

# 18<sup>th</sup> Street singers



**2009-2010 Press Kit**



# About The 18th Street Singers

In the fall of 2004, a small group of enterprising musicians proposed bringing together D.C.'s best young vocal performers to create a fresh original sound. The 18th Street Singers soon found other musicians hungry for a serious musical outlet, and quickly grew into the talented forty-voice a cappella ensemble that it is today.

The 18th Street Singers are revolutionizing the vocal arts scene in Washington, providing a home for talented young professionals who crave a new kind of musical experience. They have come together from all walks of life to redefine what it means to be a community choir — insisting on the very highest standards of excellence in performing classical music for a new generation.

As serious musicians and active members of the community, members of the 18th Street Singers have a passion for performance and a dedication to continual innovation. In less than four years, the group has led a rebirth of interest in the vocal arts among young area residents.

As a new addition to the D.C. choral scene, the 18th Street Singers bring a fresh, spirited interpretation to traditional choral music. The group's diverse repertoire includes classical masterpieces, traditional American music, folk songs from around the world, and innovative works by modern and experimental composers.

The 18th Street Singers are available to perform both public and private concerts. For booking inquiries, please contact John Stassen at: [booking@18thstreetsingers.com](mailto:booking@18thstreetsingers.com).

## Benjamin Olinsky ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Benjamin Olinsky has directed the 18th Street Singers since the group's formation in 2004. Ben is a graduate of Yale University where he studied choral conducting with Maggie Brooks and Dr. David Connell. He also studied at Westminster Choir College with Dr. James Jordan. While at Yale, Ben conducted the Bach Society Chorus and the English Muffins (a madrigal choir), and served as the assistant director of the Yale Summer Chorus. He also served as music director of Out of the Blue, an award-winning contemporary a cappella group that toured from coast to coast and around the world. When he isn't directing the 18th Street Singers, Ben serves as legislative director to Senator Al Franken.



**Alex Reid**  
EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

**John Stassen**  
MANAGING DIRECTOR

**Nick Bath and Sarah Redmond**  
ASSISTANT MUSIC DIRECTORS

**Libby Sinback**  
COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTOR

**Timothy Schmitz**  
DEVELOPMENT DIRECTOR



# Praise for The 18th Street Singers

**Friday night was SUCH a wonderful surprise – not that I didn't expect to hear great music – but I haven't heard a group like yours for quite a while...refreshing, energetic, truly musical, and honest...We'll both be at your next gig!**

*Helen Westerfield*

*Choir Director, Episcopal High School, Alexandria, VA*

**The acoustics in the Concert Hall at the Music Center at Strathmore were ready made for the voices of the 18th Street Singers. Their beautifully blended voices and sense of musicality were truly delightful for our Discover Strathmore open house audience. We look forward to a return engagement in the Music Room of the Strathmore Mansion in May 2009.**

*Betty Scott*

*Music Center at Strathmore, Grammy-award winning choir director*

**It was such a lovely, uplifting, springy and almost-spiritual experience. Was it the venue? The very good choice and order of the songs you sang? Your beautiful voices? The unpretentious, casual-yet-excited way in which everything was organized and served? Most probably. I read somewhere that one of the roles of the arts is to remove the dust from our souls, and that's exactly how I felt during and after the concert (in fact, some of the songs are still playing in my head...)**

*Nir Tsuk*

*Audience Member*

# Sample Repertoire

- Agnus Dei  
SAMUEL BARBER
- Annie Laurie  
LADY JOHN SCOTT, ARR. ARTHUR  
FRACKENPOHL
- Ave Maria  
ANTON BRUCKNER
- Christus factus est  
ANTON BRUCKNER
- Hark, I Hear the Harps Eternal  
ARR. ALICE PARKER
- Ich bin das Brot des Lebens  
WOLFRAM BUCHENBERG
- Kaval Sviri  
ARR. MANOEL FEICIANO
- Kom du Ljuva  
ADAM DE LA HALLE, ARR. DAVID CONNELL
- Mass for Double Choir  
FRANK MARTIN
- My Soul's Been Anchored In The Lord  
ARR. MOSES HOGAN
- O Magnum Mysterium  
MORTON LAURIDSEN
- Past Life Melodies  
SARAH HOPKINS
- The Road Home  
ADAPTED STEVEN PAULUS
- Shenandoah  
ARR. MARSHALL BARTHOLOMEW, FENNO  
HEATH
- Sleep  
ERIC WHITACRE
- Unicornis Captivatur  
OLA GJEILO
- Vineta  
JOHANNES BRAHMS
- Water Night  
ERIC WHITACRE
- With a Lily in your Hand  
ERIC WHITACRE
- Witness  
ARR. JACK HALLORAN



# Contact Information

For more information, please contact:

18th Street Singers  
1939 12th Street #502  
Washington, DC 20009

202-701-5522  
[press@18thstreetsingers.com](mailto:press@18thstreetsingers.com)

For more information, please visit our website:

[www.18thstreetsingers.com](http://www.18thstreetsingers.com)

