



## **The Wasatch Mountains are Alive with the Sound of Choral Music The American Choral Directors Association's National Conference in SLC**

The American Choral Directors Association's 2015 National Conference will bring together 20,000 choral conductors and singers for four days of sessions, concerts and special events designed to celebrate and advance the choral art on February 25-28. The national conference is held every other year. This is the second time the association's national conference has been held in Salt Lake City, with the first having been exactly 30 years before, in March 1985.

Dr. Scott Dorsey, ACDA director of education and communication, says, "The ACDA National Conference is without peer in the world of choral music. The event combines world-class performances, university-level educational experiences, and access to one-of-a-kind resources wrapped together in the ribbon of unparalleled camaraderie."

That musical camaraderie crosses age and generational boundaries. Conference attendees will range in age from approximately eight (in a children's choir) to a 109-year-old first-time attendee. Of the several hundred auditioned ensemble applications received by ACDA, 40 choirs were invited to perform. In addition to those from the U.S., the list of prestigious performers includes choirs from Cuba, Estonia, Ireland, Japan, Korea, Sweden and the United Kingdom. These exceptional choirs will perform at the Cathedral of Madeleine, Abravanel Hall and the Assembly Hall and world-renowned Salt Lake Tabernacle, both on Temple Square.

While the event is limited to registered attendees, the conference's closing concert, on Saturday, February 28, at 8:00 p.m. in the Conference Center, is open to the public. Dubbed "From the Treasury of American Song," the concert will feature the Mormon Tabernacle Choir, Orchestra at Temple Square, Broadway star Santino Fontana and Grammy Award-winning singer Sylvia McNair as well as the U.S. Air Force Singing Sergeants and ACDA National Conference Honor Choirs. The 90-minute concert will be under the direction of Mormon Tabernacle Choir music director Mack Wilberg and associate music director Ryan Murphy.

"It is an honor to be a part of this remarkable conference," says Wilberg, "It truly shows the breadth of choral music worldwide by bringing together those who champion the positive inspiration choral music brings to both performers and listeners."

The Grammy Award-winning, all-volunteer Mormon Tabernacle Choir is made up of 360 men and women who join their talents to create their trademark, instantly recognizable sound. They are accompanied by the Orchestra at Temple Square, a 150-member symphony that is likewise all-volunteer. The Choir has appeared at 13 world's fairs and expositions, performed at six U.S.

presidential inaugurals, and sung for numerous worldwide telecasts and special events — all this while broadcasting *Music and the Spoken Word*, the oldest continuing radio network broadcast, a weekly tradition now in its 86th year.

Santino Fontana, who was a guest artist in last year's Mormon Tabernacle Choir Christmas concert and Pioneer Day concerts, is an award-winning American stage actor, singer, director and composer.

Sylvia McNair is an American opera singer and classical recitalist who has also achieved notable success in the Broadway and cabaret genres. McNair, a soprano, has made several critically acclaimed recordings and has won two Grammy Awards.

Tickets: Free tickets for the concert are required. Tickets are available now and are going fast. They are being distributed on a first-come, first-served basis. Patrons may request tickets on the Internet at [lds.org/events](http://lds.org/events) or over the phone at 801-570-0080 (local) or 1-866-537-8457. (Limit four tickets per person.)

More information about the ACDA National Conference is available at <http://acda.org/page.asp?page=conferences>

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