



## 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 music, contemporary works, 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 **eight CDs**, including releases on the Cedille and Centaur Records labels. Their catalog includes *Christmas a cappella: Songs From Around the World*; *Shall I Compare Thee?*, a collection of contemporary settings of Shakespeare texts; and recordings of African-American spirituals, contemporary pieces, Renaissance works, and Jewish choral music.
- 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 (St. Louis, MO), Flagler College, Orlando's Cathedral Church of St. Luke, and McKendree College.

**For booking, availability, or further information contact  
Matt Greenberg at (773) 281-7820 or [MGreenberg@chicagoacappella.org](mailto:MGreenberg@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!

### *Days of Awe and Rejoicing: Radiant 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.

### *Chicago, Chicago*

We take audiences on a musical history tour of the Windy City with this fascinating and sometimes funny musical portrait of Chicago. The trip features music from early French explorers, brave pioneers and first settlers, German and Irish immigrants, and the Great Migration, as well as songs about the Chicago Fire, skyscrapers, and sports. The performance includes narration and readings, and features a stirring setting of Carl Sandburg's "Prayers of Steel," Chicago-style gospel and blues, and the only song ever written by Al Capone.

### *Spirituals*

We present a stirring and poignant collection of African-American spirituals, including traditional settings, bold new arrangements, and contemporary works by today's most acclaimed composers and arrangers. Audiences will be moved and uplifted by this inspiring and jubilant concert.



## Fees and Requirements

### 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.

*\*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. For present status of the program and further information, visit the Illinois Arts Council's Artstour website, or call them at 312-814-6750.*

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### 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*



## Master Classes

Chicago *a cappella*'s Educational Outreach Programs serve singers and students of all ages and levels of experience. All of our programs are taught by Artists from Chicago *a cappella*'s current roster of singers and directors, many of whom have degrees in music education. All of our Artists have experience working with singers and choruses at a variety of experience levels. Each outreach program is individually planned and carefully tailored to fit the needs of each organization and their singers.



Our most popular outreach programs are **Master Classes**. These workshops are administered by two or more Chicago *a cappella* Artists and usually last between 60-120 minutes. Repertoire can be chosen by, or in conjunction with, Chicago *a cappella*'s Artists. Instruction and coaching can focus on general technique, or can be targeted to master specific skills. Popular topics include genre-specific technique (e.g. jazz, spirituals, Renaissance polyphony), vocal percussion, small ensemble singing, and ensemble self-direction (working without a conductor). Master Classes are typically relaxed in nature and allow for questions at the end. Observers are always welcome.

### Recent comments from Master Class participants:

*"I just wanted to thank you, again, for sharing your music and talent with our singers last week. **It was definitely a highlight for those kids.** You and your colleagues had a wonderful way of being demanding and encouraging at the same time. I overheard several of them talking later that day about all the things they had learned from you and your group - **you all really made a positive impact on them.** Thank you so much!"*

*"My singers and I had such a fun time with you on our tour. I wish we could do a follow-up with you in the fall. We all learned so much. **It was also really great that you talked to the [singers] about what it meant to be a professional singer.** Many of the singers would like to take that route. All the best and thanks!"*

**For more information on Master Classes or other Educational Outreach Program offerings, please contact Matt Greenberg at (773) 281-7820 or [mgreenberg@chicagoacappella.org](mailto:mgreenberg@chicagoacappella.org).**