



AWARDS & ACHIEVEMENTS

2008 Winner of a Chicago/Midwest **Emmy Award**, "Outstanding Achievement for Individual Excellence on Camera: Programming - Performer Josephine Lee, Chicago Children's Choir", for the documentary *Songs on the Road to Freedom*, made possible by a grant from the **McCormick Foundation**, which premiered on WTTW11, April 2008

2008 One of eight first recipients of the **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

2007 Featured throughout the **Dalai Lama's public talk at Millennium Park**, more than 10,000 in attendance; programming music 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 25th anniversary (one of 41 local arts and cultural groups)

2003 Invited to sing at the Inauguration Ceremony of Illinois Governor Rod Blagojevich and at the Inauguration of the 93rd 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, D.C.

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 (one of fifty semifinalists from 350 national nominations)

1999 Honorable Mention, Llangollen International Choral Festival, Wales (13th place in competition with 33 invited youth, national, and university choirs)

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 **the White House** during ceremonies recognizing Arts & Humanities Programs for Youth at Risk

NOTABLE PERFORMANCES

- **Chicago Symphony Orchestra** performances at Symphony Center and Ravinia Festival (1992-present): 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)
- Chicago Symphony Orchestra's 2007 CSO Resound 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: 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)
- **Chicago Jazz Festival**: Bley, *Dream Keeper* with Charlie Haden's Liberation Music Orchestra (1995)
- **Sita Ram**: 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

2008 South Korea: Seoul, Daejeon and Busan (including first civilian visit to the Yeolsoi Observatory in the Korean Demilitarized Zone)

2007 Southern United States: "Freedom Tour" honoring Choir's 50th Anniversary and the Civil Rights Movement (including Alabama, Tennessee, Mississippi and Louisiana)

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

MEDIA APPEARANCES

- Recent national television and radio broadcasts include: NBC's **TODAY** show (2007), ABC's **Teen/Kid News** (2007), PBS's **From the Top: Live from Carnegie Hall** (episode premiered 2007), International Public Radio – Boston's **From the Top** (2006), **CNN** from the New York Stock Exchange (2006)
- Other national appearances include: NBC's *NBA Inside Stuff*, "World's Greatest" music video for the movie *Ali*, CBS's *Early Edition*: "St. Nick" episode, ABC's *Oprah Winfrey Show*, nationally syndicated *Jerry Springer Show*: "Aids and Aids Prevention"

MEDIA QUOTES

- *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."
- *Chicago Tribune* (on Mahler's Symphony No. 8): "... and Chicago Children's Choir, excellent in diction, sound and precision."
- *Chicago Tribune*: "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."
- *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 ..."

For more information:

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