



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 **nine CDs**, including releases on the Gothic, 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 thirteen U. S. 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 concert bookings contact:

Executive Director Matt Greenberg at (773) 281-7820, or email MGreenberg@chicagoacappella.org.



Sample Programs



The A Cappella American Songbook

Gershwin, Porter, Berlin, and others created a tradition of American popular song that remains one of our most treasured musical joys. Hear these great melodies in great *a cappella* adaptations as we sing standards like "My Funny Valentine," "Blue Skies," "I Got Rhythm," and songs by Rodgers and Hammerstein, Stephen Sondheim, and many more.

Global Transcendence: World Sacred Harmony and Chant

Hear the musical intersections of the world's faiths, as we explore mystical, harmonically stunning, and contemplative sacred vocal traditions. From Jerusalem to Athens, Tbilisi to Accra, Rome to Mumbai, be awed by music of Jewish, Hindu, Baha'i, and other traditions. Inspiring music by Allegri, Purcell, and Tallis will connect West to East, while our unusual and inventive combinations of varied liturgical threads will create a sonic quilt like no other.

Melodic Migrations: Global Jewish Music

This concert shines a spotlight on emotionally powerful and beautiful Jewish *a cappella* music from around the world, including South Africa, Canada, Israel, Europe and elsewhere—even Yiddish tango! Find out what happens when traditional musical styles intermingle with cultural influences from distant lands, as we explore melodies from across the diaspora. Founder and Artistic Director Jonathan Miller leads this compelling and fascinating look at Jewish global fusion.



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*

"A capacity crowd was thrilled.... and they left, after the close of our formal season, with smiles and remarks that bode well for next year."
—*Mel Rookus, Director of Music, Nardin Park UMC, Farmington Hills, MI*

"Chicago a cappella was a great addition to our concert schedule this season. Our audience loved the selections in their program and we received many compliments from our patrons about their amazing musicality and blending of outstanding voices."
—*Lori Kruse, Quincy (IL) Civic Music Association*



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 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.