

Music Organizations at St. Olaf College

INSTRUMENTAL ENSEMBLES:

ST. OLAF ORCHESTRA - *Steven Amundson, Director*. A full symphony orchestra of approximately 90 instrumentalists, the St. Olaf Orchestra presents several concerts each year, and makes an annual national tour and regular international tours as well. The ensemble provides music for a variety of college programs including Christmas Festival. Membership is by audition, and requires private lessons of all members.

PHILHARMONIA – *Martin Hodel, Director*. The St. Olaf Philharmonia is a full symphony orchestra of about 80 members which performs music from all periods. Its concert season includes a vespers service with the Chapel Choir, and a spring concert with weekend tour, and a chapel service. Membership is by audition, and private lessons are encouraged for all members.

ST. OLAF BAND - *Timothy Mahr, Director*. The St. Olaf Band is one of the first college bands to be established in the United States, and performs regularly on campus in concert and as part of important college functions. The 85 piece ensemble takes annual Midwestern tours and periodically tours abroad as well. Membership is by audition and private lessons are required for a minimum of two years.

NORSEMAN BAND - *Paul Niemisto, Director*. The Norseman Band is a fully instrumented symphonic band and plays several concerts each year, both on campus and regionally. Membership is by audition and participating students are encouraged to take private lessons.

VALHALLA BAND - Created by students in the 1997-98 school year, Valhalla is a fully-instrumented band conducted and managed by students. Rehearsals are weekly, and the band performs several concerts throughout the year, including a traditional trip to a local grade school. Open to all interested students.

JAZZ ENSEMBLES - *David Hagedorn, Director*. The Jazz ensemble program at St. Olaf College offers the opportunity to play the music of the big bands of the 20th century as well as exploring newer forms of the genre. Admission to one of the four jazz ensembles or combo is based on yearly audition and available openings.

COLLEGIUM MUSICUM - *Gerald Hoekstra, Director*. The Collegium is an instrumental ensemble that performs music of the Medieval, Renaissance, and Baroque eras on historical instruments. Students learn and perform on early instruments, such as recorders, viols, sackbuts, lutes, and cornetts, which are owned by the college. The Collegium collaborates with the Early Music Singers to present a concert of early music each semester as well as chapel services and other performances.

HANDBELL ENSEMBLES - *Jill Mahr, Director*. There are four handbell ensembles at St. Olaf. The St. Olaf Handbell Choir, St. Olaf Chapel Ringers, Manitou Handbell Choir and Ytterboe Ringers play in recitals and worship services on campus throughout the year. The groups, who rehearse weekly, also have some off-campus performances. Two of the ensembles are student-directed. Membership in handbell choirs is by audition.

FLUTE CHOIR – *Catherine Ramirez, coordinator*. This choir of flutists performs regularly on campus and around the region. The group performs a variety of literature for flute choir consisting of piccolo, E-flat soprano flute, C flute, alto and bass flutes. Membership is open to all interested players on campus.

CLARINET CHOIR – *Jun Qian, Director*. The Clarinet Choir provides an opportunity for players within the clarinet family from E-flat soprano to B-flat contra bass, to rehearse and perform the finest literature for clarinets. Inquiries for membership should be made in the fall of the year.

HORN CLUB The Horn Club was one of the first established horn ensembles in the United States. It has performed widely in Minnesota as well as on campus. The Horn Club has had guest appearances at music conventions and area high schools. Membership is open by audition to all hornists at St. Olaf.

TROMBONE CHOIR - *Paul Niemisto, Director*. The "Bone Choir" makes regular contributions to the concert and worship life of the college. They often perform in Twin City churches, and have been regular participants in the Minnesota Trombone Workshop. Membership is open to all interested trombonists on campus.

TUBA-EUPHONIUM ENSEMBLE - *Paul Niemisto, Director*. This is a unique group in the Upper Midwest which provides a special opportunity for tuba and euphonium (baritone horn) players to make a sonorous ensemble sound not often heard in concert. Membership is selected from among the tuba and euphonium players on campus.

PERCUSSION ENSEMBLE - *David Hagedorn, Director*. The Percussion Ensembles perform in annual recitals on campus. Membership is open to all interested student percussionists.

CHAMBER MUSIC Both music and non-music majors are able to participate in chamber music activities which are coached and supervised by music faculty. String quartets, piano trios, brass quintets, woodwind quintets, small vocal ensembles and many other chamber groups are available for the St. Olaf musician.

(Choral Ensembles on Other Side)

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CHORAL ENSEMBLES

ST. OLAF CHOIR - *Anton Armstrong, Director.* The St. Olaf Choir, with 74 mixed voices, is considered one of the premier college a cappella choirs in the United States. For more than three-quarters of a century, the St. Olaf Choir has maintained its original purpose - study and preparation of a wide range of representative sacred choral literature for public performance. The annual tour advances the artistic standards of church music and provides means of spiritual inspiration for its many listeners. The St. Olaf Choir is open by audition to sophomores, juniors and seniors; all members are required to take private lessons in voice.

CHAPEL CHOIR – *Christopher Aspaas, Director.* The Chapel Choir, a select group of 120 mixed voices, prepares music for Sunday services of the Student Congregation, performs as a solo choir in Christmas Festival, presents a fall vespers and a major spring concert with the St. Olaf Orchestra, as well as special events both on and off campus. The Chapel Choir is open by audition to sophomores, juniors and seniors; private lessons in voice are recommended for all members.

CANTOREI - *John Ferguson, Director.* The St. Olaf Cantorei, a select ensemble of 95 mixed voices, sings for Sunday services of the Student Congregation, participates in Christmas Festival and serves as a laboratory for students in church music who conduct, compose and arrange music for the Cantorei as part of their studies in music and worship. In keeping with the historical tradition associated with its name, the repertoire of the Cantorei often includes music for choir and instruments or organ as well as congregation. Off campus trips and a spring concert of sacred choral literature sung on campus and in a mini-tour are annual activities of the choir. The Cantorei is open by audition to sophomores, juniors and seniors; private lessons in voice are encouraged for all members.

MANITOU SINGERS - *Sigrid Johnson, Director.* Manitou Singers is a select, 100-voice, first-year women's chorus which sings at services of the Student Congregation, gives campus concerts including Christmas Festival, and makes occasional out-of-town appearances. In the spring of the year they combine with the Viking Chorus for a mixed-voice concert.

VIKING CHORUS - *Christopher Aspaas, Director.* The Viking Chorus is a select, 85-voice first-year men's group that performs throughout the year on campus, including its annual spring concert after a weekend regional tour. It participates in the Christmas Festival, sings for services of the Student Congregation and combines with members of the Manitou Singers each spring for a concert as well. The Viking Chorus is also responsible for random acts of music across campus.

EARLY MUSIC SINGERS - *Gerald Hoekstra, Director.* The Early Music Singers, an ensemble of 12 to 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 a fall and spring concert in collaboration with the Collegium Musicum, chapel services, and occasional performances off campus.

COLLEGIATE CHORALE - *Anton Armstrong, Director.* Collegiate Chorale is a women's ensemble open to students, as well as faculty and staff. Each semester, the ensemble performs during one of the final chapel services of the term. Emphasis is on a less-demanding rehearsal schedule to create an enjoyable choral experience for all members.

GOSPEL CHOIR – *Darrin Thomas, Director.* The St. Olaf Gospel Choir is a Christian ministry of song designed to provide its members with an opportunity to experience praise and worship. Comprised of students of all races, backgrounds, and denominations, the choir's repertoire includes traditional Gospel through contemporary styles, which include African, Caribbean, Latin American, as well as Jazz influences.

(Instrumental Ensembles on Other Side)