



A Premier New York Symphonic Chorus

The New York Choral Society (NYCS), founded in 1958, has become known by audiences and critics for the quality of its performances and the diversity of its repertoire, which encompasses well-known choral masterworks as well as many compositions rarely heard in concert halls. The NYCS has presented eleven world premieres and has commissioned works by Paul Alan Levi, Morton Gould, Stephen Paulus, and Robert De Cormier.

The NYCS just completed its gala 50th anniversary season that included the immensely popular *A Holiday Celebration with Peter, Paul & Mary* in Carnegie Hall on December 5, 2008, as well as a special 50th anniversary concert on April 23, 2009. Three unique works were featured on this program: Vaughan Williams' *Dona Nobis Pacem*, Rossini's *Stabat Mater*, and *Whitman's New York*, a work commissioned for this special 50th season from celebrated composer Stephen Paulus.

In celebration of the Chinese New Year on January 26, 2009, the New York Choral Society performed with the Qingdao Symphony, conducted by longtime friend of the NYCS, Yong Yan Hu, in Carnegie Hall. The program, half Chinese and half American, included the world premiere of an oboe concerto by the brilliant 25 year-old principal oboist of the New York Philharmonic, Llang Wang, and Leonard Bernstein's symphony suite from *West Side Story*. Gershwin's *Porgy & Bess Suite* was performed by the NYCS.

In 2007-2008, the NYCS presented its popular *New York Choral Society Celebrates the Holidays* at Carnegie Hall on December 20 and on May 3, 2008 presented the Berlioz *Requiem*. The chorus participated in six guest engagements during the season.

Guest Performances

The NYCS is frequently in demand as guest artists. During the 2008-2009 season, the NYCS continued a special tradition for our city by performing in St. Patrick's Cathedral on September 11th for the fourth time as part of the September Concert Foundation's commemorative concerts throughout the city. The chorus returned for its 16th appearance at the Richard Tucker Music Gala in Avery Fisher Hall. During the 2007-2008 season the chorus performed *Carmina Burana* with the Pennsylvania Ballet four times at City Center. The NYCS made two appearances with the international superstar tenor Andrea Bocelli and made a guest appearance with the Opera Orchestra of New York performing Bellini's *La Sonnambula* in February. In April, the NYCS again performed with the OONY in Puccini's *Edgar*.



In 2006-2007, the NYCS appeared with Andrea Bocelli in Madison Square Garden, having previously appeared with Bocelli in 2005 at the Wachovia Center in Philadelphia and at the Continental Airlines Arena in New Jersey. Other guest appearances included its 14th appearance with the Richard Tucker Music Foundation Gala, an engagement with the Opera Orchestra of New York, featuring Celia's *L'Arlesiana* and a performance of Bruckner's *Te Deum* with the New Jersey Youth Symphony at NJPAC. In addition to its 2005 appearance with Andrea Bocelli, the NYCS also appeared at Jazz at Lincoln Center in a gala for the Fortune 500 and made a recording with Cirque du Soleil.

In 2004 the chorus appeared with *Dancing in the Streets* in the Grand Steps Project and with the Buglisi/Foreman Dance in four performances of a commissioned score. In May 2003, the NYCS appeared with the American Ballet Theatre at the Metropolitan Opera House for seven performances of *HereAfter*, choreographed to the music of John Adams's *Harmonium* and Carl Orff's *Carmina Burana*.

Other NYCS guest appearances include Andrea Bocelli at Liberty State Park, broadcast live on PBS; Celine Dion at Radio City; and NBC's Today Show. The NYCS has performed with the American Composers Orchestra, American Symphony Orchestra, Brooklyn Philharmonic, Dallas Symphony, Juilliard Symphony, Lincoln Center Festival, New Jersey Symphony, New York City Ballet, New York Philharmonic, Opera Orchestra of New York, and at the 1998 Grammy Awards. Guest conductors have included: Charles Barker, Leonard Bernstein, Sergiu Comissiona, Dennis Russell Davies, Asher Fisch, Lukas Foss, Yong-yan Hu, Jaja Ling, Zubin Mehta, Yehudi Menuhin, Steven Mercurio, John Nelson, Daniel Oren, Robert Page, Eve Queler, Julius Rudel, Robert Shaw, Leonard Slatkin, Robert Spano, Michael Tilson Thomas, Roger Wagner, and Hugh Wolff. The NYCS A Holiday Celebration with Peter, Paul & Mary has been broadcast annually on PBS since 1989.

Tours

The NYCS frequently tours. In 2008, the chorus traveled to Beijing at the invitation of the Chinese Ministry of Culture and the China Performing Arts Agency to perform three concerts in the Olympic Cultural Festival.

In the summer of 2006, NYCS members toured Italy, performing at the Chiesa di Santo Stefano in Venice and at the Basilica San Marco. In 2005, members toured Shanghai where they performed Mendelssohn's *Elijah* with the Shanghai Opera Chorus and Orchestra in the Singing for the Future choral exchange project. In 2004, the NYCS had a triumphant tour of France, where they performed Mozart's *Mass in C Minor* and Morton Lauridsen's *Lux Aeterna* at the Les Flâneries Musicales d'Été de Reims and at Chartres Cathedral. They also performed at the Cathedral of Notre Dame de Paris.

Members of the NYCS performed a series of concerts in China with dynamic young conductor Yong-yan Hu and the Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra at the Beijing Music Festival in October 2002. On that tour, the chorus also performed the Chinese premiere of Mahler's *Eighth Symphony* in Beijing with a 1,000-voice chorus from four countries and a 180-piece orchestra.

In July 2001, the NYCS made a successful tour to China where it performed the Verdi *Requiem* and Beethoven's *Ninth Symphony* at the Shanghai Grand Theater and a concert of all-American music at the New Century Theater in Beijing. Other tours have taken the chorus to Austria, Greece, the former Yugoslavia, Israel and the Czech Republic.

Recordings

New York Choral Society recordings include *Christmas is Coming*; Randall Thompson's *Frostiana* and *Testament of Freedom*; *Carmina Burana* by Carl Orff; *Mark Twain Suite* by Paul Alan Levi; *Christmastide* by Donald Fraser, with Jessye Norman; *A Holiday Celebration with Peter, Paul & Mary*, arranged by Robert DeCormier; *Floodland* with The Sisters Of Mercy; *Songs of Liberty*, arranged by Robert DeCormier; *Legacy and Four Sonnets to Orpheus* by Robert DeCormier; and Kodály's *Missa Brevis* and Vaughan Williams's *Mass in G Minor*.

The NYCS is the parent organization of the New York Choral Society Chamber Singers. Composed of NYCS members and conducted by NYCS assistant conductor Michael Ciavaglia, the Chamber Singers gave its inaugural performance in November

2008. The Chamber Singers presented a 50th anniversary performance of Randall Thompson's Frostiana along with the works of Johannes Brahms, Cecil Effinger, and Eric Whitacre on May 9, 2009.

Each summer the New York Choral Society produces a popular series of Summer Sings, open readings of the choral literature led by prominent conductors in the New York area.

For more information about the New York Choral Society please visit the website at www.nychoral.org.

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Revised: May 2009



John Daly Goodwin

Music Director, New York Choral Society

Over the last twenty-two seasons, John Daly Goodwin, Music Director, has led the New York Choral Society to new musical dimensions as he builds upon an honored fifty-year tradition of choral excellence. His leadership and vision have made the New York Choral Society the artists of choice for the American Ballet Theatre, Richard Tucker Music Foundation, September Concert Foundation, and the Shanghai Symphony Broadcasting Orchestra. Under his direction, the New York Choral Society has performed in the People's Republic of China, the Czech Republic, Israel, Austria, France, Italy, and Greece.

Mr. Goodwin has conducted many performances to critical acclaim, including Mahler's Eighth Symphony, Beethoven's Missa Solemnis, and the Requiems of Verdi, Mozart and Brahms. He has conducted more than ninety concerts around New York City, including thirty in Carnegie Hall and seven at Lincoln Center, and nine international concert tours, conducting the Shanghai Symphony Broadcasting Orchestra, the Collegium Ducale in Venice, the Orchestre Symphonique Bell'Arte of Paris, the Qingdao Symphony, and the Delaware Symphony Orchestra.

Mr. Goodwin has been selected to prepare choruses for such prominent conductors as Leonard Bernstein, Dennis Russell Davies, Asher Fisch, Yong Yan Hu, Yehudi Menuhin, Eve Queler, Julius Rudel, Gerard Schwarz, Leonard Slatkin, and Robert Spano. Beyond the concert stage, Mr. Goodwin has conducted or prepared choruses for seventeen national television broadcasts, including the 1998 Grammy Awards with Celine Dion, the Richard Tucker Music Foundation Gala, *Today* on NBC and several concerts featuring Andrea Bocelli..

In addition to his work with the New York Choral Society, Mr. Goodwin



serves on the music faculty at New York University, where he teaches conducting and conducts the Choral Arts Society. He has also led the Choral Society of the Hamptons, the Westchester Concert Singers, and the Richmond Choral Society in numerous concert series, achieving “triumphant” critical acclaim.

Within Mr. Goodwin’s extensive repertoire, he has specialized in the music of twentieth-century American composers. More than half of his concert repertoire includes works by John Adams, Samuel Barber, Aaron Copland, George Gershwin, Philip Glass, Charles Ives, Morton Lauridsen, Stephen Paulus, and Conrad Susa.

With a strong personal commitment to music education, Mr. Goodwin has done extensive volunteer work with young aspiring musicians. Through Young Audiences, Artsgenesis, and the New York Choral Society’s Mini Maestros program, he has brought the gift of music to thousands of children in more than fifty New York City public schools.

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Guest Appearances

Orchestras

- New York Philharmonic
- American Symphony Orchestra
- Metropolitan Opera Orchestra
- American Ballet Theatre Orchestra
- New York City Ballet Orchestra
- American Composers Orchestra
- Brooklyn Philharmonic
- New Jersey Symphony Orchestra
- Shanghai Broadcasting Symphony Orchestra
- Opera Orchestra of New York
- China Philharmonic
- Delaware Symphony
- Hartford Symphony
- Orchestre Bell'Arte (Paris)
- Dallas Symphony
- Juilliard Symphony
- Orchestra of Saint Luke's
- Collegium Ducale Orchestra (Venice)
- Qingdao Symphony

Conductors

- Charles Barker
- Leonard Bernstein
- Sergiu Comissiona
- Dennis Russell Davies
- Lukas Foss
- Margaret Hillis
- Yong Yan Hu
- Jaja Ling
- Zubin Mehta
- Yehudi Menuhin
- Steven Mercurio
- John Nelson
- Daniel Oren
- Robert Page
- Eve Queler
- Julius Rudel
- Robert Shaw
- Leonard Slatkin
- Robert Spano
- Michael Tilson Thomas
- Roger Wagner
- Hugh Wolff
- Long Yu

**Guest Appearance Highlights continued on
following page**

Guest Appearance Highlights

- Richard Tucker Music Foundation Gala
- Opera Orchestra of New York
- Buglisi/Foreman Dance
- Today Show (NBC)
- American Ballet Theatre
- Andrea Bocelli at Liberty State Park, Wachovia Center (Philadelphia), Continental Airlines Arena (New Jersey), Madison Square Garden
- New York City Ballet
- Pennsylvania Ballet
- September Concert Festival (St. Patrick's Cathedral)
- Dancing in the Streets
- Jose Limon Dance Company
- Celine Dion at Radio City Music Hall
- Grammy® Awards, 1998
- Cirque du Soleil
- Fortune 500 Gala
- Wall-to-Wall Bernstein, Wall-to-Wall Frank Loesser
- St. Patrick's Cathedral Christmas Concert

Recent Tours

- 2008: Beijing and Qingdao (Olympic Cultural Festival)
- 2006: Venice
- 2005: Shanghai
- 2004: Paris, Reims and Chartres, France (Flaneries Musicales d'Ete)
- 2002: Shanghai and Beijing (Beijing Music Festival)
- 2001: Shanghai and Beijing
- 1998: Czech Republic and Greece (Santorini Music Festival)
- 1995: Jerusalem and Tel Aviv, Israel (Zimriya Festival)
- 1991: Austria (Mozart bicentennial)

New York Choral Society Recordings

- Christmas is Coming (an album of Christmas music)
- Frostiana and Testament of Freedom (Randall Thompson)
- Carmina Burana (Carl Orff)
- Mark Twain Suite (Paul Alan Levi)
- Christmastide (Donald Fraser), with Jessye Norman
- A Holiday Celebration with Peter, Paul & Mary, arranged by Robert De Cormier
- Floodland with The Sisters Of Mercy
- Songs of Liberty, arranged by Robert De Cormier
- Legacy and Four Sonnets to Orpheus (Robert De Cormier)
- Missa Brevis (Kodaly) and Mass in G Minor (Vaughan Williams), nominated for a Grammy® Award

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The Critics Speak

"The New York Choral Society was in fine form in that excerpt and throughout the evening"

—Vivien Schweitzer, *The New York Times*

"Asher Fisch led members of the Metropolitan Opera Orchestra and the New York Choral Society in rousing performances."

—Vivian Schweitzer, *The New York Times*

"The New York City Choral Society was excellent: they were best in their unaccompanied singing."

—Jay Nordlinger, *The New York Sun*

(for performance of *L'Arlesiana* with the Opera Orchestra of New York)

"The New York Choral Society [sang] winningly"

—Bernard Holland, *The New York Times*

(for performance of *Lakmé* with the Opera Orchestra of New York)

"...terrific job"

—Anne Midgette, *The New York Times*

(for performance of *Mignon* with Opera Orchestra of New York)

"For nearly half a century, the New York Choral Society has been one of the city's cultural gems."

—*New York Post*

A Chorus as It Was Meant to Be

"The New York Choral Society gave a splendid Salute to American Music at Carnegie Hall... successful in every way. The group... is amateur, but only in the sense that singing is not their livelihood. It easily could be."

—Bert Wechsler, *The New York Daily News*

"More superb singing en masse was heard in Carnegie Hall... when the New York Choral Society... gave the Manhattan premiere of the 40-minute cantata by Philip Glass, *Itaipú*...

[T]he music is overpowering and its

vocal challenges are formidable indeed. Suffice it to say, the Society sang with all the heart and muscle needed."

—*The Westsider*

"The New York Choral Society displays Verdi's glorious choral writing."

—Jeannie Williams, *USA Today*

(Richard Tucker Gala with Leontyne Price)

"It was truly a superb performance all around, with Goodwin leading the soloists and 150-member chorus in a delightfully paced performance."

—Stafan Janis, *The Newark Star-Ledger*

(New York Premiere of DeMars' *Tito's Say*)

"Goodwin's tempos and dynamic range were impeccably judged, and he caught the elusive Czech country idiom that permeates the score. The chorus outdid itself."

—Bill Zakariasen, *The New York Daily News*

(*Stabat Mater* at Carnegie Hall 150th Dvořák Anniversary Commemoration)

"The large chorus gave us passion and a wonderful blending of sound."

—Bert Wechsler, *The New York Daily News*

(Michael Tippett's secular oratorio *A Child of Our Time*)