



Organizational Summary

The **San Francisco Boys Chorus (SFBC)** is an internationally acclaimed Grammy-award winning not-for-profit music education and performing arts organization at the heart of San Francisco's cultural center. The chorus serves over 220 singers from 50 Bay Area cities and more than 120 schools at three Bay Area campuses. SFBC's goals are to:

- train musically gifted youngsters, ages kindergarten through age 18, to perform choral music at the highest level of artistic merit;
- provide local, domestic, and international choral concert opportunities; and
- foster the choral music tradition.

Mission Statement

The mission of the San Francisco Boys Chorus is to provide music education, vocal training and performance experience at the highest artistic level to Bay Area boys from all cultural, ethnic, and economic backgrounds.

The Chorus experience encourages appreciation of music, self-discipline, confidence, commitment, teamwork, and respect for others.

Performing Philosophy

Concerts and other performing opportunities are the end-result of countless classes, camps, and rehearsals. Performing helps choristers advance musically and mature as young men while gaining appreciation for diverse people and experiences. Public appearances also help ensure the sustainability of choral music in the Bay Area and worldwide.

History

The San Francisco Boys Chorus was founded in 1948 by Kurt Herbert Adler and Madi Bacon to provide boy singers for the San Francisco Opera. Since that time, the Chorus has grown into a distinguished year-round education and performance organization and has performed with the San Francisco Opera during every season in which parts for choristers have been required. Four decades of San Francisco mayors have officially declared the SFBC "San Francisco's Singing Ambassadors to the World."

The Boys Chorus has toured domestically and internationally with recent tours including Hong Kong, Japan, China, Australia, Austria, Czechoslovakia, England, France, Greece, Hawaii, Hungary, Ireland, Israel, Italy, New Zealand, and Russia. Choristers have sung for U.S. presidents, the Pope John Paul II, H.M. Queen Elizabeth II of England, and the President of the former Soviet Union.



The Boys Chorus legacy began in 1948, pictured here in 1954.

The Grammy Award winning San Francisco Boys Chorus (SFBC) was founded by Gaetano Merola and Madi Bacon in 1948 to provide trained boy singers for the San Francisco Opera, and is today led by Artistic Director, Ian Robertson. Maestro Robertson, who also serves as Chorus Director for the San Francisco Opera, has since 1996 built SFBC to over 220 singers from 50 Bay Area cities and more than 120 schools at campuses in San Francisco, Oakland, and San Rafael.

Members of SFBC's Concert Chorus have recently appeared in the San Francisco Opera's productions of Wagner's *Tannhäuser*, Mozart's *The Magic Flute*, and Verdi's *Macbeth*. Concert Chorus members also appeared in the San Francisco Symphony's production of Franz Liszt's *Dante Symphony*, and a Concert Chorus member was featured in the Symphony's presentation of *The Lord of the Rings Symphony*. Recently performed works include Leoš Janáček's *Rikadla*, Marc-Antoine Charpentier's *Te Deum*, Gabriel Fauré's *Requiem*, Op. 48, Henry Purcell's *Come, ye sons of art*, and Franz Joseph Haydn's *Missa Brevis*.



The SFBC's Concert and Graduate Chorus levels perform with orchestra under Artistic Director, Maestro Ian Robertson, Grace Cathedral, San Francisco

In the summer of 2007, the Concert Chorus appeared as guest artists in Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana* presented in Jackson, Wyoming by the Grand Teton Music Festival (GTMF), Donald Runnicles, Music Director. The group also presented a Spotlight concert conducted by Ian Robertson, along with the San Francisco Festival Chorale. In July 2006, the Concert Chorus appeared as guest artists with GTMF in Gustav Mahler's *Third Symphony*.

In the last eight years, SFBC has undertaken international concert tours to Asia, Europe (twice) and Canada and has performed domestically at the Heritage Music Festival, Anaheim, California, and Carnegie Hall, New York. In December 2007, PBS broadcast SFBC's holiday concert for a third consecutive year in four California television markets. The Chorus has for more than thirty years

toured internationally to countries including England, France, Italy, Hungary, Austria, Romania, Israel, Scotland, Wales, China, Japan, the Czech Republic and the former Soviet Union.

The Chorus in recent seasons has performed for His Majesty the King Gustav of Sweden as well as for United States Senator Barbara Boxer, Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, San Francisco Mayor Gavin Newsom, and former San Francisco Mayor Willie L. Brown, Jr. The Chorus performed for Bay Area Nobel Laureates as well as the San Francisco royal visit of HRH Prince of Wales and Camilla, Duchess of Cornwall. The Chorus has also performed for General Colin Powell; HRH Queen Elizabeth II of England; Mikhail Gorbachev, President of the former Soviet Union; and the late Pope John Paul II. In addition, SFBC has been featured at the White House Christmas Tree Lighting.

SFBC enjoys close ties to the San Francisco Bay Area, appearing at numerous civic and private engagements including San Francisco Giants games, the Macy's Union Square Tree Lighting, and Mayor Gavin Newsom's 2008 inauguration.

Two CDs have been published in the past six years: *We're On Our Way* (2000) and *Moving On* (2003), following numerous recordings dating to 1948. Two new CDs are anticipated including a holiday CD and a disc featuring the works of French Romantic composer, Gabriel Fauré.

SFBC will produce its 60th Anniversary concert at the San Francisco War Memorial Opera House on June 15, 2008. New chorister auditions will be held May 31, 2008. The Chorus will tour southern France in July, 2008.



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