

Artists' Reports

March 2022

Education

The HSR Festival and Concert was a full day of fun and music making with Stillwater and Armstrong High Schools. The truncated format compared to years past was a successful change confirmed by teachers and Cantus alike. All performers and participants were masked throughout the day as per Westminster and Cantus policy.

The next day at the Rochester Southeast Minnesota Choral Festival had a promising beginning, as the artists performed and gave workshops to 4 different youth ensembles, but the following morning, an artist tested positive for COVID, and day 2 including the final concert was rescheduled for late April.

We are still in talks with Armstrong and Stillwater to reschedule visits from the Omicron surge in January and will visit the schools again next week. It has been challenging to find holes in our schedule, and COVID policies being relaxed at schools has added to uncertainty.

Production

The artists are hard at work preparing music for A New World, which opens this Friday at Westminster Presbyterian Church. We're looking forward to revisiting My Journey Yours and Legends & Lies with the Bach Society of Minnesota in late April.

Programming

The artists of Cantus have been busy at work on the programming side. We have finalized selecting our 2022-2023 season! This is what next season will look like:

- Fall/Touring: "Song of the Universal"
- Christmas: "Lessons and Carols"
- Spring: "I Hear America Singing" A program that delves into the meaning of work in our lives.
- Covers: "Just My Imagination" A program that celebrates the rich tradition of Motown music with groups like "The Temptations," Boyz II Men," "The Jackson 5," and many others.
- Chamber Series: "and all the days were purple" (Option B: "Genius Child and Night Songs")

In addition to selecting these programs we also identified a few poets we are excited to possibly collaborate with for our Christmas program of Lessons and Carols.

For the chamber series, we're exploring the possibility of partnering with other organizations like the SPCO or Temple Israel to be able to perform the program "and all the days were purple" which requires a small chamber orchestra. However, if these partnerships don't prove fruitful, the artists are ready to pivot to our equally exciting Option B!