

Fort Myers Symphonic *Mastersingers*

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FT. MYERS MASTERSINGERS CREATES THE CITY OF PALMS YOUTH CHOIRS

Fort Myers, FL, June 25, 2016

The Ft. Myers Symphonic Mastersingers are proud to announce the initiation of The City of Palms Youth Choirs. "In a climate where public school music and arts funding is decreasing the Mastersingers believe it is vital to create a program for young singers that will ensure the future of the choral art form." said Tony Contino, Mastersingers Board President. The Mastersingers regularly collaborate with university and high school music departments to provide professional performing opportunities for young students. Now in their 16th season the Mastersingers expand their programming and community involvement with the creation of The Mastersingers City of Palms Youth Choir. The program will consist of two new choirs – high school and middle school - to be directed by Matt Koller. The City of Palms Youth Choir will perform at their own concerts in addition to many of the adult performances. Mr. Koller has already received an invitation for the high school choir to perform at Lincoln Center in New York with renowned choral director James Jordan and award-winning Welsh composer Paul Meallor in the spring.

Matt Koller is a highly acclaimed choral and instrumental conductor and has led ensembles which have been praised with comments such as "the voices and diction were sheer perfection" and "as professional a student orchestra as I have had the pleasure to hear," by the Papermill Playhouse in

Maplewood, New Jersey. Koller most recently was the choral director at Ft. Myers High School, where his ensembles *Greenwave Singers*, *Fermata*, *Soundwave*, *Chamber Choir*, and *Vocal Workshop* enjoy performing frequently throughout the community. All choirs have consistently earned Superior ratings at the annual music performance assessment. Koller earned his B. M. in Music Education from Westminster Choir College in Princeton, N. J. He has participated in choral and opera performances throughout the United States and Italy. He has sung with The Philadelphia Orchestra, The New Jersey Symphony Orchestra, The Spoleto Festival Orchestra, and The New York Philharmonic.

Koller, says, "I am passionate about developing young voices. I believe choral singing is an outstanding way for young students to experience what I love so much about music - the opportunity to create something beautiful and inspiring in a group setting. I can't wait to get started!"

Mastersingers Artistic Director, Jeffrey Faux, says, "I am so proud that the Mastersingers is creating this opportunity for musicians in this age group. My own passion for choral music developed in a group much like this, as a high school student."

Auditions will take place in August with rehearsals beginning in September. Information regarding auditions and fees will be posted on the Mastersingers website, www.MastersingersFM.com.

The Mastersingers, the premier choral ensemble in Southwest Florida, is a select ensemble of singers who enjoy a reputation of musical excellence and are dedicated to the performance of significant choral works by classical composers, as well as innovative programs.

Since forming in 2001, the Mastersingers have grown from a small chorus to an eighty-plus voice ensemble of men and women dedicated to excellence in music. They are the only chorus to perform in Lee, Collier and Charlotte counties and in all the major venues: Artis-Naples, Barbara B. Mann PAH, Germain Arena, BIG ARTS, Charlotte Performing Arts Center, First Presbyterian Church of Bonita Springs, Moorings Presbyterian Church, Naples and many other venues. They are the only chorus to have sung with every major symphony in Southwest Florida including the Naples Philharmonic, the Southwest Florida Symphony, the Gulf Coast Symphony and the Charlotte Orchestra. The Mastersingers is a 501c3 non-profit organization.

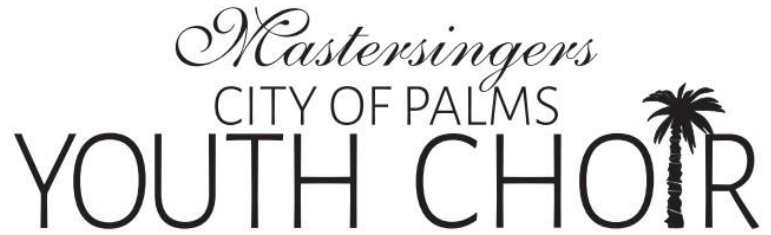
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If you would like more information about this topic, please contact Tony Contino, President, Board of Directors at 239-288-2535 or email at info@mastersingersfm.com.

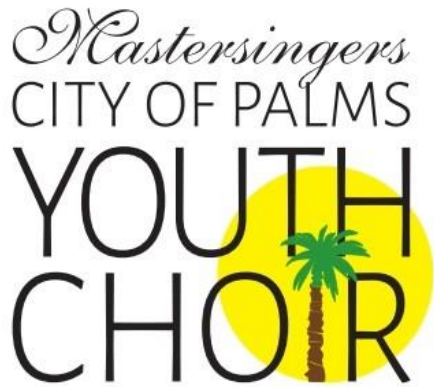
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