

## Choral institute returns for summer tunes

By Edward Reichel

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When Brady Allred started the Summer Choral Institute a few years ago, he modeled it after the program he founded in Pittsburgh while he was living and working there.

And he was banking on it becoming as popular here as it was in Pittsburgh.

It proved to be a solid musical investment in the community. Kicking off its fourth season this Thursday, the institute has become a popular summer diversion for those who love to sing.

"It's been growing since we started it," Allred told the Deseret News. "Last year, we had 450 participants, and it looks like we're going to get more this summer."

The format of the institute is simple. There are six sessions between now and August that focus on a particular composer or type of work. Each session runs over a three-day period from Thursday through Saturday during which participants rehearse the music and put on a concert in Libby Gardner Concert Hall that's open to the public.

"These sessions are for anybody who wants to sing," Allred said. "You can come and have fun. There is no pressure."

Even Allred, who can be pretty intense when he rehearses one of his choirs for performances, is relaxed when he works with the participants. "It's laid back for me, and all of us have a lot of fun as we prepare the music."

Members of Allred's Salt Lake Choral Artists are encouraged to join the sessions.

"I like having them take part, because it gives a chance for people to perform with seasoned singers," he said.

The criteria for selecting repertoire is fairly straightforward, Allred said. "I have a running file of ideas, and I hash them out with my artistic staff. It's a mix of works that I would like to do and also works that are appealing for audiences. I also throw some things in to test the waters."

One session is for high school students. It was a big hit last year, and Allred wanted to bring it back this year. "Last year, we had 150 kids sign up. This year, we're expecting the number to be around 200 or 250. And we encourage high school choir directors to get involved." Tuning into popular trends, most of the music that the students will work on will be well-known pieces.

Also returning this summer is a collaboration with the Madeleine Choir School. This weeklong session is intended for young singers who will be entering kindergarten through eighth grade this coming school year.

"(Madeleine Choir School director Melanie Malinka) told me that her kids sing so much sacred music she would like them to do something else," Allred said. "So, we'll be doing a lot of different things with them."

There will also be two choral conducting workshops; a session devoted to music for female voices that will be directed by Jane Fjeldsted, who leads the Salt Lake Choral Artists Women's Choir; and once-a-week reading sessions that focus on one specific work.

"Our main focus with the summer institute is to get people singing and make it fun for them," Allred said.

Below is a rundown of the summer institute's schedule. Unless otherwise noted, rehearsals are Thursday and Friday from 7-10 p.m. and Saturday from 9 a.m.-noon, with a dress rehearsal from 2-5 p.m. All rehearsals take place in Room 270 in David Gardner Hall. Concerts begin at 7:30 p.m. in Libby Gardner Concert Hall and are free and open to the public.

For more information, tuition and material costs and to register, log on to [saltlakechoralartists.org](http://saltlakechoralartists.org) or call 801-232-7521 or e-mail at [sci@saltlakechoralartists.org](mailto:sci@saltlakechoralartists.org).

#### Salt Lake Choral Artists Summer Institute

Here is a comprehensive schedule of the Salt Lake Choral Artists Summer Institute:

June 17-19, Session 1: "Music from the South: Spirituals, Gospel Music and Jazz"

June 24-26, Session 2: "Choral Classics: The World's Most Beloved Choral Pieces"

July 8-10, Session 3: "One World/One Song: Music for Peace"

July 12-17, Session 4: Children's and Youth Choirs, in collaboration with the Madeleine Choir School

July 15-18, Session 4, Adult Choir: "Dances to Life: Sacred and Secular Choral Music"; July 18, 6 p.m., performing the music for Mass at the Cathedral of the Madeleine

Aug. 12-14, Session 5: "Vox Femina: Music for Treble Voices," conducted by Jane Fjeldsted

Aug. 12-14, Session 6: High School Chamber Choir Retreat

Tuesday night reading sessions, 7-10 p.m., Room 270 in David Gardner Hall:

June 22, Gabriel Fauré, Requiem

July 6, John Rutter, "The Falcon"

July 13, Hymn Festival

July 20, "Music from Stage and Screen"

Choral Conducting Workshops: Session 1, June 21-26, Room 270, David Gardner Hall, 1-4 p.m.;  
Session 2, July 12-17, Room 270 David Gardner Hall, 1-4 p.m.

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