

EARLY MUSIC

AT ST. OLAF COLLEGE

St. Olaf College offers students several opportunities for performance of early historical music.

ST. OLAF EARLY MUSIC SINGERS

The St. Olaf Early Music Singers, an ensemble of 12-16 singers, focuses primarily on music of the Middle Ages, Renaissance, and Baroque Eras, but also occasionally performs later music appropriate for chamber vocal ensemble. Besides small-group choral singing, students in the group have the opportunity for some one-to-a-part singing. Performances include fall and spring concerts in collaboration with St. Olaf's early instrument ensemble, the Collegium Musicum; chapel services; and occasional performances off campus. Members of Early Music Singers usually sing in one of the larger choirs as well – St. Olaf Choir, Chapel Choir, or Cantorei. The group has two 85-minute rehearsals per week. Auditions are held in early May.

ST. OLAF COLLEGIUM MUSICUM

The Collegium Musicum is an instrumental ensemble that performs music of the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque Eras on historical instruments such as recorders, viols, sackbuts, shawms, cornetts, etc. The college owns an extensive collection of early instruments. No prior experience on early instruments is necessary; students learn to play the instruments as part of the ensemble and with additional coaching from the director. Students typically play an instrument similar to their modern instrument (for example, string players on viol, trombonists on sackbut, woodwind players on recorder or shawm) and members of Collegium Musicum are usually members of one of the large instrumental ensembles as well. Collegium ensembles rehearse on Tuesday evenings and at other prearranged times. Performances include fall and spring concerts in collaboration with the St. Olaf Early Music Singers, chapel services, and occasional performances off campus.

FACULTY:

GERALD HOEKSTRA, *Professor of Music*, directs the Early Music Singers and the Collegium Musicum. Professor Hoekstra holds the Ph.D. in Music History from The Ohio State University, where in addition to pursuing musicological studies, he played wind instruments in the Collegium Musicum. He plays and teaches recorder and viola da gamba, as well as a number of other early instruments. His publications include a number of critical editions of sixteenth-century music in the series *Recent Researches in the Music of the Renaissance* and *Das Chorwerk*, most recently a three-part edition of *Andreas Pevernage, Cantiones sacrae (1578)*. Other publications include journal articles in *Early Music*, *Musica disciplina*, and *Speculum: A Journal of Medieval Studies*. Professor Hoekstra was the 2002 recipient of Early Music America's Thomas Binkley Award, which recognizes outstanding contributions to performance and scholarship by the director of a university or college early music ensemble.