

Rochester College

A Cappella Chorus Reunion & Concert

APRIL 24-25, 2009

I. 2008-2009 A Cappella Chorus Dr. Joe Bentley, conductor

Great Day.....arr. Warren Martin
 i thank You God for most this amazing dayEric Whitacre
 O Day Full of Grace arr. F. Melius Christiansen
 Beati quorum via.....Charles V. Stanford
 Holy Radiant LightAlexander Gretchaninov
 How Can I Keep from Singing arr. Ronald Staheli
 The Battle of Jerichoarr. Moses Hogan
 Elijah Rockarr. Moses Hogan

II. Honoring the Directors

III. Alumni of the A Cappella Chorus

Alma Mater..... Fred Alexander/arr. Randall Gill
 conducted by Dr. Joe Bentley

Alleluia Randall Thompson
 conducted by Fred Alexander

John Saw duh Numbuh arr. Robert Shaw-Alice Parker
 conducted by Paul Downey

Sometimes I Feel arr. Robert Shaw-Alice Parker
 conducted by Ed Ritchie

Sing Unto the LordGeorge Lynn
 conducted by Fritz Petrich

My Lord, What a Morning arr. Randall Gill
 conducted by Dr. Randy Gill

I Can Tell the Worldarr. Moses Hogan
 conducted by Dr. Joe Bentley

The Lord Bless You and Keep YouPeter Lutkin
 conducted by Fred Alexander

Go Ye Now in PeaceJoyce Eilers
 conducted by Dr. Randy Gill



1959

50

COMMITMENT TO
FAITH & LEARNING

2009

ROCHESTER COLLEGE

Our dear Christian college forever...

Under the direction of Fred Alexander, the A Cappella Chorus made its first public appearance at the 1959 lectureship. The chorus boasted 31 members, involving over half of the student body. Immediately, the group began pursuing an active schedule that combined local performances with weekend and extended tours.

Within a short period of time, the A Cappella Chorus became known for its exceptional quality and the bonding experiences it provided for students. Writers of a 1960 *North Star* stated, "The administration of the school feels that a good A Cappella Chorus is a strong drawing point for an institution of higher learning. To this end, every effort will be made to mold the NCCC chorus into one of the best in the country." That tradition of excellence has prevailed for five decades.

Members of the 1961-62 A Cappella Chorus recorded the college's first album, *Arise, My Soul, Arise*. Chorus camp debuted in 1962, providing the chorus with an opportunity to begin each year with a period of intensive rehearsal at such places as Michigan Christian Youth Camp and Camp Indogan. Under the direction of Paul Downey, the chorus performed at the 1965 New York World's Fair and recorded in Nashville's Parthenon in 1966.

During the summer of 1970, several members of the A Cappella Chorus traveled to Europe with Ed Ritchie to conduct the first of two consecutive French Campaigns for Christ. In 1971, the chorus hosted performing groups

from seven affiliated colleges at the fifth annual Christian College Choral Festival. During a time of institutional financial stress, Fritz Petrich continued to build a strong choral tradition on campus while continuing to teach in the Flint public school system. In February 1978, Randy Gill organized and directed the first of many choral festivals with the Metropolitan Detroit Youth Chorus. When the Dayton Youth Chorus joined the popular event in 1979, the festival annually featured a combined chorus of over 200 singers.

The A Cappella Chorus expanded its annual travel schedule in 1982. By moving spring tour from March to the end of the semester, the chorus was able to lengthen its traditional tour to two weeks. The addition of a winter tour allowed the chorus to begin attending the Christian College Choral Festival on an annual basis. The chorus received an enthusiastic standing ovation at the 1982 festival in Oklahoma City. A similar response at subsequent festivals established the Michigan Christian College A Cappella Chorus as a festival favorite.

Over 600 residents of the Rochester community attended the 1992 spring concert of the Rochester Community Chorus, which for the first time also featured the A Cappella Chorus. Joe Bentley began conducting the community group that year. The following fall, the two choral groups joined the Rochester Symphony Orchestra to perform the *Gloria* by Vivaldi. One year later, the chorus received



1979



1966



1962



your memory will live in our heart....

an invitation to perform with the Detroit Symphony Orchestra. An estimated 7,500 individuals attended the four-day series. Both symphony organizers and the guest conductor, the world renowned Eric Kunzel, specifically requested that the chorus return for the only pops concert scheduled during the symphony's next season.

Nearly 300 singers participated in the 33rd Christian College Choral Festival in January 2001. The Rochester College A Cappella Chorus hosted the event for the first time in 30 years. The following January, the chorus performed at the Midwestern Conference on School Vocal and Instrumental Music. The Michigan chapter of the American Choral Directors Association selected the Rochester College A Cappella Chorus to represent the state's colleges and universities at the annual event. Marking the college's 50th anniversary, the Christian College Choral Festival again returned to campus in January 2009.

Over 1,100 singers and seven directors have shared in the rich heritage of the Rochester College A Cappella Chorus. Countless thousands have been blessed by the group's message in song. Response to the 50th Anniversary A Cappella Chorus Reunion and Concert is a powerful testimony to the influence the organization and its directors have had on the lives of alumni and friends.

Adapted from *The Seasons of Rochester College*, a special book commemorating the college's 50th anniversary.

Directors of the A Cappella Chorus

1959-1964 | Fred Alexander

1964-1968 | Paul Downey

1968-1973 | Ed Ritchie

1973-1976 | Fritz Petrich

1976-1984 | Randy Gill

1984-1986 | Ed Buchanan

1986-present | Joe Bentley

Reunion Planning Committee

Joe Bentley

Larry Stewart

Julayne Hughes

Cathy Ries

Elton Albright



1989



1995



2005

**CAPPELLA
CHORUS**



THE SEASONS OF Rochester College



Available Tonight!

Relive the exciting history of North Central Christian College, Michigan Christian College, and Rochester College. *The Seasons of Rochester College* recreates the institution's story in a beautiful 9x12 hardbound coffee table book. Memories will flood your mind as you view over 300 photographs and read the stories in this colorful 144-page keepsake!

1970-1979

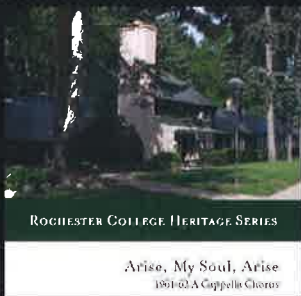


Introductions provide an overview of each decade, including a detailed timeline of significant events.

Profiles on each of the presidents, Coach Shinsky, and Garth Pleasant feature some of the heroes in the institution's history.



Stories and photographs recall such topics as student life, academic growth, campus development, enrollment growth, volunteer support groups, and fund-raising activities.



Classic Recordings Also Available!

You may now order copies of any of the recordings produced by Rochester College since 1962. Reproduced on compact discs, this series allows you to replace old recordings or to purchase for the first time recordings that were first produced on vinyl records, eight-track tapes, cassette tapes, and compact discs. Order forms are included with tonight's program.

Challenging Academics. Christian Community.

ROCHESTER COLLEGE

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