

San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers

The San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers is the official chorus of the San Antonio Symphony. The Mastersingers is a highly acclaimed, 120-voice chorus of volunteers from throughout the San Antonio area. Max Reiter, founding Music Director of the San Antonio Symphony, established the chorus in 1944 to support opera productions presented by the Symphony. Today's Mastersingers are featured in every area of the Symphony's performance schedule. The chorus also presents independent performances. Dr. John Silantien is the director.

The Mastersingers have a reputation for meticulous preparation and professionalism that has brought the group frequent invitations for tours and guest appearances. In 1994, the Mastersingers traveled to Carnegie Hall to present the New York premiere of Robert Levin's edition of the Mozart Requiem. This second appearance of the chorus at Carnegie Hall received the same critical acclaim as their performances throughout Texas, in Monterrey, Mexico, in New York's Avery Fisher Hall, and in the Royal Festival Hall, London. In May 2008, the chorus performed Mozart's *Solemn Vespers* at Carnegie Hall, John Silantien conducting. Later that same year, they were invited to perform a concert version of *Cavalleria rusticana*, with Andrea Bocelli in the starring role. The chorus has performed under some of the world's leading music directors—Zdenek Macal, Jahja Ling, Sixten Ehrling, Nicholas McGegan, Christopher Hogwood, and others.

In the summer of 2013 the Mastersingers, together with student singers from the University of Texas at San Antonio, toured to major concert venues in Italy, highlighted by performances at the Vatican in Rome and the Basilica of San Marco in Venice. In June 2015, the Mastersingers returned to Europe to perform in Lisbon, Seville, Madrid, and Granada, where they were featured at the Granada International Festival of Music and Dance.

In 1994, then San Antonio Mayor Nelson Wolff proclaimed the Mastersingers "one of the crown jewels within the San Antonio Arts community." In addition to performances with the San Antonio Symphony, they present several other concerts annually in San Antonio and surrounding communities. 2015–2016 marks the 72nd season of the San Antonio Symphony Mastersingers.

The Mastersingers' mission is to provide their community with life-enriching experiences through performances that engage the audience, challenge the singers, raise funds for worthy charities, and provide inspirational, educational, and moving musical opportunities for concert-goers.