



“Honor, talent, ability and kindness, The Metropolitan Boys Choir.... know what you’ve done...I know how much you’re respected..... I know the concerts you give and the times you’ve been with the Minnesota Orchestra.... But I think the concerts you give and the times when you go around to community groups, to the elderly and others to sing for them because you know music is truly the universal language.....You have brought us happiness, you have brought yourselves honor and fame, you have brought to me a wonderful experience. **You truly are Minnesota’s young ambassadors of song.**”

Hubert H Humphrey

May 9, 1975

The MBC Mission

To provide a unique program of musical excellence and personal growth for Twin Cities area boys of varied social, cultural, and economic backgrounds; to develop responsibility and leadership; and to empower these young men to become positive influences in their communities.

The Metropolitan Boys Choir is an organization of young men from the twelve-county Minneapolis /Saint Paul metropolitan area. Multiple choirs of boys, whose ages range from five to fifteen, and a men's choir make up the MBC which was founded in 1971 by Music Director, Bea Speed-Hasselmann.

The Choir Regularly Appears in concert halls, churches, convention centers, and senior-care centers throughout the Twin Cities Metropolitan Area. The Choir performed regularly with the Minnesota Orchestra for thirty years. Henry Charles Smith, Resident Conductor, introduced the choir to the Orchestra in 1976, and they have since had the honor of singing under the direction of many world-renowned conductors including the late Robert Shaw. They have also been honored to sing with other premier ensembles and performers such as: the Russian Bolshoi, Royal Winnipeg, Joffrey and Moscow ballet companies, Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and Minnesota Opera. They were the featured choir for the traveling tour of “Joseph and the Amazing Technicolor Dreamcoat” with Patrick Cassidy.

Top Quality Musical Performances keep the Metropolitan Boys Choir in high demand. Over the years, the choir has performed at many notable events a few being; Super Bowl XXVI, Robert Schuller's “Hour of Power”, and the 1985 All-Star Major League Baseball Game. They have performed for many Minnesota Governors, United States Vice Presidents, Senators, and Legislators. They have sung the national anthem at the Minnesota Vikings, Twins, Timberwolves, and Wild games. The boys have been invited on many occasions to sing for state and national conferences such as the American Choral Directors, Music Educators, Orff-Schulwerk and Kodaly associations.

Annual Tours have taken the choir through forty-one of the fifty United States, including Hawaii. Foreign tours have introduced these “Young Ambassadors of Song” to audiences in nineteen countries.

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Metropolitan Boys Choir

OF MINNEAPOLIS/SAINT PAUL

“Minnesota’s Young Ambassadors of Song”

*"Being in the Metropolitan Boys Choir
isn't just about singing....."*

It is more than that. It's about becoming a man. The choir was an instrumental part of my growth and entrance into manhood. I learned discipline, responsibility, self-confidence and grace. These things have stayed with me over the last 29 years, and I consider them profoundly important assets working for me in my life. The choir is still – perhaps more than ever – about transforming boys into young men. What's an experience like that worth? To me, its priceless. In my time, and in all the years since, many young men have been able to benefit and grow through the choir because of the generous donations of people like you. The choir needs your help; not just to keep going, but to reach more boys, reach new levels of excellence and produce more fine young men, ready for the world that awaits them."

Michael Graves MBC Alumnus 1976-1980
Father of
Jackson Graves MBC Alumnus 2002-2006

*"There are many events and opportunities
that shape our children throughout their
childhoods and form their values and
morals...."*

One of the best experiences of our son's childhood was being a part of the Metropolitan Boys Choir. The hard work and discipline that is required to make such a wonderful organization, instilled in our son a great sense of responsibility and work ethic in and out of school. In the six years that he was a member of The Metropolitan Boys Choir he had some of the most extraordinary experiences of his life. From traveling the world to performing at Orchestra Hall to mention just a few. I feel blessed that he was able to be part of something this meaningful and I'm sure he will carry all of the valuable lessons he learned with him throughout his life. "

Genii Lehmann
Mother of

Many thanks for your support....

Dear Friends,

As we begin our 39th season of music making it is thrilling to know that the boys of today are still singing beautifully and have the same wonderful energy that the boys have always had. The Choir continues to provide a positive and stimulating environment for the development of young men and continues to bring great joy to their audiences. Please read the enclosed words of support from a few of our alumni and parents that attest to the impact the Choir has had on some of those young lives.

Over these seasons, the Metropolitan Boys Choir has touched the lives of thousands of boys, their families and countless audiences. Moreover, after 38 years, we are still able to say that no boy has ever been kept out of the Metropolitan Boys Choir for financial reasons and we remain firm in our pursuit of that mission. This is a struggle in today's economy, but the Choir has compensated by reducing staff; a couple of us are working full time, yet foregoing compensation altogether. We will continue doing our part but today more than ever, many more families are in financial need.

We are committed to continuing this work, but to do so, we need your support. Please contribute to the Metropolitan Boys Choir. Rest assured that your funds will go directly to benefit these fine young men. Their need is more crucial than ever before.

Warmest wishes,
Bea Hasselmann MBC Director

"My years with the Metropolitan Boys Choir were very important to me. It gave me the opportunity to meet people from a wide range of backgrounds, opened my eyes to the larger world through travel and music, and let me develop a sense of independence and success in a safe environment."

Paul Thissen MBC Alumnus 1978 - 1980
Minnesota State Representative and
2010 Gubernatorial Candidate

"Our son, Tristan, was just starting to explore an interest in music when he joined the MBC last spring -- now he is constantly singing around the house, is taking piano lessons, starting to dabble into "song writing" and looks forward to choir every week. I just had Parent Teacher Conferences and Tristan's music teacher was thrilled with how much Tristan's voice has developed over the past 6 months. She told me, "who knew he had this great voice?!" We both talked about what the MBC has done for him. We can't thank you enough for the impact you've already had on our son...we are so grateful for what you offer to him and the other boys."

In gratitude,
Amy & Kenneth Saldanha
MBC Choir Parents

"I was ten years old when my music teacher asked two of us to stay behind after class to invite us to join the Metropolitan Boys Choir. Since that time the Boys Choir has had a strong influence on my life, from singing for Hubert H. Humphrey to performing at my wedding 15 years ago. Through the Metropolitan Boys Choir I learned lessons about responsibility and commitment which not only serve me in my career as an attorney but as a father and a community member.

Now, as President of the MBC Board of Directors, I reach out to you, my fellow alumni, to help support the Choir for the benefit of future ambassadors of song. A small donation can help sustain an organization that has, and will continue to, have a positive influence on so many."

Scott Carlson, MBC Alumnus 1974-1977
Attorney, Duckson & Carlson

"Through the eyes of parents...the Metropolitan Boys Choir has helped our two boys develop focus and concentration, self-esteem and pride.

Through the eyes of our boys...it offers an opportunity to learn great songs, develop new friendships and have fun. With structure and guidance, the boys learn so much more than music. They learn to find their inner person as well as their inner voices. With hands-on leadership and group experience, our boys are learning that the influence of power is not as important as the power of influence. These are skills that they use to help them make good choices now and develop a positive future."

Mike and Kim Long
parents of **Sam and Nick** - MBC members