

Empowering Voices

The Official Newsletter of the Winston-Salem Girls Chorus
Anne M. Saxon, Editor — Fall 2016

Winston-Salem Girls Chorus

(WSGC): A multi-leveled, community-based choir organization for girl singers from 8-18 in Winston-Salem and surrounding areas. WSGC is a partner with the Music and Arts Ministries of Centenary United Methodist Church.

**Founder, Managing
Artistic Director &
Conductor**
Anne M. Saxon

Assistant Director
Suzanne Maggs

Accompanist
Cynthia Saylor

Administrator
Lelia McClain

Parent Board President
Carol Kelly

Past President
Darby Graves

UPBEAT! Representative
Mason Wood

Lyrica Representative
Katie Bills

Encore Representative
Robin Bachmeyer

Uniform Chairperson
Judith Arnolda

Webmaster
Shawn Martin

**Centenary UMC
Director of Music and
the Arts Ministries**
Dr. Robert Frazier

**Music & Arts Ministries
Team Leader**
Pollyann Holthusen

**Salem Academy
Chorus Director**
Joy Rushton

Winston-Salem Girls Chorus
invites you to our

Sounds of the Season Holiday Concert

Come and hear the beautiful, angelic sounds of treble voices!

Saturday, December 17, 3:00 PM
Centenary United Methodist Church Sanctuary

**Featuring our three choirs and guest instrumentalists*

Free & Open to the Public - Love Offering Collected

ANNOUNCING OUR SPRING AUDITIONS



**Come and join us!
Auditions now open
for our 2016-2017
Spring Semester,
January - May.**

**Interview/Audition Required; Contact WSGCSing@aol.com / (336) 922-4073
More info at www.wsgirlschorus.org/auditions**

FROM THE ARTISTIC DIRECTOR



UPBEAT!

2nd - 4th Grades

Lyrica

Lyrica
4th - 8th Grades

Encore

Advanced Choir
8 - 12th Grades

Year two as an all-girls' chorus has started off with a whirlwind of activity and music-making! The fun part about being all trebles is the opportunity to delve into the beautiful sonorities of singing those high notes together in harmony, and experiencing

We started our new season in the heat of late August and have progressed through the first few months getting off to a great start. Our wonderful team of parents and families have not only made sure their girls have music folders in hand, rides to rehearsals, and completed uniforms, but have also helped us organize a fun social, fall fundraiser, and spring plans; they are now poised here right before the holiday concerts to get singers to our events well-prepared. I am always

The one constant throughout our chorus history is transcendence; when children and youth sing together beautifully, there is nothing more than this. There is great power and healing here for all to experience.

the angelic sounds created in the process. And even though we work very hard in our rehearsals, a higher degree of bonding and friendship has happened as a result. Sometimes after a long session of rehearsing, the girls get silly from such intense concentration and the room erupts into raucous laughter!

amazed at the lengths that parents will go in order to support their children's chorus experience. Highlights are featured on these pages for you to enjoy.

In this season of giving, as folks are encouraged to give generously to non-profit organizations. WSGC, as a non-profit organization, is no different in our need for your support, and financial contributions help us more than most people can begin to imagine, as we are a tuition-based arts program. Yes, your contributions DO make a difference in keeping our tuition more affordable for families, as well as providing scholarships for singers based upon need.

In a perfect world there would be no costs associated with running an arts program, but alas, we can only make the world more perfect by adding the beautiful sounds of our collective young voices. ***In this year, especially, when the voices of division are all around us, the world can be unified through our singing together.*** –AMS

I will always contend that THIS is where the music truly happens—our rehearsals. Our performances are a by-product of this process, when we have the opportunity to share our music with the rest of the world, a ripple affect of what beautiful singing can do to enjoy life more fully and joyfully expressed.



Pictured above: Treble Choir Clinic with guest conductor Henry Leck. More information on page 3.

Winston-Salem Girls Chorus

is pleased to host a choir clinic with internationally-acclaimed conductor

Henry Leck



Founder and Conductor Laureate – Indianapolis Children’s Choir
Professor Emeritus – Choral Music – Butler University
Distinguished Music Advisor – KI Concerts
Artistic Director – MFA National Choir Festival

On Friday, November 4th, WSGC hosted a Treble Choir Clinic with conductor Henry Leck, including young singers from the Triad to come and join us for an evening of singing together, as well as record some vocal warm-ups for a video he will use in his overseas travels this fall. The evening also include a masterclass, as well as reading some new music together. We are so fortunate to have someone of his caliber to come and work directly with us and our guest singers.

An internationally recognized choral director, Henry Leck is a professor emeritus in choral music at Butler University, where he served on the faculty for 27 years. He is the Founder and Conductor Laureate of the Indianapolis Children’s Choir, which he served as Artistic Director for 30 years. Under his leadership, the organization grew to and continues to be one of the largest and most respected children’s choir programs in the world. The touring choirs of the Indianapolis Children’s Choir have performed regularly for national ACDA, MENC, OAKE and AOSA Conferences. Additionally, the ICC tours internationally every year and has sung throughout the world. Mr. Leck recently arranged and conducted the national anthem for Kelly Clarkson and the Indianapolis Children’s Choir at the Super Bowl XLVI.



Pictured above, Left to Right: Cynthia Saylor, Accompanist; Anne Saxon, Henry Leck, Ann Doyle of the Greensboro Youth Chorus, and Tami Fields of the Gate City Young Singers.



New York, New York! WSGC Carnegie Hall Tour June 2017



WSGC will be traveling to New York City in June to sing in Carnegie Hall! We will also be taking in some of the sights and sounds of the city, include a Broadway show and other attractions. Our chorus has been accepted to sing in a choir festival with Distinguished Concerts International New York under the direction of Francisco Núñez (pictured above, right). Our touring singers will be several kinds of activities this year to raise money for this tour, from car washes to Singing Valentines. [Would you like to help us get there? Please consider making a donation as we are a 501\(c\)\(3\) non-profit organization.](#)

Francisco J. Núñez, a recipient of a 2011 MacArthur Fellowship presented to individuals for their “exceptional originality in and dedication to their creative pursuits,” is the artistic director of the Young People’s Chorus of New York City™ (YPC), a composer, conductor, visionary, and leading figure in music education. In 1988 he founded YPC to provide children of all ethnic, religious, and economic backgrounds with a safe haven for personal and artistic growth and to date has changed the lives of thousands of young people. YPC is widely recognized for its exceptional caliber and was recently presented by First Lady Michelle Obama with a 2011 National Arts & Humanities Youth Award, the nation’s highest honor for youth programs.

WSGC Schedule October - March

Friday, October 21:

Sock Hop Fundraiser

Centenary UMC Auditorium
Hot dog supper, raffle, dessert & soda float sale
Live entertainment & special guest performer

Friday, November 4th:

Treble Choir Clinic with Henry Leck

Centenary UMC Sanctuary, 7:00 - 9:00 pm
Guest treble singers 5th - 12th grades

December 6 - January 15:

Singer Auditions for the Spring Semester January - May

Contact us to schedule an interview/audition:
(336) 922-4073 / WSGCSing@aol.com

Sunday, December 4:

Community Lovefeast, Wait Chapel

Free and open to the community
Family Service begins at 4:30 pm;
prelude music begins at 4:00 pm.
<http://lovefeast.wfu.edu>

Friday, December 9:

Christmas Candlelight Concerts

Reynolda House Museum of Art
Lyrica & Encore Choirs - 6:00 - 8:30 pm
Admission is charged: www.reynoldahouse.org

Sunday, December 11:

Lessons & Carols Service

Centenary UMC; Prelude music begins at 4:30
Service begins at 5:00
Featuring multiple choirs and a full orchestra

March 3-4:

Piedmont Invitational Children's Choir Festival

Hosted by the Winston-Salem Girls Chorus
Centenary UMC, Winston-Salem
Melissa Keylock, Guest Conductor
Featuring 7 guest choirs from North Carolina!
Final Concert: Saturday, March 4, 4:00 pm
Free & open to the public - Love Offering taken

Saturday, March 18

Annual WSGC Gala Event: Movie Musicals!

Centenary United Methodist Church Auditorium
—Use 4½ street back entrance
Luncheon, Silent Auction, Raffle, & WSGC Choirs
Featuring Charity Hampton, Alumni Soloist
Doors open at 11:30; luncheon &
entertainment from Noon - 2:00 pm.
\$25 in advance (RSVP with payment by March
14th), or \$30 at the door

→ *Check for regular updates on
our website: www.wsgirlschorus.org*



Above and to the right:

Highlights from our Sock Hop Fundraiser in October.

The event included a hot dog supper, dessert and soda float sale, raffle for an iPad mini, and 1950's style entertainment by each of our three choirs. Many thanks to our Elvis" (John Rushton) for making a special appearance! We are still accepting donations to help keep our tuition affordable to families and provide singer scholarships.



*Winston-Salem Girls Chorus
Presents our annual*

Spring Concert

*Sunday, April 30, 2017, 3:00 pm
Centenary United Methodist Church Sanctuary*



Save the Date: Saturday, March 18th!



**ANNUAL
WSGC
GALA EVENT**

**FEATURING: LUNCHEON BUFFET,
SILENT AUCTION, & ALUMNI SINGER
CHARITY HAMPTON**

THEME: MOVIE MUSICALS

The mission of the Winston-Salem Girls Chorus is provide a joyful and empowering experience for girls and young women through vocal music education and artistic excellence in choral music performance.

Celebrating our 18th season of choral excellence!

Our graded choral program is comprised of singers from 2nd - 12th grades from Winston-Salem and surrounding areas.

Contact Information: (336) 922-4073; WSGCSing@aol.com

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