

About REAL MEN SING!

The Staples Area Men's Chorus (SAMC) wants to help young men find the joy and richness that singing brings to life. It also wants to help high school and college music programs attract and retain male singers for their choral ensembles, and to help them remain strong and vibrant organizations. To accomplish this we have started the REAL MEN SING Choral Festival.

At no charge to participating schools, the SAMC books the facility, hires a guest conductor and a voice teacher, buys the music, and provides an evening meal. Rehearsals and workshops are scheduled in the afternoon and the event is capped off with a concert in the evening.

In addition to the Festival Chorus of over 200 Singers, the concert also features a high school men's chorus, a college or university men's chorus, the SAMC, and selected soloists from the vocal clinic. The Festival has been a resounding success, attracting 200 high school age young men from 15 communities and an appreciative audience that has grown every year as news of the Festival has spread.

Participating high schools are not limited to bringing only their "best" students. They can bring one, four, or all of their male singers to the Festival. The Festival provides the opportunity to work under some of the very best choral directors in the state, as well as sessions centered on proper vocal technique and getting the best sound out of every singer's voice. Every participating school will have the opportunity to have at least one soloist work with the Guest Voice Clinician.

It is hoped that the participants come with the music well learned, but in case there are trouble spots, the members of the SAMC are seated next to the young men during the rehearsals and in the evening concert, to guarantee that the event is an enriching and rewarding experience. This mentoring and leadership is meant to advance the goals of the event, which are to convince young men that "yes, real men do sing"; to inform them that there are artistic and creative opportunities waiting for them after leaving their high school choirs; to demonstrate that men from many walks of life and many ages, can come together, build community, create enriching music together, and have a great time doing it.

For more information and pictures from previous Festivals check out our website: www.staplesmen.org, or visit us on facebook – Staples Area Men's Chorus.



Guest Chorus Director

Timothy Sawyer has enjoyed an active career as a conductor, educator and professional singer after formal musical training at Bethel University (St. Paul, Minnesota), Exeter University (England), the University of Minnesota, and in doctoral-level study at the University of Iowa. He has done advanced conducting studies with Helmuth Rilling, the late Margaret Hillis, Vance George, Gregg Smith, and Sweden's Eric Ericson, among others. In addition to extensive experience as a tenor soloist, he is a veteran chorister with several professional choirs, among them the Dale Warland Singers, the Ensemble Singers of VocalEssence of Minnesota, and the Oregon Bach Festival Chorus, with which he shared in a collective Grammy Award in 2000 for the recording of Krzysztof Penderecki's "Credo." Since 1989, Sawyer has been a member of the music faculty at Northwestern College in St. Paul [\[nwc.edu\]](http://nwc.edu) where he is director of choral activities, teaches conducting, conducts the Men's Chorus and the critically-acclaimed Northwestern College Choir. With its motto "choral music direct from the heart" and a distinctive mission that integrates excellence in concertizing, outreach and cross-cultural ministry, the Northwestern College Choir has performed extensively throughout the United States, Canada, Scandinavia, and in western, central and eastern Europe, including Ukraine, where it was the first American choir ever invited to perform in Kiev's Tchaikovsky Conservatory. The Choir's recent May 2010 international tour introduced them to new and enthusiastic audiences in Latvia, Estonia and Finland.

From 1997-2004, Sawyer served a seven-year tenure as assistant artistic director of the Minnesota Chorale, principal symphonic chorus of the Minnesota Orchestra and frequent collaborator with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra. An enthusiastic and gifted teacher of conducting, Sawyer has been on the artistic staff of the conducting master classes at the University of Minnesota, Toronto Bach Festival, and is currently associate director of the Oregon Bach Festival's conducting master class, preparing and coaching advanced conductors to work with Bach scholar and master teacher Helmuth Rilling. Sawyer is a member of the board and adjunct faculty member with Music in World Cultures, an international faith-based organization using music as a strategic tool in developing cross-cultural relationships. Increasingly in demand as a clinician for choral festivals, in recent years Sawyer has led numerous festivals throughout the United States and internationally in Ukraine, Hungary, the Czech Republic, and Asia.



Guest Voice Clinician

Mark Stover is the Director of Worship, Music and Arts at Colonial Church in Edina, Minnesota. He received his Bachelors degree from St Olaf College and recently completed his M.S.M. in choral conducting from Luther Seminary. Before Luther Seminary, Stover served as Director of Worship and Arts at Walnut Creek Presbyterian Church, California, while teaching choral music at Campolindo High School, and serving as worship leader for the Open Door Community. Mark has designed contemporary a cappella shows for high school and college ensembles and regularly works as a clinician, workshop host and guest conductor for ensembles ranging from classically trained choirs to contemporary mens, womens, and mixed ensembles. Contact him at mstover@colonialchurch.org.

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October 9, 2010

SCHEDULE

12:30 – 1:00	Arrival of Festival Participants Staples Motley High School Gym
1:00 – 1:15	Welcome and Seating
1:20 – 2:40	Rehearsal I – Gym Tim Sawyer, Guest Director
1:30 – 6:00	Vocal Solos Mark Stover, Guest Clinician
2:45 – 3:30	Voice Class - Centennial Auditorium Mark Stover, Guest Clinician
3:35 – 3:50	Break - Cafeteria
3:55 – 4:45	Sectionals
4:00 – 4:15	Director Meeting ALL participating directors
4:50 – 5:50	Rehearsal II – Gym
5:55 – 6:50	Supper – Cafeteria
7:15 – 7:25	Assemble for Concert
7:30 – 9:00	Concert 1. High School Male Chorus 2. College Male Chorus 3. Staples Area Men's Chorus 4. Outstanding soloists 5. Combined Festival Chorus