



## Chicago Children's Choir Awards & Achievements

- 2011** 2,500 Chicago Children's Choir singers performed in collaboration with the **Inauguration of Chicago Mayor Rahm Emanuel** at Millennium Park's Pritzker Pavilion
- 2011** Joined the **Chicago Symphony Orchestra and Chorus** under Maestro **Riccardo Muti** in sold out performances of Verdi's *Otello* at Symphony Center and New York's **Carnegie Hall**
- 2011** Joined **Yo-Yo Ma** in the public launch of Chicago Symphony Orchestra's "Citizen Musician Initiative"
- 2011** Performed for **Chinese President Hu Jintao** by invitation from Chicago Mayor Richard M. Daley
- 2011** Featured in commercial for **BlackBerry Bold 9650**, entitled "Choirmaster"
- 2010** Performed on **The Oprah Show** with *Britain's Got Talent* sensation, Susan Boyle
- 2010** Performed for 25,000 at Millennium Park, opening for the Chicago Symphony Orchestra's inaugural concert with **Riccardo Muti** as Artistic Director
- 2010** Received Honorable Mention by the **Axelson Center for Nonprofit Management** for "Nonprofit Managerial Excellence"
- 2009** Performed by invitation with **Kathleen Battle** in a critically-acclaimed, all-spirituals concert at Chicago's **Harris Theater for Music and Dance**
- 2009** Featured performance at a press conference with **Beyoncé, Feeding America** and **General Mills** announcing the *Show Your Helping Hand™* Traveling Beyoncé Experience campaign for local food banks
- 2009** By invitation from the Congressionally-established **Abraham Lincoln Bicentennial Commission**, performed with **Denyce Graves, Sweet Honey In The Rock, U.S. Marine Band** and speaker **Colin Powell** at the **Lincoln Memorial** in Washington DC, honoring the 70<sup>th</sup> anniversary of African-American contralto Marian Anderson's historic concert
- 2008** Winner of a Chicago/Midwest **Emmy Award**, "Outstanding Achievement for Individual Excellence on Camera," for the documentary *Songs on the Road to Freedom* (HMS Media), made possible by a grant from the **McCormick Foundation**, which premiered on WTTW11, April 2008
- 2008** One of eight recipients of **John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation's** new Chicago International Connections Fund, dedicated to fostering Chicago's reputation as a global city, supporting South Korea tour which included first civilian visit of Yeolsei Observatory in **Demilitarized Zone (DMZ)**
- 2007** Featured during the **Dalai Lama's public talk at Millennium Park**, 10,000 in attendance; music program directed by Josephine Lee with executive producers Erica Mann Ramis and Harold Ramis
- 2006 The Wallace Foundation Excellence Award**
- 2004** Invited to help the city of Boston launch its own Children's Chorus
- 2003** The John D. and Catherine T. MacArthur Foundation awarded \$50 million in grants and grant commitments in celebration of its 25<sup>th</sup> anniversary (one of 41 local arts and cultural groups)
- 2003** Invited to sing at the Inauguration of the Governor and 93<sup>rd</sup> General Assembly of the State of Illinois
- 2002 Robert Shaw Choral Conducting Fellowship**, Artistic Director Josephine Lee wins the first annual award presented by Chorus America to a young choral conductor of exceptional promise
- 2002** Alford-Axelson Award for Excellence in Nonprofit Organizational Management, one of two honorable mentions for organizations with budgets under \$5,000,000
- 2000 Coming Up Taller Award**, presented by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts (one of ten winners from over 300 national nominations)
- 2000** Invited to perform at the presentation of the **National Medals for the Arts and the Humanities** in Constitution Hall, Washington, DC
- 2000 National Arts Education Award**, presented by the Bravo Network (one of four community-based arts education organizations selected in a national competition)
- 1999** Certificate of Excellence, **Coming Up Taller Award**, presented by the President's Committee on the Arts and the Humanities and the National Endowment for the Arts
- 1999** Honorable Mention, Llangollen International Choral Festival, Wales
- 1997** Community Service Award, Asian American Coalition of Chicago
- 1996** Selected to represent Illinois by the **Kennedy Center for the Performing Arts** for inclusion in its Young Performing Artists Showcase in conjunction with the Internet 1996 World Exposition
- 1996** Performed at **White House** ceremonies recognizing Arts & Humanities Programs for Youth at Risk

### NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

- **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** performances at Symphony Center and Ravinia Festival (1992-present): Verdi's *Otello* (Muti), Mahler's Symphony No. 3 (Bernard Haitink/Zubin Mehta), Mahler's Symphony No. 8 (James Conlon/James Levine), Mendelssohn's *A Midsummer Night's Dream* (Sir Andrew Davis), Orff's *Carmina Burana* (Zubin Mehta), Schoenberg's *Moses und Aron* (Pierre Boulez), Bach's *St. Matthew Passion* (Peter Schreier), *Welcome Yule* annual holiday concert (Duain Wolfe)
- **CSO Resound** 2007 debut recording of Mahler's Symphony No. 3 (Bernard Haitink)

- **Lyric Opera of Chicago** (2000-present): Puccini's *La Boheme*, *Tosca* and *Turandot*, Bizet's *Carmen*, Tchaikovsky's *Pique Dame*, Humperdinck's *Hansel and Gretel*, Verdi's *Otello*, Leoncavallo's *Pagliacci*
- **Joffrey Ballet** (1996-present): Arpino's *Trinity*, Tchaikovsky's *The Nutcracker*
- **Czech National Symphony Orchestra** (2006): Bernstein's *Chichester Psalms* (Paul Freeman)
- **Ravinia Festival** presents: Bobby McFerrin's *VOCabuLarieS* (2010), Ladysmith Black Mambazo and Chicago Children's Choir (2004), *Gala Fantastique* with Kathleen Battle and Denyce Graves, Chicago Children's Choir and Chicago Symphony Orchestra with conductor Bobby McFerrin (2003)
- **Steppenwolf Theater Company**: *Citizen's of the World: In Observance of September 11, 2001*, presented by the City of Chicago at Millennium Park (2006)
- **Grant Park Music Festival Orchestra and Chorus**: Britten's *War Requiem* (Carlos Kalmar)
- **Carnegie Hall**: Family Concert Series with the Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra (2001)
- **SitaRam**: original world musical nominated for three 2006 Jeff Awards, sold-out run in collaboration with Lookingglass Theatre Company, Jai Uttal and Natya Dance Theatre (2006)
- **Lookingglass Theatre Company** and Chicago Youth Symphony Orchestra, Chicago premier of *Brundibár*, a children's opera
- **US Committee for UNICEF**, Chicago 50th Anniversary Gala, honoring Archbishop Desmond Tutu and Nana Mouskouri presented by Harry Belafonte
- **Democratic National Convention**, performing for First Lady Hillary Rodham Clinton, Mayor Daley, Senators Mosely-Braun and Paul Simon, and the Illinois Delegation Party

#### **CONCERT CHOIR TOURS**

- 2011** Estonia, Finland and Latvia with Bobby McFerrin
- 2010** Alaska
- 2009** Argentina, Uruguay: presented by Mozarteum Argentina and Centro Cultural de Musica
- 2008** South Korea: Seoul (first civilian visit to Yeolsei Observatory in the DMZ), Daejeon and Busan
- 2007** Southern US: "Freedom Tour" honoring Choir's 50<sup>th</sup> Anniversary and Civil Rights Movement
- 2006** Czech Republic, Puerto Rico
- 2005, 2002 & 1991** Japan
- 2004 & 1995** Canada: Sant Saveur, Quebec City and Montreal, Quebec
- 2003** Hamburg, Germany
- 2001** Austria, Germany and Hungary (including World Choral Music Festival with the Vienna Boy's Choir)
- 1999** England, Scotland, and Wales (including Llangollen international competition)
- 1997** Italy (including performances at the Ravenna Festival and St. Peter's Basilica), Ukraine
- 1996** Republic of South Africa (including a benefit concert for the Nelson Mandela Children's Fund)
- 1994** Russia
- 1993** Mexico

#### **NATIONAL MEDIA APPEARANCES & MEDIA QUOTES**

- Recent national broadcasts include: **BlackBerry Bold "Choirmaster" Commercial** (2011), **The Oprah Show** (2010), WLS-TV's (ABC) syndicated **Raising the Roof MLK TV Special** with Boston Children's Chorus and Young People's Chorus (2010-2005), NBC's **TODAY** show (2007), ABC's **Teen/Kid News** (2007), PBS's **From the Top: Live from Carnegie Hall** (2007), International Public Radio – Boston's **From the Top** (2006), **CNN** from the New York Stock Exchange (2006)
- **New York Times**: "Any awkward moments in this 'Midsummer Night's Dream' were quietly redeemed by the young singers of the Chicago Children's Choir. Some barely into their teens, these boys and girls sang with understandable ardor and surprising elegance. Ravinia might have been in trouble without them."
- **Chicago Tribune**: "... a stirring wall of voices that ranges through a remarkable musical repertoire, from the traditional choral to modern pop to South African song."
- "... and Chicago Children's Choir, excellent in diction, sound and precision."
- "In a striking example of superior talent triumphing over mediocre material, the Chicago Children's Choir (including the splendid soloists Tramaine Parker, Avilla Martin and David Smith) joined the orchestra in infectiously delightful renditions of four numbers from Disney musicals."
- **Chicago Sun-Times**: "[Bryn] Terfel appeared almost hypnotized by the 30-member contingent of the Chicago Children's Choir and gave them a one-man (but what a one man) standing ovation at the end of Act 2 ... CCC director Josephine Lee probably had to ask the house manager to stop the 10-minute ovation."
- **Boston Globe**: "In the background sounded the angelic voices of the Chicago Children's Choir, the evenings headlining act, who were rehearsing a piece from Haydn."
- **Time Out Chicago**: "Almost always edgy ..."