

## Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra

The Sacramento Choral Society & Orchestra (SCSO) is an auditioned, volunteer chorus of 150-180 voices committed to the performance, education, and appreciation of a wide range of choral orchestral music for the Greater Sacramento, California Region. Their mission is to provide large-scale choral works at attractive family prices. The SCSO, previously the Sacramento Symphony Chorus, was formed as a California 501 c (3) nonprofit organization in 1996 when the Sacramento Symphony disbanded. The group is known as the Sacramento Choral Society (SCS) when not performing with orchestra.

The SCSO performs at the Sacramento Community Center Theater and Memorial Auditorium in Sacramento and Mondavi Center for the Performing Arts at the University of California at Davis. In 2009 the SCS initiated a *Sacramento Stained Glass Series* at Sacramento's landmark Cathedral of the Blessed Sacrament, a venue which allows performance of glorious smaller-scale repertoire in the more intimate acoustics of a church. Other Stained Glass venues include Fremont Presbyterian Church, featuring its new Reuter pipe organ and its renovated sanctuary.

The SCSO's repertoire embraces the great choral works from the Renaissance to contemporary composers. The organization takes great pride in regularly inviting world-class soloists to join their large team onstage. An annual *Home for the Holidays* concert series is a highly anticipated kick-off to the Christmas season. The SCSO has performed a number of pops programs including music of Rodgers & Hammerstein, Lerner & Loewe, and Cole Porter. The SCSO's programs are eclectic, global, and thrilling and each performance is world class.

The SCSO was founded by its artistic director Dr. Donald Kendrick, a passionate conductor and teacher whose love for music and understanding of its power truly inspires both performers and concert attendees alike. In addition to conducting the SCSO, he oversees several choruses at California State University Sacramento, as well as church groups, *Schola Cantorum* and *Vox Nova*.

The SCSO also serves as cultural ambassadors by regularly engaging in self-funded national and international tours. In 2003 Dr. Kendrick and the SCS performed Orff's *Carmina Burana* with the New England Symphonic Ensemble in New York's Carnegie Hall. The SCS toured Europe in 2004, performing with local orchestras in Munich, Vienna, Budapest, and Prague. The SCS toured China in 2006, performing a mostly a *capella* program in Beijing, Tianjin, Xian, Jinan, and on the Great Wall. In June 2008 the SCSO was proud to perform, with its own orchestra, the Mozart *Requiem* and the Lauridsen *Lux Aeterna* in Walt Disney Concert Hall in Los Angeles. In June 2009 the SCSO performed a program of Handel, Corigliano, Beethoven, and Rutter with organ in churches in Vancouver and Victoria, Canada.

The SCSO has recorded five CDs. *European Horizons* was recorded in Budapest in 2004, and *Eternal Light* was recorded in Los Angeles in 2008. *Carmina Burana* (2010), *Verdi Requiem* (2011) and *Home for the Holidays* (2011) were recorded live at the Mondavi Center.

In January 2011 KVIE Public TV's documentary, *Viewfinder: Sacramento Choral Society and Orchestra* debuted. This 30 minute program examines why the SCSO is one of the most unique choirs in the country and how singing enriches the lives of its members. In April 2012 the documentary was released for national distribution to Public Television stations.

The driving force behind the SCSO's success is found in its membership. The dedicated professional-caliber chorus members come from six different counties and donate more than 38,000 hours annually to make these large performances possible.

According to Chorus America in Washington, DC, the SCSO is the only community chorus among 12,000 community choruses in the U.S. to have a collective bargaining agreement with its own 55-member professional symphony orchestra. The orchestra adds rich beauty, talent and power to the experience that moves and inspires. The SCSO thus provides regular employment for local musicians. Since 1996 the SCSO has remunerated \$2 million to members of the American Federation of Musicians, Local 12.

But all of this artistry needs support behind the scenes. A 13-member Governing Board oversees the long-range planning and management of the corporation. A 50-member Chorus Operations Team helps the SCSO in the weekly management of music distribution, rehearsal schedules and attendance, ticket sales, parking, membership dues and many other tasks. This amazing team is one of the secrets of the SCSO's success. Five part-time professional volunteer office staff work closely with SCSO Board President James McCormick to take care of the important day-to-day operations for the organization.

Together, this large musical team creates five to seven large performances each year and regularly engages in many effective community outreach programs.

So what are the keys to the amazing success of this award-winning arts organization?

Certainly, they include hard work, talent, high expectations, dedication, fiscal and managerial accountability, and true professionalism.

Yet in the eyes of its members and its leaders, the most important element is passion: the love of the art they create, their priceless gift to grateful audiences around the world, and especially, in Sacramento.

### **Mission**

The SCSO is an auditioned, volunteer chorus with a professional orchestra committed to the performance, education, and appreciation of a wide range of choral orchestral music for the Greater Sacramento Region.

### **Slogan**

In Concert with the Community

## **Vision Statement**

Prominence & Permanence:

Prominence through continued artistic product. Permanence through financial stability.

## **Awards**

- *Best in Show 2000: Classical Music: Choral* - Sacramento Bee - January 2001
- *River City Small Business Consortium Small Non-Profit of the Year* – June 8, 2001
- *Arts Excellence Award* - Arts and Business Council of Sacramento - October 2001
- *Best of the Best Outstanding Nonprofit of the Year* - Nonprofit Resource Center, March 2002
- *Arts Executive of the Year Award* - Arts and Business Council of Sacramento - October 2003, James McCormick, SCSO Board President
- *Best Example of Talent and Efficiency* - Sacramento Magazine, Best of Sacramento - November 2003
- *Sacramento News and Review Jammies*, Sacramento Youth Chorus – February 15, 2004
- *Sacramento City Council Resolution* – Honoring the SCSO's arts leadership – February 2005
- *Sacramento County Board of Supervisors – Honoring the SCSO's Civic Engagement in the Arts* – April 2005
- *Senator Barbara Boxer Certificate of Appreciation for Civic Engagement in the Arts* – November 2006
- *Best in Classical Music 2007* - Verdi Requiem, March 2007 – Sacramento Bee
- *Sacramento City Council Resolution* – Honoring Donald Kendrick's 25 years of nurturing the arts in Sacramento, April 16, 2010
- *People Helping People 2010 Senior Volunteer Award* – Community Services Planning Council –honoring SCSO Board Member Caroline Schaefer
- *Enlow & Melena A. Ose Endowment for the Arts Make It Happen Award*, 2010, honoring SCSO Board Member Caroline Schaefer – \$10,000 award seeded the SCSO endowment at the Sacramento Region Community Foundation
- *The American Prize in Choral Performance*, 2010, Community Chorus Division, Third Place, July 2010
- *The American Prize in Conducting*, 2010, Choral Division Finalist Donald Kendrick, July 2010
- *Arts Innovation Fund Award*, a competition sponsored by the Irvine Arts Fund of the Sacramento Region Community Foundation, 2<sup>nd</sup> Place – August 2010
- *Music Community Engagement Award*, by Russian American Media – February 21, 2012

## **Major Repertoire**

Bach – *Christ lag in Todesbanden*, *The Magnificat*

Beethoven – *Ninth Symphony*  
Berlioz – *Requiem*  
Brahms – *Ein Deutsches Requiem*  
Corigliano – *Fern Hill*  
Durufié – *Requiem*  
Dvorak – *Requiem, Stabat Mater, Te Deum*  
Elgar – *The Dream of Gerontius, The Music Makers*  
Haydn – *The Creation, Harmoniemesse, Lord Nelson Mass*  
Holst – *The Hymn of Jesus*  
Lauridsen – *Lux Aeterna*  
Mendelssohn – *Elijah*  
Monteverdi – *Laetatus Sum*  
Mozart – *Great Mass in C Minor, Coronation Mass, Requiem*  
Orff – *Carmina Burana*  
Rossini – *Stabat Mater*  
Vaughan Williams – *Dona Nobis Pacem, A Sea Symphony, Serenade to Music, Song of Thanksgiving, Five Mystical Songs*  
Verdi – *Requiem*  
Willcocks – *A Great and Glorious Victory*  
Walton – *Belshazzar's Feast*