rehearsals, in performances and in life. She is also a member of Wisconsin Advocates for Music Education, an organization whose goal is to educate communities about the inherent benefits of music education. A member of MENC, WMEA and ACDA, she has presented at a variety of conferences, including WMEA State Conference and ACDA North Central Division Conference.

Auditioned Choirs in order of appearance

FRIDAY, JANUARY 21

St. Francis Xavier Cathedral

11:30 am UNIVERSITY SCHOOL OF MILWAUKEE MIDDLE SCHOOL CHOIR, **Miriam Altman**, director

11:45 am LAKE DENOON MIDDLE SCHOOL, **Sean DeBoth**, director

12:00 pm WAUKESHA WEST CONCERT CHOIR, **Tom Ajack**, director



SEAN DE BOTH
ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL
FRIDAY, 11:45 AM

In the **Lake Denoon Middle School** Choir Room, all members begin the year with a pledge to contribute to the ensemble in their highest capacity and respect music of all times, places, and cultures. With an emphasis on variety, choirs take pride in studying music from cultures around the world while at the same time not forgetting their own. In the past five years, students in the Lake Denoon vocal music program have sung songs in Latin, German, Spanish, French, Zulu, Swahili, Macedonian, Serbian, and English, among others. The Lake Denoon Vocal Music program consists of general music in the 5th grade, three separate choirs for 6th, 7th, and 8th grade students, and an auditioned chamber choir. The 7th and 8th grade choirs rehearse daily while the 6th grade choirs rehearse 2 to 3 days per week. Each spring students at Lake Denoon perform a musical. Our three major concerts consist of a pop-themed concert in the fall, a winter concert in January, and a concert in May. In addition to performing in three major concerts with the other choirs, the 8th grade choir performs annually in Chicago and at a Milwaukee Brewers game. Students have many elective choices when they register for their 8th grade classes, and this particular ensemble has grown from 12 members to a fairly consistent 40 to 50 members in the past five years.

Sean DeBoth was born and raised in Green Bay, WI. He received a Bachelors degree in music education from Carroll College in Waukesha, and Masters degree in music education with choral conducting emphasis at UW-Milwaukee. Mr. DeBoth is in his sixth year at Lake Denoon Middle School. He previously taught K-12 vocal and general music in Thorp, 6-12 vocal music in Wisconsin Dells, and at Racine Horlick High School for five years. Mr. DeBoth served as guest clinician/conductor for the WCDA "Singing in Wisconsin" Festival in 2002. He directed the First Congregational Chancel Choir in Waukesha from 1996-2002, and has been director of music at North Shore Presbyterian Church in Shorewood since 2004. Mr. DeBoth has performed principle roles in many productions, including *Guys and Dolls*, *Fiddler on the Roof*, *Annie Get Your Gun*, *The Boyfriend*, *Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat*, *Grease*, and the Mozart opera, *The Magic Flute (Papageno)*. Mr. DeBoth continues to enjoy the daily adventures of the middle school musicians that he works with, while emphasizing musical independence and discovery.



The **Waukesha West High School Concert Choir** is an auditioned group of tenth through twelfth grade students that rehearses daily. The choir performs a broad range of music, focusing on *a cappella* literature, and has toured extensively in the United States and Canada. The choir has been invited to perform for WCDA Conventions, a WMEA Conference and an NC-ACDA Division Convention. The Concert Choir has performed with the Milwaukee Symphony Orchestra (MYSO), and the Waukesha Symphony on several occasions. A part of a large cooperative music department, the Concert Choir frequently performs with the Waukesha West Wind Ensemble and Orchestra. Most importantly, the choir is a community that thrives on the time they spend in rehearsal together fathoming the mysteries and glory of the human spirit.

Thomas Ajack has taught his entire career in the Waukesha Public Schools system, having taught elementary vocal music and then at the high school level. Mr. Ajack taught at Waukesha South High School before being appointed to lead the choral program at Waukesha West in 1999. Mr. Ajack is also an active church musician, currently serving at First United Methodist in Waukesha. He has received the WCDA Outstanding Church Musician Award and the WCDA Composition Award. His compositions and arrangements are available from Alliance Publications, Inc., and UNC-Jazz Press. In 2006, he directed the inaugural Wisconsin All-State Vocal Jazz Ensemble. A leader in educational theory and practice, he was a 2006 Kohl Fellowship Recipient.

Under his direction, the choir program at Waukesha West has grown significantly, and students find it a comfortable and enjoyable place to learn, rehearse and make music together.



THOMAS AJACK
ST. FRANCIS CATHEDRAL
FRIDAY, 12:00 PM

Auditioned Choirs in order of appearance

SATURDAY, JANUARY 22

Ralph Holter Auditorium at Green Bay West High School

1:15 pm Hartford Community Chorus, Ruth Knoll, director

1:45 pm Heartland Singers, Bob Demaree, director



The **Hartford Community Chorus** was founded by Ruth Knoll in 1960, at the urging of several alumni who wished to continue their love of singing. The City of Hartford Recreation Department agreed to provide financial support for the group and continues to this day in that capacity. The choir meets weekly during fall and spring seasons with identical concerts being presented at Holy Hill and at the Schauer Center in Hartford. There are no tryouts, but previous choral experience is strongly suggested, and of course, the ability to attend rehearsals regularly. As a supported activity of the Recreation Department, the concerts are free to the public (unless there is a special situation), and free-will donations at both concert venues help defray the choir's expenses.

The Chorus was invited to perform at the 1996 WCDA Convention in Eau Claire on a blizzardy January weekend. They also participate in the Memorial Day observance in Hartford and by special request for other events. Membership generally averages between 50 and 60, with a wide variety of ages and occupations. Over 700 different people have sung at least once with the group, performing about 1000 different selections. One hundred fifty-five singers have participated between 5 and 37 years, and three charter members are singing this year. There have been 23 different accompanists, Audrey Rhinehart, the present accompanist, having served the longest at 17 years.

For fifty years, the members of the Hartford Community Chorus have sought to increase their own knowledge and understanding of the choral idiom, to capture the beauty of song through the performance of a wide variety of sacred and secular choral literature, and to share their love of singing with the listening community through free concerts in a variety of venues. They look forward to continuing their successful partnerships with the Hartford Recreation Department and the Schauer Center, and to inspiring future audiences with "the gift of song."

Ruth A. Knoll, a native of Oconomowoc, WI, spent her entire 40-year teaching career at Hartford Union High School. From 1958 to 1998, she directed all choral activities there, conducting the choirs, giving voice lessons, participating extensively in solo-ensemble contests, and overseeing the music aspects of the musical theater productions. She holds BA and MS degrees in music education from Kalamazoo College (MI) and UW-Madison, respectively. Her participation in seminars and workshops has been varied, including sessions with Robert Shaw, William Vennard, Sir David Willcocks, John Rutter, Julius Hereford and Weston Noble. She directed the Hartford High School Concert Choir and Alumni in the Christmas Eve Midnight Mass at Holy Hill, a nearby Carmelite shrine, for 37 years, retiring last year. Miss Knoll is celebrating her 50th year as the Hartford Community Chorus' only director and the music director at the First United Methodist Church, Hartford. A long-time member of the WCDA, she served as Secretary-Treasurer from 1971-73, Registration Co-Chair for regional conventions in 1980 and 1990, and state Repertoire & Standards Chair for 6 years. Honors that Miss Knoll has received include Hartford Teacher of the Year, the Herb Kohl Fellowship, the Paul Harris Fellowship (Hartford Rotary), and the WCDA Morris D. Hayes Award in 1998. The Ruth A. Knoll Theater at the Schauer Center in Hartford is named in her honor. In addition, the Chorus and the Hartford community recently raised funds to endow "The Hartford Community Chorus Music Scholarship in honor of Ruth A. Knoll," recognizing her fifty years of directing the Chorus.



RUTH KNOLL
RALPH HOLTER AUDITORIUM
SATURDAY, 1:15 PM



The Heartland Singers

was formed in 2002 as a creative outlet for singers based primarily in southern Wisconsin to perform great works of choral repertoire. Most of the singers are professional choral directors who do not have the opportunity to sing themselves.

The choir rehearses three times a year on weekends and has embarked upon a steady performance schedule in Wisconsin and the upper Midwest. The ensemble has appeared at WMEA and WCDA conventions, has sung for Wisconsin Public Radio, has appeared several times at WCDA's Next Direction, and has performed for local concert series in several Wisconsin communities.



Bob Demaree is a founder, director, and singer in the Heartland Singers. He joined the UW-Platteville faculty in 1992, where he conducts the Chamber Choir, the Coro D'Angeli women's choir, and the Singing Pioneers men's choir, and teaches choral conducting, choral literature, and music history. Dr. Demaree organized the commissioning of two works in 2002, a sacred work by John Ferguson and *Her Sacred Spirit Soars*, a secular work by Eric Whitacre now published by Hal Leonard. He has conducted honors choir, presented at state and regional conferences, and provided workshops or clinics in Illinois, Minnesota, Nebraska, and South Dakota. In the fall of 2009, Dr. Demaree assumed artistic leadership for the Dubuque Chorale, one of the Midwest's premier community choirs. He has served WCDA as District Representative, President, and Singspiel chair among other activities.



Carl Chapman is director of choral activities at UW Oshkosh. He directs four of the University's five choral ensembles, including the one hundred-voice University Choir, Le Choeur de Femmes women's choir, and the University Chamber Choir, and teaches choral techniques and conducting. Dr. Chapman holds degrees from Northwestern University, Wisconsin Conservatory of Music and the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign. He founded and is conductor of the Oshkosh Chamber Singers, a community choir which is an active part of the Oshkosh area arts scene. He is an active member of WCDA/ACDA, having served in many leadership roles, including Past-President. He is a frequent clinician for festival and honors choirs, as well as for high school and junior high school choirs.



Jason Troxel graduated from UW-Platteville in 2000 with a broad music education degree. While in college he was a founding member of several groups including *Diabolus in Musica*, a small men's ensemble specializing in Renaissance music, and the *Troxtet*, a small student ensemble which he conducted. He was also a featured soloist in both instrumental and vocal groups. Mr. Troxel is currently in his ninth year as a vocal and instrumental teacher in the Wauzeka-Steuben school district. He has served as the bass coach for the middle level state honors choir and has directed the men's choir for WCDA's "Singing in Wisconsin." He is a founding member and co-director of the Heartland Singers.



Harry Johansen recently retired as professor of music and chair of the department of music at UW-Whitewater. He also served as director of choral activities and conductor of the Concert Choir, Chamber Singers, Women's Chorale, and opera productions and taught courses in conducting and choral literature. Currently he is a conductor of the Heartland Singers. He has served as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator for music festivals and clinics throughout the Midwest and the Pacific Northwest, where he was on the faculty of the University of Idaho. In 2009, he was awarded the prestigious Morris Hayes Award by the Wisconsin Choral Directors Association for service to the choral profession. A bass, Dr. Johansen has often appeared as an oratorio soloist and in recitals. Dr. Johansen holds degrees from UW-Superior, with honors, Indiana University, and the University of Iowa.

HEARTLAND SINGERS
RALPH HOLTER AUDITORIUM
SATURDAY, 1:45 PM

"I am active in WCDA because I love the people in my profession— WCDA's a crucible that melds my career and my life. So many of my WCDA colleagues are dear friends—friends who help me know myself better and cherish our art more deeply—they understand the challenges, the struggles, the joys, the frustrations, and the triumphs of being a choral musician, and making choral music is central to my BEING." —Bob Demaree