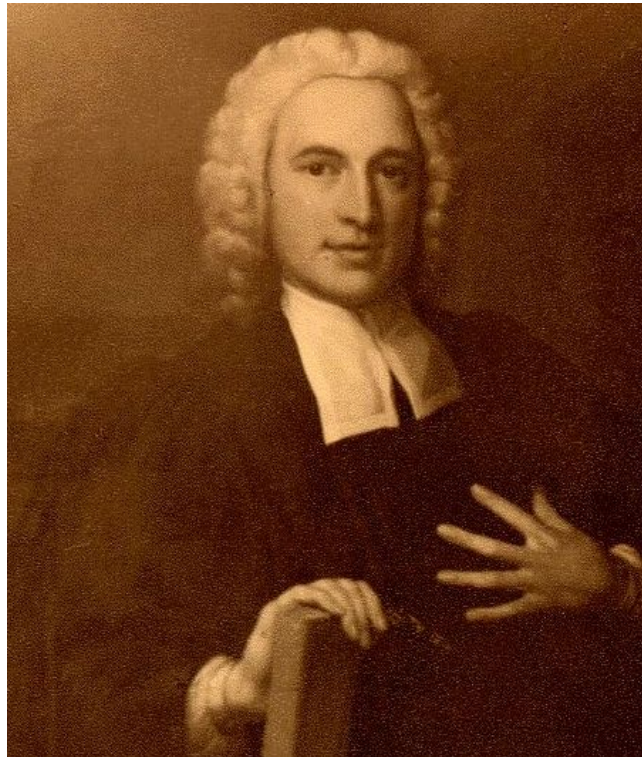


Music Celebrations International Presents
2007 Wesley Choral Festival
at Avery Fisher Hall, New York City

February 15-19, 2007

Celebrating the Charles Wesley Tercentenary



Festival Artistic Directors

Eph Ehly



James Ramsey



Timothy Koch



Music Celebrations International, L.L.C.

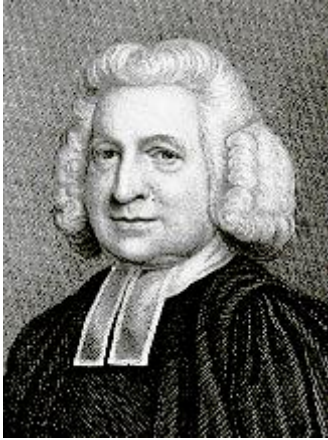
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2007 Wesley Choral Festival

Welcome to the Wesley Choral Festival

Music Celebrations International is pleased to announce the *2007 Wesley Choral Festival at Avery Fisher Hall, New York City, February 15-19, 2007*. The festival will be commemorating the Tercentenary of Charles Wesley's birth. The rehearsals will take place in the historic Riverside Church on Manhattan's Upper West Side near Columbia University. The festival performance, complete with soloists and full orchestra, will be held at Avery Fisher Hall, which size limits the number of voices to no more than 400 singers.

Charles Wesley



Through the festival we honour the memory of Charles Wesley (12 December 1707 - 29 March 1788), the great hymn-writer of the Wesley family, -- perhaps, taking quantity and quality into consideration, the great hymn writer of all ages. As a hymn-writer Charles Wesley was unique. He is said to have written no less than 9,500 hymns, and it is perfectly marvellous how many there are which rise to the highest degree of excellence. It is said that he wrote three hymns a week for fifty-seven years. Many of these nine thousand, too, rise to the highest rank of religious poetry, such as those beginning: "Ye servants of God, your Master proclaim," "Come, Thou long-expected Jesus," "A charge to keep I have," "Arise, my soul, arise," "Love divine, all love excelling," "Depth of mercy! Can there be," "Soldiers of Christ, arise," "Oh, for a thousand tongues to sing," and the noble Christmas hymn, "Hark! the herald angels sing." That is a wonderful list of great hymns to be written by one man!

Directions for Singing – the World Premiere!

For the festival, renowned composer Andrew Fowler of South Carolina will compose a work celebrating the life and writings of Charles Wesley entitled, *Directions for Singing*, the title taken from the series of seven instructions written by Charles and included in John Wesley's *Select Hymns, 1761*. The work will be a 40 to 45 minute piece with soloists and full orchestra. Featured in *Directions* will be a narrator/actor who will portray John Wesley, plus some audience participation as familiar Wesley hymns are introduced throughout the work. Dr. Eph Ehly will direct the world premiere of *Directions for Singing* as the culmination of the Festival.

New York City

The setting for this festival will be the world stage of New York City. By far the most populous city in the United States, New York is a world unto itself by virtue of its size, the density and diversity of its population, its dynamic economic activity and its vibrant cultural life. Participating choirs will be able to enjoy many of the sights and activities of the Big Apple in between rehearsals and performances.

Avery Fisher Hall

The finale performance of the 2007 Wesley Choral Festival will be held in the Avery Fisher Hall at the Lincoln Center for the Performing Arts. The 16.3-acre Lincoln Center complex, the world's largest performing arts center, serves as home for 12 arts companies and is located between Columbus and Amsterdam Avenues on the Upper West Side of Manhattan. Avery Fisher Hall is the home of the New York Philharmonic Orchestra. The hall, built in 1962, was originally named Philharmonic Hall, and it contains 2,738 seats.



The Festival Artistic Directors and the Composer

Eph Ehly



One of America's most revered choral conductors, Dr. Ehly is Professor Emeritus at the Conservatory of Music, University of Missouri-Kansas City, where he taught for twenty-seven years. Dr. Ehly's awards for outstanding musicianship include the Luther Spade Choral Director of the Year Award and the Amoco Foundation Outstanding Teaching Award. He has studied and conducted in the Soviet Union, Poland, Germany, England Sweden, Denmark, France, Italy, Austria, Switzerland and Brazil.

A research article published in the American Choral Directors Journal named Ehly as one of the most sought-after choral conductors/clinicians. He guest-conducts in Carnegie Hall, New York City several times each year. He has conducted over 80 all-state choirs, and over 500 festival ensembles. As a lecturer, clinician and conductor, he has appeared in 48 states, Canada, Brazil, Japan, Mexico, several countries throughout Europe and presented on more than 100 college and university campuses.

Dr. Ehly received his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the University of Colorado-Boulder, his Master of Music degree from George Peabody College, Nashville, Tennessee, and his Bachelor of Arts degree from the University of Nebraska-Kearney. Notable teachers he has studied with include Jean Berger, Julius Hereford, Warner Imig, Louis Nicholas, Lynn Whitten and Vincent Persichetti.

James Ramsey

James Ramsey is the Music Director and conductor of the Littleton Chorale. In addition, he is Director of Worship and Arts at St. Luke's United Methodist Church. Recently, James has served as Chorus Master for numerous programs including the Colorado Music Festival, the University of Colorado Summer Opera Program, the United Methodist Student Movement and more. As assistant conductor of the Grammy award-winning San Francisco Symphony Chorus, Ramsey worked with director Vance George for two seasons.



Timothy Koch

Timothy Koch (*pronounced Cook*) is the Music Director and conductor of the Carolina Master Chorale. In addition, he is Director of Worship and Arts at First United Methodist Church in Myrtle Beach. Dr. Koch received his Doctorate of Musical Arts degree from the Eastman School of Music.

"I consider Tim Koch one of the great choral conductors of our time." Samuel Adler, American composer, Juilliard School of Music

Andrew Fowler

Andrew Fowler, accompanist and composer-in-residence for the Carolina Master Chorale, is a native of Myrtle Beach. He received the M.M. and B.A. degrees from the University of South Carolina, and the Ph.D. from the University of Texas at Austin. Fowler has served as Director of Choral Activities at Auburn University at Montgomery and Cornell College, in Mount Vernon, Iowa. He has served on the faculties of the University of North Texas, and the University of Texas at Austin, where he taught theory, history, counterpoint. Fowler currently is Director of Music for Trinity United Methodist Church of Conway, S.C.

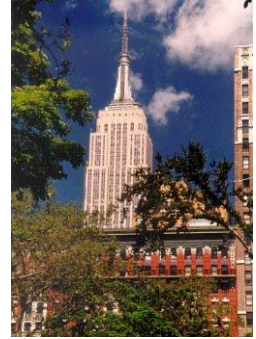


2007 Wesley Choral Festival Itinerary

Festival Only Itinerary (4 nights / 5 days)

Thursday February 15, 2007

Afternoon arrival in New York City by airline or chartered motorcoaches. Meet your MCI Tour Manager who will assist you to awaiting motorcoach and check in at hotel. Welcome Gala Dinner (location TBA)



Friday February 16, 2007

9:00am – 12:00pm *Morning massed rehearsal (at Riverside Church)*

Sightseeing Tour #1: half-day tour of lower Manhattan, including Wall Street, Greenwich Village, South Street Seaport and more. Also visit the Wesley Chapel Museum at John Street Church (founded in 1766, this is the oldest Methodist congregation in America)

Dinner at a local restaurant

7:00 – 10:00pm *Evening massed rehearsal (at Riverside Church)*



Saturday February 17, 2006

9:00am – 12:00pm *Morning massed rehearsal (at Riverside Church)*

Sightseeing Tour #2: half-day tour of midtown Manhattan, including Rockefeller Center, St. Patrick's Cathedral, Times Square, Lincoln Center, Central Park, Cathedral of St. John the Divine and more

Dinner on own, and evening at leisure for shopping and exploring the city (MCI can also arrange for your group to attend a Broadway show at additional cost)



Sunday February 18, 2007

*All choirs participate/sing in morning worship services in local UMC (or other) churches**

2:00pm – *Full dress rehearsal (Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center)*

Light dinner at a local restaurant

7:30pm - *Festival Finale Concert in Avery Fisher Hall at Lincoln Center*

Monday February 19, 2007 - President's Day

Check out of hotel and enjoy sightseeing and shopping as time permits
Departure for home



* - *besides a worshipful experience, this will help promote the finale concert.*



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