



TWO RIVERS CHORALE

Timothy Sawyer, Artistic Director and Conductor

A tradition of choral excellence in the Twin Cities....and beyond

ABOUT THE ENSEMBLE

The **Two Rivers Chorale** is a dynamic community choir based in Minneapolis and St. Paul and is comprised of experienced amateur singers who represent the rich collegiate choral heritage of Minnesota and the upper Midwest. Founded in 1998 and led by artistic director and conductor **Timothy Sawyer** since 2004, the Two Rivers Chorale seeks to enhance and expand the tradition of Minnesota choral excellence in the Twin Cities and beyond and to provide fulfilling musical experiences for its members and its audiences by performing a wide variety of quality choral literature. The group presents four to six annual concerts performed at Benson Great Hall in St. Paul and other venues in the region. In 2003, members of TRC took a concert tour of England, Ireland and Scotland.

CONCERT YEAR

September through April

Summer concerts may be scheduled in which case several extra rehearsals will be held prior to the concert.

REHEARSALS

Rehearsals are held on Thursday evenings at Shepherd of the Hills Lutheran Church (SH), 3920 North Victoria Street in Shoreview from 7:00 to 9:30 p.m. Rehearsals may occasionally be held until 9:45 p.m. and sectionals may be scheduled occasionally from 6:30 to 7:00 p.m.

AUDITIONS

Prospective members who are accomplished choral singers are invited to audition for the TRC. To do so, send a brief description of your choral experience to Tim Sawyer at tk Sawyer@nwc.edu. Auditions are by invitation.

2009-2010 REHEARSAL SCHEDULE

Thursdays

September 10, 17, 24 (Sept 10 - please arrive 15 minutes early if possible to pick up music)

October 1, 8, 15, 22, 29

November 5, 12*

January 7, 14, 21, 28

February 4, 11, 18*, 25

March 4, 11, 18, 25

April 8, 15* (no rehearsal April 1 - Maundy Thursday)

(* = mandatory attendance)

Saturdays

September 19 – 9:30 to 12:30 - rehearsal/team building/town hall at SH

November 7 – 9:30 to 12:00 – rehearsal at SH

Dress Rehearsals (mandatory attendance)

Thursday, November 12, 2009

Thursday, February 18, 2010

Thursday, April 15, 2010

2009-10 CONCERTS

Sunday, November 15, 2009, 3:00 p.m. at Benson Great Hall, Bethel University

Sunday February 21, 2010, 7:30 p.m. at Bethlehem Lutheran Church in St. Cloud, MN
Collaboration with the Great River Chorale (GRC) and Central Minnesota Youth Chorale (CMYC)

Friday, April 16, 2010, 7:30 p.m. at Shepherd of the Hills Church

Sunday, April 18, 2010, 3:00 p.m. at Benson Great Hall, Bethel University

COMMITMENT

Membership in the TRC carries with it the expectation that members will participate for the full concert year. Commitment is a core value of the TRC. As such, your commitment includes: attendance at all rehearsals, outside preparation for rehearsals, and occasional memorization of music.

Absence and Lateness

It is imperative to know who will be at rehearsals in order to plan effectively. If you are going to be late or absent, please email the Artistic Director at tk Sawyer@nwc.edu and copy your section leader (see email addresses below) or call Tim at 651-631-5252 (work) or 612-203-9990 (cell). Please leave a message if you reach voicemail.

Attendance

A TRC member's presence at rehearsals throughout the season is critical. If a member anticipates missing more than three rehearsals during either the fall or spring, that member should discuss their situation with the Artistic Director and/or request a leave of absence for the season.

DUES

\$100 per concert year (September through April), payable in the fall.

CONCERT ATTIRE

Men: Black, single breasted, short tuxedo (no tails) with a black cummerbund, white tux shirt, black bowtie, black shoes. Men are responsible for obtaining their own tuxedos.

Women: TRC dress (cost \$75 + shipping) hemmed as needed, black shoes, black hose, earrings (cost \$5)

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR AND CONDUCTOR

Two Rivers Chorale artistic director and conductor, **Timothy Sawyer**, has led the TRC since 2004. He has enjoyed an active career as a conductor, educator and professional singer following formal musical training at Bethel University (St. Paul), Exeter University (England), the University of Minnesota and in doctoral-level study at the University of Iowa. He has done advanced conducting studies with Helmuth Rilling, the late Margaret Hillis, Vance George, Gregg Smith and Sweden's Eric Ericson. In addition to extensive experience as a tenor soloist, he is a veteran of several professional choirs, among them the Dale Warland Singers, the Ensemble Singers of VocalEssence of Minnesota under Philip Brunelle and the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus, with which he shared a Grammy Award for the 1998 recording of Kyzysztof Penderecki's *Credo*. Since 1989, Sawyer has been a member of the music faculty at Northwestern College in St. Paul where he is director of choral activities and associate professor of music. Choirs under his direction have been heard on tours and in radio broadcasts throughout the United States, Europe and South America at the *America Cantat* in Caracas, Venezuela. From 1997-2004, Sawyer served as assistant artistic director of the Minnesota Chorale, the principal symphonic chorus of the Minnesota Orchestra. Active also in church music, he has served for the past ten years as choir director at The Colonial Church of Edina, and was a member of the board of directors for the Sixth World Choral Symposium held in Minneapolis/St. Paul in 2002. An enthusiastic teacher of conducting, Sawyer is past member of the artistic staff of the conducting master class at the Toronto Bach Festival and is the Associate Director of the conducting master class at the Oregon Bach Festival.

CONTACT TRC

For audition or booking information, please contact:

Tim Sawyer at tk Sawyer@nwc.edu or by phone at 651-631-5252 or

Maria Foley at MTTFoley@comcast.net or by phone at 763-755-7900

For more information visit www.tworiverschorale.org

Artistic Director and Conductor

Timothy Sawyer

Assistant Conductors

Bruce Messer

Diane Nielsen

Section Leaders

Diane Nielsen, Sopranos

danddnielsen@comcast.net; nielsend@district279.org

Nancy Bjornlie, Altos

nancy.bjornlie@anoka.k12.mn.us

Bruce Messer, Basses

bruce.messer@fridley.k12.mn.us; bmmesser@comcast.net

Board of Directors

Nancy Bjornlie

Mary Cushen

Maria Foley, President

Ken Hoyme

Kathy Johnson, Treasurer

Judy Miller, Secretary

Becky Sather, Vice President

Bob Wieland

Accompanists

David Schut