

## North Central ACDA Community Choir Survey Summary

March 1, 2010

The following survey results were compiled from a web survey of community choirs from the North Central ACDA district. 64 responses were received during February 2010 from the following states in the summary box below.

If your choir is not included in the list of respondents below we invite you to fill out a survey at this site:

<http://spreadsheets.google.com/viewform?formkey=dHA1UnNLToQyWXU1UnAzYTlkbkpnSWc6MA&theme=0AX42CRMsmRFbUyoxYjMxYzlhMSoxZTMoLTRhNDEtOWI2YioyN2RkZWMxZWUzOGI&ifq>

If you have questions about this survey contact: [NCCommChoirs@gmail.com](mailto:NCCommChoirs@gmail.com)

<b>State</b>	<b>Number of Responses</b>
Minnesota	30
Wisconsin	17
Iowa	9
Nebraska	3
South Dakota	1

### ***Year Range each responding choir was established***

<b>Year</b>	<b>Number of Choirs</b>
Before 1900	1
1900-1950	3
1951-1960	3
1961-1970	6
1971-1980	11
1980-1990	16
1991-2000	9
2001-2009	12
Unsure or blank	3

### ***Number of Singers***

<b>Range</b>	<b>Number of Choirs</b>
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1-10	1
11-20	1
21-30	9
31-40	11
41-50	11
51-60	5
61-70	3
71-80	4
81-90	6
91-100	3
101-125	3
126-150	5
Unsure or blank	2

### ***Choir Type***

Type	Number of Choirs
SATB	55
SSAA	16
TTBB	15
Other	3

Other responses include Tenor, Lead, Baritone (2) and TLBB (1).

### ***Number of singers per voice part***

	1-5	6-10	11-15	16-20	21-25	26-30	31-40	41+
Soprano	2	11	18	5	7	3	5	2
Alto	1	12	17	7	6	7	3	1
Tenor/Lead	7	23	14	9	3	0	0	1
Bass/Baritone	4	18	18	8	6	2	0	1

### ***During the season rehearsals***

	Number of choirs
One time a month	3
Every other week	1
One time a week	50

1-2 times a week	6
2 times a week	4

***Length of rehearsals***

	Number of choirs
Up to 1 hour	3
1-1.5 hours	4
1-2 hours	2
1.5-2 hours	13
2-2.5 hours	26
2-3 hours	2
2.5-3 hours	11
3-3.5 hours	3

***Concerts per Season***

	Number of choirs
1	9
2	13
3	9
4	10
5-7	14
8-10	5
11-15	1
More than 15	3

***Average Audience Size***

	Number of choirs
50 or fewer	5
51-100	5
101-200	10
201-300	15
301-400	12
401-500	7

501-600	5
601-750	1
751-1,000	1
1,001-1,200	1
1,500 or more	2

### ***Average Annual Budget***

	<b>Number of choirs</b>
Less than \$5,000	14
\$5,000-\$9,999	13
\$10,000-\$19,999	15
\$20,000-\$29,999	3
\$30,000-\$39,999	3
\$40,000-\$49,999	5
\$50,000-\$59,999	4
\$60,000-\$69,999	2
\$70,000-\$79,999	0
\$80,000-\$89,999	0
\$90,000-\$99,999	1
\$100,000-\$124,999	0
\$125,000-\$149,999	1
\$150,000-\$199,999	0
\$200,000 or more	4

### ***Choir Member Annual Dues***

	<b>Number of choirs</b>
Under \$10	19
\$10-\$19	3
\$20-\$24	4
\$25-\$49	12
\$50-\$74	6
\$75-\$99	9
\$100-\$124	3
\$125-\$149	0

\$150-\$174	3
\$200 or more	5

***How Choir Members Join***

	Number of choirs
No audition	15
Audition	41
Both	6

**56 of the 63 responding choirs have a Board of Directors.**

Number of Choir Members on Board

	Number of choirs
1-3	10
4-6	15
7-10	18
11-15	9
16-20	1
21-24	1

***Director Information***

***Paid Directors***

	Number of choirs
Paid	52
Unpaid/volunteer	9

***Paid Directors' Salary***

	Number of directors
Less than \$3,000	33

\$3,000-\$4,999	7
\$5,000-\$9,999	16
\$10,000-\$19,999	2
\$20,000-\$24,999	4
\$25,000-\$29,999	0
\$30,000-\$34,999	1
\$35,000-\$39,999	0
\$40,000-\$49,999	0
\$50,000 or more	3

***Annual Director Time***

	<b>Number of directors</b>
1-10 weeks	5
11-20 weeks	7
21-30 weeks	7
31-40 weeks	13
41-50 weeks	4
All year round	28

***Accompanist Paid***

	<b>Number of choirs</b>
Paid	47
Unpaid/volunteer	7
No Accompanist	9

***Paid Accompanists' Salary***

	<b>Number of accompanists</b>
Less than \$1,000	31
\$1,000-\$1,999	9
\$2,000-\$2,999	7
\$3,000-\$3,999	9
\$4,000-\$4,999	0
\$5,000-\$5,999	5

\$6,000-\$6,999	0
\$7,000-\$7,999	0
\$8,000-\$8,999	0
\$9,000-\$9,999	0
\$10,000 or more	2

### ***Annual Accompanist Time***

	<b>Number of accompanists</b>
1-10 weeks	19
11-20 weeks	10
21-30 weeks	18
31-40 weeks	14
41-50 weeks	1
All year round	3

### ***Other Musical Staff***

	<b>Number of choirs</b>
None	48
0-0.5 FTE	14
0.5-1 FTE	1
1-1.5 FTE	1

### ***Other Operating Staff***

	<b>Number of choirs</b>
None	45
0-0.5 FTE	10
0.5-1 FTE	2
1-1.5 FTE	1
1.5-2 FTE	0
2-2.5 FTE	1
2.5-3 FTE	1
More than 3 FTE	1

### ***Rehearsals Regularly Held***

	<b>Number of choirs</b>
Church	35
College/University	12
Community Building	3
Concert Hall	1
School	12

### ***Rehearsal Space Cost***

	<b>Number of locations</b>
Donated	40
\$1-\$10	10
\$11-\$20	4
\$21-\$30	5
\$31-\$40	0
\$41-\$50	2
\$51-\$60	1
\$61-\$70	0
\$71-\$80	0
\$81-\$90	0
\$91-\$100	1
Over \$100	1

### ***Performance Venues***

	<b>Number of choirs</b>
Church	57
College/University	0
Community Building	7
Concert Hall	14
School	24
Other	3

Other includes "historic," "Retirement," and "Wherever."

### ***Collaborations***

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**Number of choirs**

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Academic	28
Arts	13
Community	12
Musical	26
Religious	23
Other	3

Other includes "International Lions" (2) and "Guest philosophers."

### ***Annual Marketing Budget***

	<b>Number of choirs</b>
Less than \$500	26
\$500-\$999	13
\$1,000-\$2,999	13
\$3,000-\$4,999	5
\$5,000 or more	2

### ***Director Member of ACDA***

	<b>Number of choirs</b>
Yes	44
No	13

### **Age Ranges of Choir Members**

	<b>Number of choirs</b>
10 and younger	4
11-15	7
16-20	26
21-25	44
26-30	51
31-35	52
36-40	49
41-45	51
46-50	52
51-55	53
56-60	52

61-65	50
66-70	38
71-75	29
76-80	10
81 and older	8

### ***Additional Comments***

- Age of the choir ranges from 21-62.
- Algona, Iowa chapter of the Barbershop Harmony Society
- Angelica has (3) Part -time staff, not full time.  
Hard to determine the rental fee for our rehearsals space. It is not done hourly, it is just a set price.  
Our two big concerts average 400 - 600 people.  
Other concerts average under 100.
- At our annual concert, we employ approximately 35 instrumentalists and four professional soloists. We perform large scale masterpieces such as Messiah, Elijah, Mozart Requiem, Verdi Requiem, etc.
- Commissioning of new music is central to our mission statement.
- Instead of paying dues, we simply ask all singers to make a contribution in the annual appeal process. For many years, we've had 100% participation.  
Commissioning new scores is something we do several times a year as well.
- Masterworks Chorale of Augsburg is a combined college-community chorus, so some of the questions don't really apply. For example, the directorship of MCA is 2/6 of my position here at Augsburg; our manager is full-time for all the arts here; and the marketing is done by the PR department.
- SJOC was formed to perform Messiah. It has become an annual tradition of 20 years, with a strong following (usually full house). We do 2 performances with professional soloists and an orchestra of 15 professional players, doing about 2 hours of music (all of Part I and some of both II and III). We get about 60 singers for Messiah. I think it's notable that even though it's an un-auditioned chorus, our sections are uneven, and although many singers have very little vocal training, we are able to give performances that, we've been told, are quite impressive. We're under the umbrella of the church, but we don't treat it as a religious service. It's a community chorus performing for the community.
- The Reed River Chorale has a clear set of guidelines for maintaining membership. Guidelines include group and personal rehearsal expectations, rehearsal and performance dates and times, explanations of fees and music deposit and attendance policy.
- The Saint Paul Vocal Forum produces "choral forums" on topics of social, educational and spiritual interest to the community. Through the use of choral and other vocal music performed at a high level and through "micro-lectures" designed to tie the music together with the topic we explore these issues in a way that neither a traditional choral concert or public forum could do. The music and the words magnify each other.

- The UW-L Choral Union is a University ensemble, but the majority of the membership is community. Typically 70-75 community members and 20-25 students who take it for 1 credit per semester.
- This choir is only in existence for 7 weeks. (October - December) It is affiliated with the North Suburban Band and under the band's auspices.
- This group employs about 35 orchestral members and four professional soloists for each annual concert.
- One Voice Mixed Chorus is Minnesota's gay, lesbian, bisexual, transgender and allies community chorus with a mission of "building community and creating social change by raising our voices in song". One Voice is the largest GLBTA chorus in North America with over 80 singers and a Fifth-Section of 40 non-singing volunteers.
- This is a high school community choir coming from 20 different high schools. There are two children's choirs (one boys' and one girls') in the region that are already well-established. YCCM is a place where many of these singers continue to sing.
- We are a non-profit organization. Our parent organization is Sweet Adelines International, the world's largest organization of women singers. We are one chapter within our Region and there are 35 regions in the International Organization. We basically are an educational organization because we teach people the art form of barbershop singing which is different than most choral singing. We don't give out the address of our rehearsal hall to people that might mail things to us. We use one of our member's addresses as contact information. So the information on the next page is my information as the contact.
- We are an all male barbershop chorus having a great time.
- We are committed to preserving and promoting great sacred choral music in the church through concerts that are usually offered free of charge.
- We are singer-led and have purposefully have no conductor. The organization hires different collaborating conductors for each concert. The concerts themes and repertoire are selected by an artistic team along with the collaborating conductor. Rehearsals are lead by experience, in-group conductors (we call rehearsalists). The collaborating conductor is brought in to lead the final rehearsals. In rehearsal accompaniments are handled by singers. Concert accompanists are hired. All organizational responsibilities are handled by teams of people. One team, called the Process Team, makes sure that group issues are handled in accordance with the values and goals of the organization and that the group dynamics are "functional". Other teams are marketing, administrative, technology, and finance. We are a 501(c)3 corporation.
- We have a 16 voice Chamber Ensemble selected by audition from within the group. They do 2-3 pieces in each concert. They are very good sight readers and rehearse minimally - 20-30 minutes after the regular rehearsal and one Saturday morning close to the concert.
- We have three choirs in our program, but I focused on the Concert Choir for the "numbers." You need to have something to work for children's choirs programs, which include more than one ensemble - otherwise it's hard to respond to some of the question (how many concerts/year, how much money for dues, how often they rehearse, etc.) We have three choirs - the two not included in the numbers rehearse once/week so with all choirs we have 80-90 in the entire program.

<b>Names of chorus (or organization) that filled out survey</b>	<b>City</b>	<b>State</b>
Ames Children's Choirs - Concert Choir	Ames	IA
Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs	Bloomington	MN
Ankeny Community Chorus	Ankeny	IA
Bel Canto Chorale	Burlington	IA
Bemidji Chorale	Bemidji	MN
Bismarck-Mandan Civic Chorus	Bismarck	SD
Cedar Rapids Concert Chorale	Cedar Rapids	IA
Central Chamber Chorale	Marshfield	WI
Chamber Singers of Iowa City	Iowa City	IA
Choral Arts Ensemble (Rochester, MN)	Rochester	MN
Choral Union Ltd.	Janesville	WI
Cornbelt Chorus	Algona	IA
Davenport Chordbusters	Davenport	IA
Dunn County Northern Lights Chorus	Menomonie	WI
East Central Minnesota Chorale	Cambridge	MN
Edina Chorale	Wayzata	MN
Festival Choir of Madison	Madison	WI
Global Harmony Community Chorus	Roseville	MN
Hanska Community Choir	Hanska	MN
Hymnus	New Prague	MN
I Cantanti	Northfield	MN
La Crosse Chamber Chorale	La Crosse	WI
Mankato Children's Chorus	Mankato	MN
Masterworks Chorale of Augsburg	Minneapolis	MN
Minnesota Boychoir	St. Paul	MN
Minnesota Center Chorale	St. Cloud	MN
Minnesota Mormon Chorale	Fridley	MN
Minnesota Valley Chorale	Mankato	MN
Monteverdi Chorale	Stevens Point	WI
Mount Pleasant Chorale	Mount Pleasant	IA
Musica Sacra	Omaha	NE
North Suburban Concert Chorale	Brooklyn Park	MN
Northern Lights Chorale	Shoreview	MN
Nova Cantabile	Blue Earth	MN
Omaha Symphonic Chorus	Omaha	NE
One Voice Mixed Chorus	St. Paul	MN
Oshkosh Chamber Singers	Oshkosh	WI
Philharmonic Chorus of Madison	Madison	WI
Plymouth Chorale	Milwaukee	WI
Reed River Chorale	Roseau	MN
Saint Paul Vocal Forum	Saint Paul	MN
Singers in Accord	Minneapolis	MN
South Shore Chorale	Fond du Lac	WI

Southern Lakes Masterpiece Chorale	Janesville	WI
St. John's Oratorio Chorus	Minneapolis	MN
Sweet Adelines - Yahara River Chorus	Lodi	WI
the Gar Lockrem Community Choir	West St. Paul	MN
The Lutheran A Cappella Choir of Milwaukee	Milwaukee	WI
The Master Singers	Eau Claire	WI
The Summer Singers	Minneapolis	MN
Twin Cities Gay Men's Chorus	Minneapolis	MN
Twin Cities Master's Chorale	Brooklyn Park	MN
Two Rivers Chorale	Coon Rapids	MN
Una Vocis Choral Ensemble	Mason City	IA
UW-L Choral Union	La Crosse	WI
Valley Chamber Chorale	Stillwater	MN
Voices of Omaha	Omaha	NE
Waupaca Community Chorus and civic orchestra	Waupaca	WI
Youth Chorale of Central Minnesota	Saint Cloud	MN
Winnebagoland Barbershop Chorus	Oshkosh	WI