Robbinsdale Area Schools

Vocal-Orchestra Festival

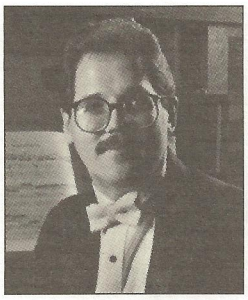
Thursday, October 14, 1999

Orchestra Hall, Minneapolis

Welcome

Welcome to Robbinsdale Area Schools 1999 Vocal-Orchestra Festival. This year's performance features the combined choirs and orchestras of Robbinsdale Armstrong High School and Robbinsdale Cooper High School, with the All-District Elementary Choir. We are honored to have Paul Oakley with us this evening. And for the second year, we are proud to showcase our district's music program on the area's premiere cultural stage, Orchestra Hall. Tonight's performance includes the triumphant final movement of Brahms' first symphony, a sparkling setting for Psalm 95 by Austrian composer Joseph Eybler, and a celebration of America's folksong heritage. We'll conclude with Handel's powerful coronation anthem and a compelling melody by Mulholland that challenges us to share music with the world. Enjoy the show!

Paul E. Oakley, Guest Conductor



Paul E. Oakley is the director of choral activities and associate professor of choral music and conducting at the School of Music, East Carolina University, Greenville, North Carolina. There he conducts the Chamber Singers, the University Chorale and the Symphonic Chorus, and teaches graduate and undergraduate choral conducting and literature. From 1988-98, Maestro Oakley was the music director and conductor of the Bach Society of Minnesota and the Sebastian Singers. He has performed in many respected venues including, Carnegie Hall, The Kennedy Center and The White House. He has conducted numerous All-State High School choirs and festivals throughout the United States and beyond. He returns to our district again this year as a favorite of our students and staff.

Festival History

From its beginning in the 1950s, Robbinsdale Area Schools Vocal-Orchestra Festival has demonstrated a rich tradition of musical excellence. The event started when district teachers and students took a leading role in the Lake Conference Music Festival; more than 1,500 participants came from schools throughout the western suburbs, and professional conductors and soloists were invited to work with students. The event provided students with the unique experience of performing a major choral work with an orchestra. Three period pieces were alternated annually: 1) Baroque—*The Messiah* by Handel, 2) Classical—*The Creation* by Haydn and 3) Romantic—*Elijah* by Mendelssohn. When Cooper opened in '64 and Armstrong in '70, Festival participants grew to overwhelming numbers, and our district began hosting its own Festival. This gave musicians from our two high schools the opportunity to work together without competition and judges—to simply make beautiful music. The format evolved to a more varied program, the All-District Elementary Choir was featured as one of the best in the state, and professional soloists were replaced by our own very talented students. Very few school districts in the country could achieve this level of success. Highlights from past performances demonstrate the superior quality of our music program, teachers and students. You may remember:

- Mozart's *Requiem*, Conductor Dale Warland, 1973
- Handel's *Messiah*, Conductor Charles Schwartz, 1976
- Brahm's *German Requiem*, Conductor Dwayne Jorgenson, 1977
- Haydn's *Te Deum*, Conductor Paul Brandvick, 1982
- Handel's *Judus Maccabeus*, Conductor Paul E. Oakley, 1996
- Vivaldi's *Gloria*, Conductor Dr. Reńe Clausen, 1997

And for the first time last year, we invited a graduate to return as our guest conductor; John Daly Goodwin led students in *Carmina Burana*. The Festival has evolved over the years, but the focus remains—District students, parents and teachers coming together to learn, grow and succeed through music.

Program

All-District Elementary Choir ..... Patti Arntz, Conductor
The Star Spangled Banner ..... Music by John Stafford Smith
Text by Francis Scott Key
Laudate Dominum ..... by Jerry Estes

Welcome ..... Sheryl Brame, Elizabeth Schulte
Festival Co-Chairs

Remarks ..... Ken Kostka
Acting Superintendent

Combined Orchestras ..... Paul Oakley, Conductor
Symphony No. 1 ..... Johannes Brahms (1833-1897)
IV. Piú Andante, Allegro non troppo arr. Vernon Leidig

Combined Orchestras & Choirs ..... Paul Oakley, Conductor
Cantate Domino ..... Joseph Leopold Eybler (1765-1846)

Combined Choirs ..... Paul Oakley, Conductor
Two American Folksongs
Cindy ..... arr. Mack Wilberg
Shenandoah ..... arr. James Erb

Combined Orchestras & Choirs ..... Paul Oakley, Conductor
Coronation Anthem No. 2 (The King Shall Rejoice) ..... George Frideric Handel (1685-1759)
How Can I Keep From Singing ..... James Quitman Mulholland

Many of tonight's musical selections feature multiple movements;
the breaks between movements are meant to be enjoyed
as moments of silence, reflection and preparation for what's ahead.
Please hold applause until completion of the selection.