



Overview of The City Choir of Washington

ARTISTIC DIRECTOR

Robert Shafer

ASSISTANT CONDUCTOR

Kathleen Jagielski

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Our Mission

The City Choir of Washington seeks to inspire singers, audience members, and the community at large to discover the rich musical and cultural heritage of choral music. We are recognized as one of the top symphonic choirs in the greater Washington area. Our outreach choir, the City Singers, performs American standards, spirituals, and other uplifting music at homeless shelters, military facilities, and retirement communities. We are also dedicated to furthering music education in the region by collaborating each year with a “Partner in Song,” a local high school chorus.

Our Singers

We are a diverse, 130-voice choir made up of volunteer singers between the ages of 24 and 84. We are doctors, government workers, businesspeople, lawyers, soldiers, writers, engineers, teachers, professional musicians, and NGO workers.

Our Organization

We are governed by an all-volunteer Board of Directors, aided by a part-time professional operational and artistic staff. We are funded by a combination of individual contributions, the Season Underwriters program, fundraising events, grants, and corporate sponsorship. Institutional and corporate sponsors have included Bloomberg Philanthropies, the Delaplaine Foundation, Takeda Pharmaceuticals America, IBM, Fidelity Charitable, and West Financial Services.

Past Highlights

On November 11, 2018, we commemorated the centennial of the 1918 Armistice with a moving rumination on the nature of war and peace, featuring music by composers who were shaped by their experience in WWI. The concert featured a color guard, a collection of vintage photographs from the trenches, and a special exhibition of World War I music-related artifacts. In July 2018, we embarked on our first tour, to England, where the group performed at the cathedrals of Gloucester and Ely; at Keble College, Oxford; and at Temple Church, London.

Artistic Director

Robert Shafer, recognized as one of America’s major choral conductors, has served as Artistic Director of the City Choir of Washington since its launch in 2007. For more than 50 years, Maestro Shafer has served the Washington, DC area as a choral conductor, composer, educator, and church musician. He was the Music Director of The Washington Chorus for more than 35 years. In February 2000, he was honored by the National Academy of Recording Arts & Sciences with a Grammy Award for *Best Choral Performance* for a live concert recording of Benjamin Britten’s *War Requiem*.