

## **MEDIA PACKAGE FOR THE ROUND ROCK COMMUNITY CHOIR**

### **Address:**

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**The Round Rock Community Choir** performs several concerts yearly that range from classical to popular styles. The group often teams with the Round Rock Symphony and the result is a tremendous performance that has thrilled audiences for years. How does the choir maintain its level of excellence?

The musical demands of the group are many and every member dedicates themselves to weekly rehearsals and learning their individual parts so the combined result is easily professional level. Members are called on to serve on the governing board, various committees, or providing extra support help to ensure performances are flawless. Plus, the singers are afforded many opportunities to solo or organize smaller ensembles within the larger choir. In short, the choir is member driven and opportunity is abundant.

Some examples of our yearly choral styles are musical dinners, a formal concert with full orchestra featuring a major choral work, Yuletide carolers that sing around the community for parties and gatherings during the season, a musical potpourri which is a fun variety show, plus other special venues.

The Round Rock Community Choir was founded in 1985 by Dr. Linda Bolding and a group of community members who were interested in the advancement of quality fine arts in the Round Rock, Texas area. This has resulted in the availability of decades of excellent music for the area and the opportunity of hundreds of local musicians to present their talents. The performance list of the group is truly exceptional and shows that the group is a valuable asset to the Round Rock area.

Over the years, the choir has made several professional recordings (LINK) and a portion of the group has enjoyed European singing tours in Great Britain, Germany, Austria, Switzerland, Italy, and Scotland. In the summer of 2006, the choir had the privilege to sing at Carnegie Hall and in 2009, made a return visit to sing at the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C..

The choir's theme song, "We Gather here Together" was arranged by Dr. Bolding and represents the love and friendship shared with one another and the choir's audiences since the group's inception. It is sung every time the choir meets.

**Michael Rosensteel** has been our artistic director since 2012 and avidly cultivates passion, imagination and devotion to excellence in his choir members. Under his leadership the RRCC has performed modern and historic classical works, exuberant holiday celebrations and rollicking variety programs. Audiences, singers and students are fortunate to enjoy the fruits of his unique programming and his commitment to presenting a wide range of excellent new and well known music.

Michael earned his Bachelor of Arts degree and teacher certification in music education from San Diego State University and his master's degree in choral conducting from the Butler School of Music at the University of Texas at Austin. He has conducted numerous vocal and instrumental ensembles, ranging from children's choirs to adult choirs, chamber ensembles, hand bells and orchestras.

Michael has directed more than 35 theater productions. He has performed in many musical theater and opera productions and has been a guest soloist and conductor for choir tours to Ireland, Austria, Hungary, Germany, Czech Republic, Ukraine and Russia. He has performed with the University of Texas' Early Music Ensemble in Washington, D.C. for several Latin American embassies.

Michael is a member of the Texas Choral Director's Association (TCDA), Texas Private School Music Educators Association (TPSMEA), and the National Association of Teachers of Singing (NATS). He has taught in churches and schools for 19 years and is in his sixth year at St. Andrew's Episcopal School in Austin, where he serves as the Upper School Choir Director and chair of the Fine Arts department. His St. Andrew's choirs tour annually, compete in NATS vocal competitions, Music Festivals, and All-State choir. Notable trips were invited performances at Carnegie Hall and the National Cathedral in Washington, D.C.

Michael and his wife, Stacey, have two wonderful children, Allison and Luke.

**Marvin Goad** is accompanist for the choir and is also the choir director at Ridgeview Middle School in Round Rock. As a church choir director, Marvin has an excellent grasp of style and performance and is a tremendous asset to the group. Oftimes, accompaniment for choral pieces can be quite challenging and Marvin provides a solid foundation for the group.

**The Round Rock Community Choir Youth Choir** is an integral part of the adult choir. The purpose is three-fold: (1) to give young people the opportunity to sing quality music and develop their abilities, (2) expose young people to a quality music repertoire that will serve them well for a lifetime and (3) prepare them for eventual membership in the adult choir if they choose to do so.

The group is a culture-rich experience that integrates the child, the family and the community into the choral experience.

**Wendi Burwinkel** is the Youth Choir Director. She studied music at the University of Texas at Austin and received her Bachelor of Music Degree in Music Education. She teaches at Cedar valley Middle School in the Round Rock system and has grown the choir there from 35 students to over 150.

Wendi is the proud mother of two children: Cinnamon and Bryce and is married to Keith.

The accompanist for the youth choir is **Toni Hill**. Toni is a graduate of Sam Houston State University with a B.S. in Music Education. She has taught private piano, general music and was a choir director until she retired. Her performance experience began when she began performing in church at age 12 and then continued as she was accompanist for her high school choir. She has also served as accompanist and choir director at numerous churches over the years. She continues to educate children as a substitute in the Round Rock and Leander school systems.

PHOTOS:



Choir with orchestra in concert



Rehearsal



Michael Rosensteel, Artistic Director during rehearsal



Michael Rosensteel, Artistic Director



Youth Choir



Wendi Burwinkel, Youth Choir Director