



BILLINGS SYMPHONY ORCHESTRA & CHORALE

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Billings Symphony Chorale Auditions Set for September 8 and 15

Billings, MT - Auditions for the Billings Symphony Chorale for the upcoming 58th Season of the Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale are slated for Monday, Sept. 8 at 6 p.m. and Monday, Sept. 15 at 6 p.m. in the Band Room at Lincoln Center located at 415 N. 30th St, in downtown Billings. Auditions are by appointment only.

Chorale Director Dr. Steven Hart invites vocalists ages 15 and older to audition. Each person should bring a solo to perform (classical, Broadway, opera, etc.), and be prepared to sight-read a choral score. An accompanist will be available to all persons auditioning.

The 2008-2009 Season Celebrate the Masters lauds a 57 year partnership between the Chorale and the Billings Symphony Orchestra. November's concert **An Evening of Beethoven's 9th**, features the Chorale performing one of Beethoven's most well-known works and March's concert **Happy Birthday Bach** showcases choral works of Johann Sebastian Bach.

For more information or to schedule an audition time, contact the Billings Symphony office at (406) 252-3610 by Thursday, Sept. 4.

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About Billings Symphony Chorale Director Dr. Steven Hart: *Dr. Steven Hart, Associate Professor of Music, conducts choral ensembles, teaches conducting, vocal pedagogy and private voice at Rocky Mountain College in Billings, Montana. He completed his PhD at the University of Colorado, his MM at the University of South Dakota, and his BM at Western Michigan University. Dr. Hart maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor, clinician, and adjudicator.*

Dr. Hart is the conductor and founder of the High Plains Chamber Singers, a 24 voice ensemble dedicated to the highest standards of the choral art. The ensemble performs music from the rich history of choral singing from chant to new compositions both accompanied and a cappella.

Conference presentations include “Expanding Expressive Possibilities: Choral Style and Vocal Production,” “Vocal Health for Conductors and Singers,” “Brain Research: Implications for Music Educators,” and “Warm-ups: A Time-sensitive Approach.” He was one of six conductors invited to participate in the Tenth Annual International Conducting Workshop in Varna, Bulgaria. Dr. Hart continues to pursue his strong interest in the relationship of physical conducting gesture to the performer's musical response.

His sport activities include rock climbing, playing tennis, skiing, rollerblading and hiking in the mountains.

About the Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale: *Since the founding of the Billings Symphony Society in May of 1951, the organization's mission has been to enhance the quality of life in this part of the Rocky Mountain Northwest by offering musical enlightenment and intellectual stimulation to traditional audiences, as well as those who are geographically isolated, economically challenged and culturally underserved. Today, fifty-seven years later, that mission remains the driving force behind the Billings Symphony Orchestra & Chorale (BSO&C), the only symphonic orchestra and chorale serving a regional population of 400,000 people located throughout south central Montana and northeastern Wyoming. Music Director Anne Harrigan, along with the 135+ members of the BSO&C present an annual season from September through June, featuring six subscription concerts, two performances of Tchaikovsky's Nutcracker with the accompaniment of a renowned ballet company, a New Year's Eve event, four performances of a Free Family Concert and a free Symphony in the Park concert. Each season, the BSO&C perform for more than 35,000 people, and help introduce music to children, youth, adults, and seniors in the region through Explore Music!, the organization's music education and community engagement program.*

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