



About Chicago *a cappella*

- **Chicago a cappella** is a classical vocal ensemble that moves the heart and soul with fun, innovative concerts.
- The ensemble consists of **nine singers**, including some of the Chicago area's most accomplished choral singers and soloists.
- **Jonathan Miller** founded the group in 1993. He received a Ph.D. in musicology from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill, and is an active composer, conductor and singer.
- Chicago *a cappella* sings repertoire spanning from the ninth to the twenty-first century, with special focus on music written in the present generation. Concerts often include a **wide mix of music** including Renaissance and early music, vocal jazz, and spirituals.
- Chicago *a cappella* presents a **subscription series** of four concerts each season, with performances in Chicago, Evanston, Naperville, and Oak Park, IL
- Chicago *a cappella* has recorded seven **CDs**, including two on the Cedille Records label, *Christmas a cappella: Songs From Around the World*, and *Shall I Compare Thee?*, a collection of contemporary settings of Shakespeare texts. The group's discography also includes three releases on Centaur Records, a CD of African-American spirituals (*Go Down, Moses*), and a live recording of seasonal music, *Holidays a cappella Live*.
- Chicago *a cappella* has been featured on national **radio broadcasts** including *Performance Today*, as well as on Chicago radio stations WFMT and WBEZ. Chicago *a cappella*'s appearance on *Arts Across Illinois: CenterStage* was broadcast on public television stations throughout Illinois, and the group has made numerous Chicago **television appearances**.
- **Tour engagements** have taken Chicago *a cappella* to eleven states and Mexico. The group's many guest appearances in the Chicago area include the Ravinia Festival, the Chicago Humanities Festival, the Art Institute of Chicago, Lake Forest College, and Concordia University. Tour appearances include Purdue University, Murray State University, Bradley University, Gardner-Webb University, Lyon College, Gethsemane Lutheran Church in St. Louis, MO, Flagler College, Orlando's Cathedral Church of St. Luke, and McKendree College.

**For booking, availability, or further information contact
Chicago a cappella at (773) 281-7820 or www.chicagoacappella.org.**



SAMPLE PROGRAMS

Baroque and Beatles

Two kinds of classics meet on our stage in this popular program, with passionate Baroque music teaming up with hard-driving and contemplative Beatles hits. This fascinating concert experience pairs works by Baroque masters such as Bach, Purcell and Monteverdi with pop classics that share a similar sentiment, theme or feeling by Lennon and McCartney and George Harrison. A one-of-a-kind vocal experience!

Elegant/Swellegant [short program]

This short program (45 minutes) is a charming collection of familiar standards by three great American songwriters, George Gershwin, Cole Porter, and Irving Berlin. Beloved classics like “Night and Day,” “Embraceable You,” “Steppin’ Out With My Baby,” and “You’re the Top” are heard in unique a cappella arrangements. This performance is a wonderful addition to any celebration, special event, or fundraiser.

Days of Awe and Rejoicing: Hidden Gems of Jewish Music

Experience the riches of the *a cappella* Jewish tradition. Superb settings from Chicago’s legendary Max Janowski are combined with rarely heard chant melodies, music of Renaissance composer Salamone Rossi, and new works by Paul Schoenfield, Robert Applebaum, and Pulitzer Prize winner Shulamit Ran. A highlight is the tour-de-force “Hava Nagila” by acclaimed composer Stacy Garrop, commissioned for this program. This moving and evocative concert experience reflects the solemnity, humor, and rich variety of Jewish music.

Holidays World Tour

This seasonal program includes unique and festive music for the holiday season from six continents and over a dozen countries. You will experience beautiful and heartwarming works from Australia, Nigeria, Argentina, Canada, Hungary and Japan, along with rollicking Christmas spirituals and works for Chanukah. The concert also features pieces from Chicago a cappella’s latest CD, Christmas a cappella: Songs from Around the World.

Voces latinas

This program puts a spotlight on the finest *a cappella* choral music to come from Cuba, South America, Mexico, Spain and Portugal. Discover hot new sounds filled with rhythmic vitality and harmonic beauty from Latino composers, including music by Pablo Casals, Astor Piazzolla, and Jorge Córdoba. A highlight is the colorful and brilliant *Estampas* by acclaimed composer Tania León, commissioned for this program.



Fee Schedule

Performance: \$4,500 (*Chicago area performances*)—\$8,500*

Master Class: \$500 to \$2,500
(Available in conjunction with full performance only)

Travel*: \$750 to \$2,500

Other costs*: Ten single hotel rooms; two-star establishment or better
(No home stays)

**travel and lodging costs can be incorporated into all-inclusive performance fee.*

NOTE TO ILLINOIS PRESENTERS: *Chicago a cappella is a member of the Illinois Arts Council's Artstour roster. This program allows not-for-profit presenters in Illinois to request up to 50% of Chicago a cappella's appearance fee from the IAC. Information and an application are available by calling the Illinois Arts Council at 312-814-6750.*

Technical Requirements

Size of performing area: at least 20 ft x 12 ft.

Stage floor: Hardwood or equivalent

Lighting: Basic stage lighting. Sufficient back lighting to light singers' music.

On stage requirements: Nine high quality music stands, nine chairs, water for nine singers.

Backstage requirements: Secure backstage area for singers, water for nine.



What critics say about us...

"...wit, imagination, flawless intonation, and an easy, idiomatic way with music of every period, from medieval to jazz, swing and gospel."

—*Chicago Tribune*

"Chicago *a cappella* sings with clarity, well-balanced tone and deep emotional involvement."

—*Washington Post*

"...unusually fine...eclectic, enlightening and enjoyable."

—*St. Louis Post-Dispatch*

"The nine voices that make up the group display all the professional attributes of **world-class** ensembles...lovely vocalism."

—*Fanfare*

"Classical musicians whose smiles and easy manner made the audience feel like guests."

—*Chicago Sun-Times*

"...breathtaking ensemble and control. The expressive use of vibrato by soloists was a lesson in stylistic elegance.... Chicago *a cappella* is **a jewel in the crown of Chicago's musical life.**"

—*The American Organist*

What presenters say about us...

"Your programming was brilliant. It was a privilege and a pleasure to host you."

—Dr. John Jost, Professor of Music, Bradley University, Peoria, IL

"The ensemble brings to life works from all periods of music in an engaging and accessible way. I highly recommend Chicago *a cappella* to any presenter in any setting."

—Rami Levin, Chair, Department of Music, Lake Forest College, Lake Forest, IL

"I would highly recommend Chicago *a cappella* as a performing ensemble of the highest caliber. My audience gave them a standing ovation and rhythmic applause, demanding three encores. I guarantee a pleased audience."

—Bart Bradfield, Board of Directors, Unitarian Universalist Musicians Network

"Chicago *a cappella* was highly professional, warm, and totally entertaining. The audience, young and old, loved the entire "Baroque and Beatles" program."

—David D. Seaton, Head, Music Program, St. Paul's School, Concord, NH