



PRESS RELEASE

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THE HEARTLAND CHAMBER CHORALE WELCOMES

Outstanding High School Musicians Performing with the Heartland Chamber Chorale

*Young vocalist participation with professional chorus part of the HCC **Side-by-Side** educational initiative*

October 17, 2006 • FORT WAYNE, IN, – Several outstanding Fort Wayne area high school vocalists will perform with the Heartland Chamber Chorale (HCC) during its Ten Year Anniversary concert season. Student vocalists appearing with the HCC throughout the season include:

- **Katherine DeRosa** and **Phillip Thompson** from Homestead HS (students of Ann Rettenmaier & Dr Keith Touchton)
- **Emily German** from Concordia HS (Patrick Winningham, teacher)
- **Renee Woody, Sarah Warsco, Roselyn Bender, Leyla Monsour-Cole,** and **Justin Dispenza** from Leo HS (Joan Phillips, teacher)
- **Robert Folley, David Eisenhauer,** and **Brandon Kneuve** from New Haven HS (Jefferson Kennedy, teacher)
- **Kristen Johnson, Dylan Schatko,** and **Bethany Nichols** from Snider HS (Brenda Butler, teacher)

The opportunity for outstanding student vocalists to participate on stage with HCC is created through the Chorus' "Side-by-Side" educational initiative. Side-by-side provides area youth the experience of rehearsing and performing on stage with professional choristers. Each student is coached by Ann Rettenmaier and Robert Nance, and mentored by members of the ensemble, and subsequently engages in a rigorous and exciting experience as they prepare for the performance.

HCC's Side by Side initiative continues throughout the season. On each concert program, up to 8 outstanding students who have auditioned for the privilege will perform side by side with the professionals in the chorale. In addition, the Chorale will perform a concert program with choirs from several high schools in the region. This educational initiative is sponsored in part by a grant from Lincoln Financial Group Foundation in a demonstration of Lincoln's commitment to providing area youth diverse opportunities for learning.

Tickets for all Heartland performances are available by calling the HCC office at 260.436.8080.

Now presenting outstanding vocal music performances in its tenth season, the 26-member Heartland Chamber Chorale is Northern Indiana's only professional chorus. Founded by music and executive director Robert Nance, the Heartland Chamber Chorale performs in and around Fort Wayne throughout the year. The HCC also engages promising young vocalists through educational outreach programs like our *Side-by-Side in Song* and *Project Sing!* initiatives. The purpose of the Heartland Chamber Chorale is to perform high quality choral chamber music to enrich audiences in the Fort Wayne community, Northeast Indiana, and beyond, with a goal to serve as a professional resource to the community for matters pertaining to the art of chamber vocal music.

The Heartland Chamber Chorale is a no-profit 501(c)(3) organization and is funded in part through gifts from Arts United (a local agency), the Indiana Arts Commission (a state agency), and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). Additional funding is provided by the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Target Foundation, the Wilson Foundation, and the Lincoln Financial Group Foundation. For additional information and a current schedule of concerts, please visit www.heartlandchorale.org or call the HCC office at 260.436.8080.

The Heartland Chamber Chorale

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