



River City
Mixed Chorus

OMAHA'S GLBTA CHORUS



June 18

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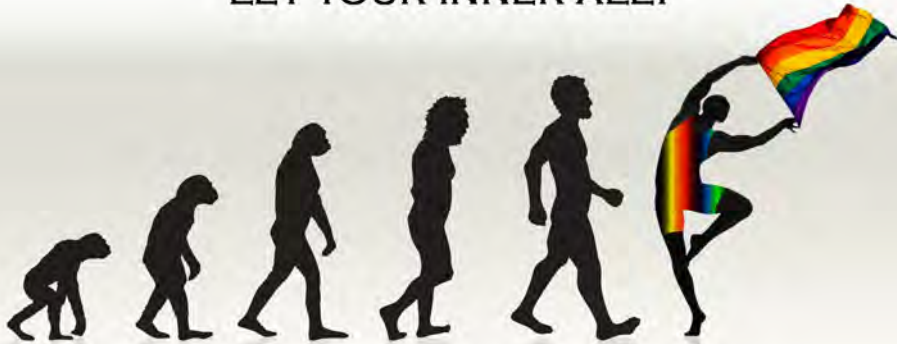
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Welcome from the Artistic Director

Welcome to "On with the Show," a concert celebrating contemporary Broadway and Pop hits all centered on the themes of resiliency, perseverance, and hope! With songs from *Fame*, *Chicago*, *Hairspray*, and more, this show is filled with great music with a great message that resonates so strongly with the GLBT movement; when life knocks us down (and perhaps even kicks us while we're there), we get up, we keep going, we rise again, knowing that it gets better and love awaits. This type of determination is what motivates this fine ensemble to keep sharing its voice with the Omaha community and beyond. We are so glad to return to Omaha's premiere concert venue, the Holland Performing Arts Center, and we are so thankful that you have decided to join us.



In only a couple of weeks, we will be traveling to share pieces of this same concert with hundreds of other like-minded choruses in Denver, CO, as GALA Choruses (Gay and Lesbian Association of Choruses) celebrates its quadrennial festival. We are proud to represent Omaha at this Festival on July 4 as one of the oldest mixed GLBT choruses in the country (and Nebraska's only!), and this will be our 9th appearance at a GALA Festival – a history and legacy of this chorus and this community of which truly to be proud.

As we anticipate a bright future for this ensemble, embarking on our first 5-concert season in 2016-2017 and celebrating our passion for our community and for being a strong musical voice in it, I hope you will consider helping us serve our mission. No matter your talents, there is a spot for you in our organization; whether as a singer (please join us at auditions in August!), volunteer, organizer, donor, or patron, all you have to do is email us through our website, www.rcmc.org, to get started. You won't regret becoming a part of the River City Mixed Chorus family—I know I haven't.

A. Barron Breland



**Creating exceptional musical experiences to support diversity,
inspire change, and empower communities.**

Welcome from the Board of Directors' Chair



On behalf of the Board of Directors, I am honored to welcome you here tonight. The stage has been set, musicians warmed and rehearsed, months of preparation behind us. What should be a celebration of love, equality, and hope for the members of River City Mixed Chorus has become shadowed by grief and loss. The events that occurred just one week ago in Orlando are a harsh reminder of the work we still have left to do. There is a perception that because we live in more progressive times, where so many are affirming and welcoming, that things are ok. That perception has been shattered. The struggle for rights and opportunities that seem so basic - the right to raise a family, to use the bathroom of your gender, to be with your community for a night of relaxation and socializing, without fear, continues. This is why we sing!

The River City Mixed Chorus has, for 33 years, been a voice of hope for the Omaha LGBTQ community. With each note and graceful harmony sung, we've expanded horizons, opened minds, and inspired change. That is our message. That is our song. But still for too many, the song they are playing marginalizes, is unwelcoming and pushes some toward hateful ideologies. This is why we sing!

The theme of tonight's show is so fitting as we stand with our brothers and sisters in solidarity and in love. It's a theme of perseverance, to continue the fight despite the difficulties and challenges presented along the way. It is our hope that tonight's songs will resonate with each of you. That you walk away having experienced moments of laughter, sorrow, reflection and comfort. This is why we sing!

We thank each and every one of you for your contributions to our organization. Whether you are a volunteer, individual donor, corporate sponsor, or audience member, we simply could not be here, on this beautiful stage, with another successful season behind us, without you. And our future is brighter than ever. The 2016-2017 season is filled with new opportunities and collaborations that are sure to entertain and inspire. You are why we sing!

So with that, it's time to get On With The Show! To find a more necessary message and a group more honored and qualified to deliver it, would likely be impossible.

Julie L. Heacock

RCMC COMMITTEE CHAIRS

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Vicki Rushlau

Marketing

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Fundraising

Julie L. Heacock

Production

Michele Yindrick

Mission and Engagement

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GALA

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River City Mixed Chorus

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Welcome from the Chorus President

Again, River City Mixed Chorus has the pleasure of performing for you from the stage here at the beautiful Holland Performing Arts Center. For this show, we continue our journey with music that provides us with words of hope and love, strength, resilience and inspiration. We all just need a little reminder to "Always Look on the Bright Side of Life!"



There are many songs in tonight's concert that you will recognize. What I find amazing about these selections is that I never really thought of them as songs with a message about hope or resilience, but they really are! They tell us in both serious and silly ways how great life really is! How the journey that we're on can be difficult but so worth the effort. The music reflects how we feel about facing those journeys. Though this is my last message to you as the RCMC Chorus President, it's not my last concert by a long shot! There are so many wonderful things ahead for our Chorus that I wouldn't want to miss a single thing. I've truly enjoyed my time as Chorus President and loved playing a part on this journey that we're on. For me, RCMC has always been a place of love and friendship and family.

So, sit back, relax and prepare yourself. Let us show you the kind of "Razzle Dazzle" that we do best!

Vicki Rushlau

Radical.

That was Jesus, alright. Who ever heard of loving *everybody*?

SUNDAY SCHEDULE

Adult discussion group: 9:10 a.m.

Music & message for all ages: 10:30 a.m.



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A. Barron Breland, DM

Artistic Director



A. Barron Breland joined the River City Mixed Chorus as Artistic Director in January, 2011. With degrees in Music Theory and Choral Conducting from the University of Georgia and Indiana University, Breland has a diverse background in many different fields of music, including the piano and saxophone. Singing from the age of 6, Breland's first exposure to professional choral music was in 1990 as a member of the Atlanta Boy Choir where he performed with Robert

Shaw and the Atlanta Symphony Orchestra, as well as in tours and festivals throughout Europe.

Breland has emerged from a new generation of conductors, set apart from others by his eclectic interests and skills equipped to perform music from masterworks of the Baroque and Classic eras to great contemporary works of art, including repertoire in various popular styles. Breland completed his doctorate in choral conducting at the Jacobs School of Music at IU in 2009, where he has been a member of the choral conducting faculty, preparing the University Singers for a performance with Dale Warland in 2008, and giving over 12 performances as guest conductor of the 120-member Grammy-nominated Singing Hoosiers.

Currently Breland is on faculty at Creighton University in Omaha, Nebraska, conducting the Chamber Choir, teaching classes in music history and music theory, and assuming the duties of Chair of the Fine and Performing Arts Department in July of this year. In his tenure at Creighton, the Chamber Choir has performed at NMEA and ACDA conferences, and they are performing the core repertoire of the virtuoso chamber ensemble. The Chamber Choir has also begun to perform regularly with the Omaha Symphony, including solo engagements. Breland was named Nebraska Choral Directors Association's Outstanding Young Choral Director of 2012.

Keith Hart

Accompanist

Keith has been playing the piano his entire life. He loves accompanying and has played for a wide range of soloists, ensembles, and choirs over the years. He holds a Bachelor's degree in music education with an emphasis in piano from Northwest Missouri State University, and a Master of Fine Arts degree from the University of Missouri - Kansas City. Once a public school music teacher, Keith eventually turned his attention to the world of theatre and has worked as pianist, musical director, and scenic designer for numerous theatrical productions at various Omaha area theaters, including SNAP, Shelterbelt, Bellevue Little Theatre, Chanticleer, Stages of Omaha, and the Omaha Playhouse. Before coming to Omaha he worked on productions at Starlight Theatre, Quality Hill Playhouse, and the Unicorn Theatre in Kansas City. He has also been a church musician most of his life and currently accompanies the choir of the First Unitarian Church of Omaha. In recent years Keith has worked in arts administration, and at present is the Business/Grant Manager for THE ARTERY, a local non-profit that brings arts programming to area schools. This is Keith's first season with the River City Mixed Chorus.



Patrick Roddy

Choreographer



Patrick is happy to be designing the choreography for the River City Mixed Chorus! His work has also been seen at SNAP! Productions, the Shelterbelt Theatre, BroadStreet Productions, the Ak-Sar-Ben Coronation, the Omaha Community Playhouse, the Nebraska Theatre Caravan and Creighton University, where he is Dance Coordinator.

Vicki Rushlau

Chorus President



Vicki Rushlau is a native Nebraskan and is in her seventh season with the River City Mixed Chorus. She has worked at Mutual of Omaha for 35 years and is a Senior Administrative Assistant in the Marketing & Communications Division. In her spare time, when there is any, she enjoys reading, listening to music, camping with her wife and friends, and hanging out with her mom, her children and her grandchildren. Her friends describe her as fun loving, reliable/dependable, and genuine.

Though Vicki sang all of her life in church and school, it wasn't until finding RCMC that she finally found the joy again that being part of a chorus can bring. Being a member of the Chorus has brought the music and the passion for it back to her life. And for Vicki, RCMC is so much more than just the music -- Chorus has given her so many new and wonderful family members!

Stephanie Vik

Sign Language Interpreter

Stephanie received her A.A.S degree in 2004 from Iowa Western Community College where she was a student in the Interpreter Training Program. Upon graduation, she began working at the University of Nebraska at Omaha. She has worked as a sign language interpreter at UNO for twelve years, the last ten as the Interpreter Coordinator in the Accessibility Services Center. Stephanie has also interpreted numerous plays at The Rose Theatre, with *The Sound of Music* listed as her favorite.



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16/ 17 SEASON



RCMC travels to Lincoln, NE for the third straight year for a concert intended to foster the spirit of giving. In lieu of ticketed admission, free-will donations will be accepted at the door to benefit a local, Lincoln non-profit organization.

This performance is made possible, in part, by sponsorship from Lincoln's Plymouth Pride Fellowship.

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The candle symbolizes light in the darkness of life; a symbol of love and of hope. Join RCMC this holiday season as we present musical selections of song and dance, inspired by the symbolism and meaning of light. Musical performances including Whitaker's *Lux Aurumque*, Michael Issacson's *Light the Legend*, and *Candle on the Water* from *Pete's Dragon* demonstrate how the symbol of light holds us all together regardless of the religious foundations our traditions come from.

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AUDITIONS

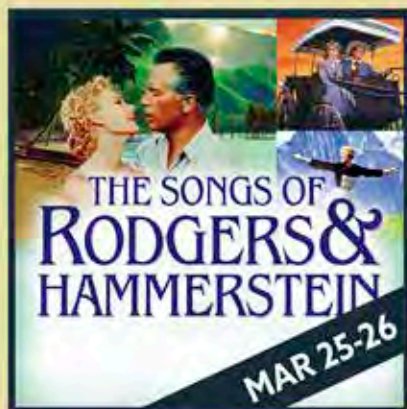
Have you ever thought about being a singing member of the River City Mixed Chorus? Now's your chance!

AUGUST 8 @ 6 PM
First United Methodist Church
70th & Cass Streets - Omaha

For more information or to schedule an audition time, please contact audition@RCMC.org



River City Mixed Chorus



Treasured favorites from *The Sound of Music*, *The King and I*, *Oklahoma!*, and *South Pacific* come to life when a Broadway cast, RCMC, and the Creighton University Chamber Choir join the Omaha Symphony to perform the timeless words and music of Broadway's greatest songwriting duo.

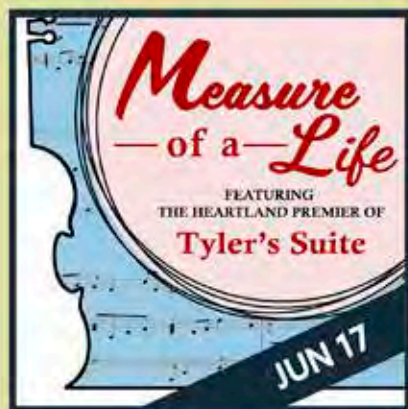


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Dan Savage's three simple words - it gets better - reach into the hearts of LGBTQ youth and inspire them with the message that darkness can give way to a brighter future. RCMC will join the Gay Men's Chorus of LA touring ensemble onstage for an exciting and funny story with moments of both pain and pathos, featuring poignant narratives of growing up gay.



ORPHEUM THEATER
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RCMC will once again take the Holland stage for the Heartland premier of Tyler's Suite, a new and lauded nine-movement choral piece dedicated to the memory of Tyler Clementi, a talented young musician who died by suicide after being bullied by his college roommate. This powerful concert will help shine a light of hope for a safer, kinder world.

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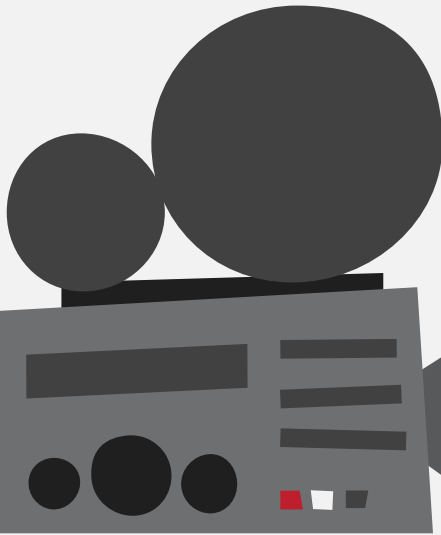


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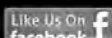


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Somebody's Got Your Back from *Aladdin*

Music by Alan Menken
Lyrics by Chad Beguelin
Arranged by Mark Brymer

Something's Coming/Tonight from *West Side Story*

Music by Leonard Bernstein
Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Arranged by Ed Lojeski

No One Is Alone from *Into the Woods*

Music and Lyrics by Stephen Sondheim
Arranged by Mark Brymer

Titanium

Music & Lyrics by David Guetta,
Sia Furler, Giorgio Tuinfort, and
Nik van de Wall

Kerrin Hoyer and Micaela Hoyer, *sopranos*

Some Nights

Music and Lyrics by Nate Ruess, Andrew Dost,
Jack Antonoff, and Jeffrey Bhasker
Arranged by Andy Beck

Emily Barker, *soprano* and Karen Davidson-Fisher, *mezzo-soprano*

You Haven't Seen the Last of Me from *Burlesque*

Music and Lyrics by Diane Warren
Arranged by Greg Gilpin

Rebecca Ahlers, *mezzo-soprano*

The Impossible Dream from *Man of La Mancha*

Music by Mitch Leigh
Lyrics by Joe Darion
Arranged by Mark Hayes

Almost There from *The Princess and the Frog*

Music and Lyrics by Randy Newman
Valerie Haynes, *soprano*

Always Look on the Bright Side of Life from *Monty Python's Spamalot*

Music and Lyrics by Eric Idle
Arranged by Mac Huff

Donald-Brian Johnson, *baritone* and Richard Murphy, *tenor*

20-MINUTE INTERMISSION

Come So Far (Got So Far to Go) from *Hairspray*

Music by Marc Shaiman
Lyrics by Scott Wittman and Marc Shaiman
Arranged by Alan Billingsley

Travis Wilcox, *tenor* and Kimberly Pearce, *soprano*

Razzle Dazzle from *Chicago*

Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Arranged by Larry Shackley

Maybe This Time from *Cabaret*

Music by John Kander
Lyrics by Fred Ebb
Arranged by Ed Lojeski

I'll Be Here Tomorrow from *The Grand Tour*

Music and Lyrics by Jerry Herman
Arranged by Ed Lojeski

Bring on Tomorrow from *Fame*

Music by Jacques Levy
Lyrics by Steve Margoshes
Arranged by Greg Gilpin

Don't Nobody Bring Me No Bad News from *The Wiz*

Music and Lyrics by Charlie Smalls
Arranged by Larry Shackley

Sarah Phelps, *mezzo-soprano*

One Song

Music and Lyrics by Alan Bergman,
Marilyn Bergman, and Marvin Hamlisch
Arranged by Kirby Shaw

This concert is made possible, in part, through funding from



The Nebraska Arts Council, a state agency, has supported this program through its matching grants program funded by the Nebraska Legislature, the National Endowment for the Arts and the Nebraska Cultural Endowment. Please visit www.nebraskaartscouncil.org for information on how the Nebraska Arts Council can assist your organization, or how you can support the Nebraska Cultural Endowment.

RCMC Singers

Soprano

Jess Baker* (1)
 Emily Barker (3)
 Melinda Bohannon* (5)
 Sue Chamberlin (21)
 Beth Davis (7)
 Cassandra Fife-Havranek (3)
 Maeghan Fry (5)
 Connie Grant-Leanna (4)
 Judith Hancock (29)
 Valerie Haynes (10)
 Julie Heacock † (10)
 Natalie Hearn (8)
 Stacy Heilig* (2)
 Kerrin Hoyer (14)
 Micaela Hoyer (8)
 Cameron Koenig † (6)
 Sue Lively (11)
 Jillian McCall (7)
 Jessica Melo (11)
 Marge Mullin* (3)
 Crystal Olson (12)
 Kimberly Pearce (5)
 Sara Peterson (7)
 Kelsey Scovill* (1)
 Lynell Stafford (2)
 Suzy Stark (2)
 Heidi Thompson (4)
 Christina Thornton (5)
 Megan Van Alstine † (14)
 Gretchen Woods (3)
 Wendy Wright* (21)

Alto

Rebecca Ahlers (3)
 Wendy Austin (4)
 Antonia Bonsera (8)
 Anna Brun (6)
 Emily Crawford* (5)
 Karen Davidson-Fisher (23)
 Emily Ertzner (2)
 Laura Finken* (13)
 Mary Gerant* (3)
 Jody Gernandt (9)
 Vicki Grunwald † (16)
 Ashley Hamilton (5)
 Renae Hinrichs (2)
 Gloria Jensen † (14)
 Krissa Lee-Regier (16)
 Laura Leeds (9)
 Joyce McVicker (9)
 Alyson Meadows † (17)
 Nancy Mealey (8)
 Nick Peters* (4)
 Sarah Phelps (18)
 Didi Poitier † (4)
 Carol Ramsey (8)
 Vicki Rushlau (16)
 Robin Sheldrake (2)
 Kathleen Smith* (2)
 LaRaine Staats (6)
 Rachael Vacanti (11)
 Michele Yindrick (11)

Tenor

Matthew Bang (2)
 Sam Barker (2)
 Roger Bennett (47)
 Bryan Crawford (10)
 Mike Crum (3)
 Mark Curley † (18)
 Michael Deatz* (7)
 Randall Donner (7)
 Dana Evans (3)
 T. Adam Goos* (4)
 Joseph Holbrook (2)
 Vic Kiefer (3)
 Andrew Klinkenborg* (3)
 Duane Lundeen (14)
 Mark Marchese (16)
 Brian Margritz* (2)
 Jerry Meis (21)
 Michael Meriwether (5)
 Stephen Moore (7)
 Richard Murphy (5)
 Nicholas Nichols † (2)
 Nikolai Shapoval (3)
 Mark Van Kekerix † (23)
 Harley Waldstein (3)
 Travis Wilcox † (24)
 Larry Wilson (27)
 Paul Yeoh* (3)

Bass

Brian D. Adams (31)
 Dan Adams (19)
 Stan Brown (64)
 Bill Canney (6)
 Andrew Cleveland (2)
 Chris Davis (28)
 Lance Glunz* (5)
 Jordan Goodman* (8)
 Victor Hahn (25)
 Chris Holst (44)
 Donald-Brian Johnson (10)
 Jeff Lively (5)
 Scott Miller (21)
 Gene Moore (5)
 Steven Nichols* (16)
 Tom Nielsen † (28)
 Pat Rapier (18)
 Michael Taylor-Stewart † (18)
 Adam Witte † (3)
 Brian Wyant (14)
 Peggy Zellner (5)
 Phil Zellner (3)

† Featured Dancer
 * Leave of Absence

Membership Pins

River City Mixed Chorus members are proudly wearing lapel pins to signify their years of service to the Chorus. The number in parentheses behind each member's name shows how many concerts a member has sung. Each bar on the pin, represented as a color of the rainbow, indicates the number of concerts as shown below. Members will continue to accrue new bars to add to their pins in the future.



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*Thank you River City Mixed Chorus
for the joy you bring to our lives.*

-MaryAnn and Allie

MaryAnn Calta, LCSW, LMHP, CMSW, MDiv

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GALA Choruses is the leading association committed to serving the GLBT choral movement in the US and abroad. Our 150-plus member choruses and 7,500 singers look to us repeatedly for support and leadership. We are dedicated to providing organizational support and helping our choruses to be strong both artistically and professionally.

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GALA Choruses serves choruses that range in size from five to over 250 singers. Member choruses are located throughout North America, Europe, South America, Africa, and Australia. GALA Choruses was formed in 1982 by a few visionary leaders among GLBT choruses.

Based in Pittsburgh, PA, GALA Choruses is a 501(c)(3) not-for-profit corporation with tax-exempt status in the United States.

ARTISTIC TEAM

Dr. A. Barron Breland
Artistic Director

Keith Hart
Accompanist

Patrick Roddy
Choreographer

Kerrin Hoyer
Crystal Olson

Soprano Section Leaders

Gloria Jensen
Joyce McVicker
Alto Section Leaders

Michael Deatz
Mark Van Kekerix
Tenor Section Leader

Brian D. Adams
Dan Adams
Bass Section Leaders

Stephanie Vik
ASL Interpreter



PRODUCTION TEAM

Michele Yindrick
Production Manager

Chris Davis
Jerry Meis

Costume Managers

Nancy Mealey
Chris Holst
Richard Murphy
Michael Taylor-Stewart
Mark Van Kekerix
Brian D. Adams
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Michael Deatz
Music Librarian

MUSICIANS

Vince Krysl
Percussion

Michael Gurciullo
Trumpet 1

Kori Archbold
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The River City Mixed Chorus acknowledges all persons and corporations who participate in our Producer's Circle of Giving. Your support and belief in the mission of our organization are commendable and for that we thank you! If you wish to become a member of our Producer's Circle of Giving, please visit www.RCMC.org/donate to learn about the benefits available to our supporters. RCMC is a 501(c)3 nonprofit. All donations are tax deductible.

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Ryan-Knicely Scholarship Fund

The Ryan-Knicely Scholarship Fund was created to ensure that there are no financial barriers to being a member of the Chorus for anyone who wants to sing. Chorus members in need of financial assistance can apply to the Board of Directors for help from the Fund with covering Chorus-related expenses. If you would like to make a donation to the Ryan-Knicely Scholarship Fund, please mail to River City Mixed Chorus, PO Box 3267, Omaha, NE 68103, or email us at fundraising@rcmc.org.

Contributions from June 1, 2015– May 31, 2016

Roger Bennett • Valerie Haynes • Kathleen Smith • Laura Finken
Judith Hancock • Travis Wilcox • Jody Gernandt • Laura Leeds
Gretchen Woods • Ashley Hamilton • Gerald Meis

Support the Endowment

The River City Mixed Chorus Endowment Fund was established by the Board of Directors in 2015. Administered by the Omaha Community Foundation, the Endowment Fund is a resource that will help ensure the long-term financial health of the Chorus. The Fund is setup so that the principal is not used, but proceeds from the principal will help fund the annual budget. The balance in the RCMC Endowment Fund is currently \$33,422.47. To contribute to the Endowment Fund with your tax-deductible contribution, please contact fundraising@rcmc.org or (402) 341-SING.

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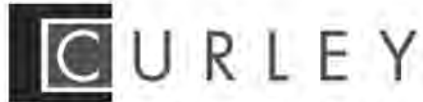


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*Best Wishes to the
River City Mixed Chorus on
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Very Special Acknowledgments

All Committee Chairs and Committee Members who donate their time and talents outside of the normal rehearsal schedule to ensure every aspect of RCMC's mission is achieved.

Bobbi Davidson-Fisher for accepting the role of Volunteer Coordinator for the River City Mixed Chorus.

Bart Cox and Kerrin Hoyer for completing a 3-year term on the RCMC Board of Directors.

Creighton University Fine and Performing Arts Department, and chair **Dr. Fred Hanna**, for the use of their percussion instruments.

Rev. Jane Florence and the staff of First United Methodist Church for providing RCMC with weekly rehearsal space and storage for RCMC's music library and equipment.

Jerry and staff at Oh-K Fast Print for timely creation and printing of the concert program.

Hank Kuhlmann for lending his time and vocal talents to record the Holland concert welcome message and RCMC promotional videos.

Mark Kurtz for recording rehearsal tracks for members to practice their music.

Norm Melichar, Steve Kovar, and Deb Melichar for their continued efforts in organizing raffles for RCMC concerts.

Pat Gromak for her years of service to RCMC and the Marketing Committee by coordinating the layout and creation of the concert program.

Ed Hurd, Cassandra Peterson, and the rest of the staff of the Holland Performing Arts Center and Omaha Performing Arts for making this RCMC Holland concert exceptional!

Physician's Mutual Print Services, guided by **Mike Lesley**, for their quality, cost-effective printing and accommodations in mailings and print media.

Val Haynes, Jennifer Johnson Weaver, Joe Reed, and Lauren Ramm for donating your time and talents at the RCMC Spring Retreat.

Special Thanks to:



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Italian, meaning "final song." In our hearts they will always live. Their love, their voices, and their smiles are forever imprinted in our minds. The River City Mixed Chorus remembers past members who have sung their canto ultimo.

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