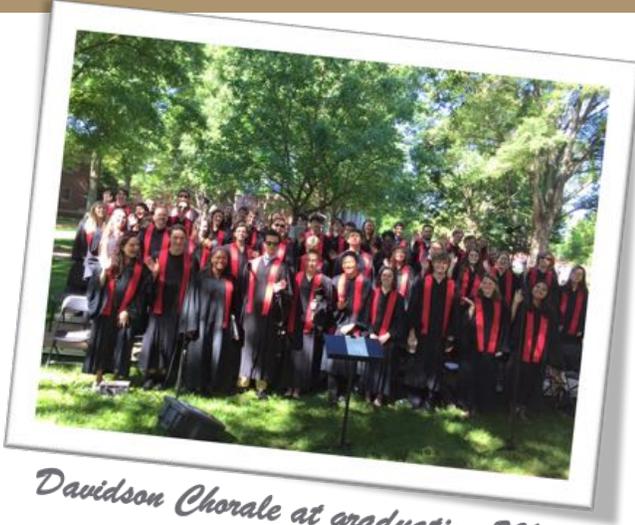


Davidson College Choirs

Choral Activities at Davidson College

June 2016



Davidson Chorale at graduation 2016

A Growing Choral Program

Since 2012, the number of singers in the Choirs at Davidson has more than doubled. The Davidson College Chorale (the premier choir on campus) began the 2015-2016 school year with 57 singers, and Davidson Singers began the year with over 30 singers. In 2013, the choir formerly known as *Concert Choir*, made up of Davidson students, faculty, staff, and community members, was reimagined into two new and unique identities: Davidson Singers (students at Davidson) and Choral Arts Society (faculty, staff, and community members)—though the choirs still met together for all rehearsals and concerts. We are excited to announce that, beginning in the fall of 2016, Davidson Singers will rehearse separately on Thursdays from 6:30-8:30pm

More inside!



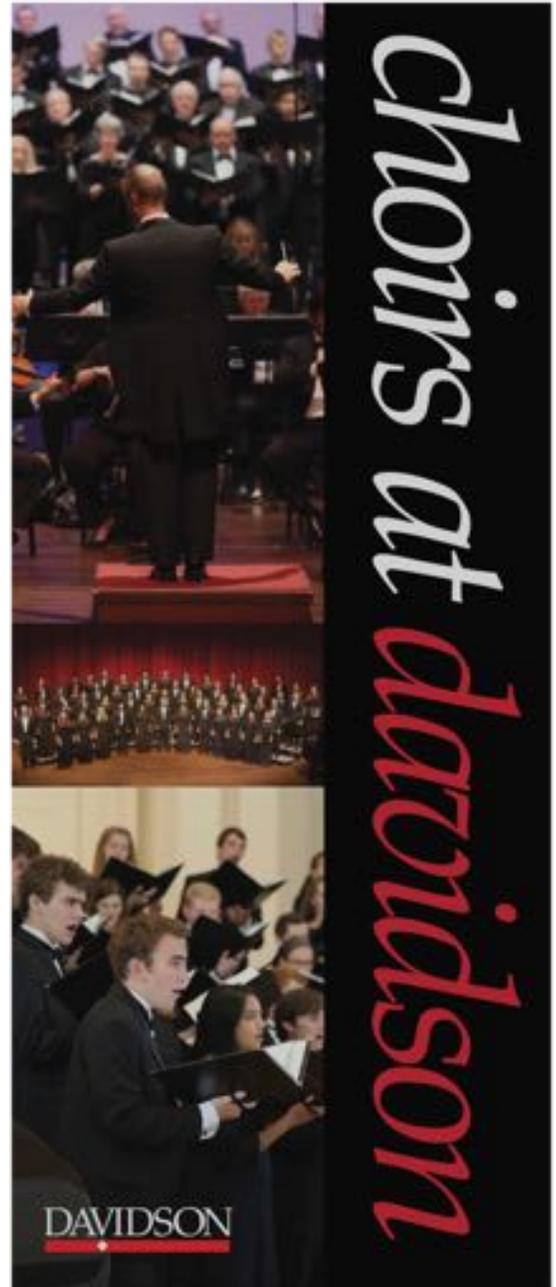
Farewell to Seniors

Chorale members bid adieu to seniors on graduation weekend

Graduation weekend is always an exciting time for the Davidson College Chorale. In addition to the Choirs' *Annual Luncheon* held on the Friday before Graduation, the Chorale spends several hours during the weekend in rehearsal for the annual *Farewell to Seniors Concert* on Saturday evening and hours in performance at both the Baccalaureate Service and at the Graduation Ceremony. The Chorale enjoys the opportunity to be on campus with their fellow choristers, relishing the completion of another busy semester and enthusiastically celebrating together the success of their graduating peers. Every year, the seniors get to choose their favorite piece from any of the concerts in which they've sung the past four years, and it is performed graduation weekend. This year they chose Stephen Paulus' *The Road Home*—a piece the seniors performed the first semester of their freshman year. Needless to say, there were tears shed as they sang—and not just by the seniors! You can listen to the Chorale's beautiful performances online. Follow the Davidson Chorale and see more of their performances on the *Davidson College Choirs* YouTube and Facebook pages.

Year in Review 2015-2016

Davidson College Choirs presented 14 separate choral concerts this year, each unique and well-received. The Chorale performed their fall concert twice—once during Family Weekend and a second time in Duke Family Performance Hall (their first concert in that venue). Davidson Singers and the Choral Arts Society presented Rachmaninoff's *All-Night Vigil* (also known as *Vespers*), and all the choirs participated in the 3rd Annual Holiday Gala (two sold-out audiences) as well as in the first-ever *Messiah Sing-Along* featuring the *North Carolina Baroque Orchestra* and student soloists—a huge success. The annual *Lessons and Carols Service* (*Vespers*) featured the addition of *Carolina Brass* and the Davidson College Presbyterian Church *Handbell Ensemble*. In the second semester, the Chorale enjoyed presenting their Spring Concert, *My Spirit Sang All Day*, featuring John Corigliano's *Fern Hill* and Mack Wilberg's *Cindy*. All the choirs participated in a momentous end-of-year concert, Karl Jenkins' *The Armed Man: A Mass for Peace*, exquisitely accompanied by an all-pro orchestra made up of members of the Charlotte Symphony. The student-led ensembles (*Collegium* and *After Hours*) both presented successful concerts in April and May, and Graduation Weekend served as the wonderful culmination to a very full and successful year!



After Hours Vocal Jazz

New vocal jazz ensemble

After Hours is a student-led ensemble sponsored by the Music Department and comprised of select Davidson College Chorale singers. *After Hours* specializes in jazz music for small vocal ensemble. In collaboration with the Director of Choral Activities, students who participate in *After Hours* are given opportunities to perform and serve. This year, *After Hours* debuted on campus at Summit Outpost, performed in both Chorale concerts, and sang in front of St. Louis Cathedral in New Orleans. Additionally, they provide leadership and service and engage in learning through rehearsal direction, sectional instruction, ensemble administration, event planning, rehearsal conducting, and jazz composition.

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and on Wednesday afternoons with the Davidson College Chorale. This evolution in the program for Davidson Singers is an important step in the growth of the choirs at Davidson. Though the ensemble may include intermediate and advanced choristers, its primary purpose is to provide a safe and welcoming environment where Davidson students can learn to sing and to develop strong musical skills (sight-reading, basic theory, and ear training). We also hope to be able to accommodate more student athletes in this ensemble, as the athletic practice schedule currently conflicts with the Chorale rehearsal, performance, and touring schedule. Over the next few years, as Davidson Singers grows and develops, its primary performance outlet will be as part of the fall and spring Chorale concerts. Additionally, Davidson Singers will be the lead choir at the annual Campus Christmas Party, and they will join all the Davidson College Choirs in the yearly collaborative Holiday Gala, Messiah Sing-Along, and end-of-year choral and orchestral work. Auditions for all choirs (Chorale, Davidson Singers, Collegium Musicum, and After Hours Vocal Jazz) takes place the first week of every semester in Sloan Music Center Room 201.



*Chorale in St. Louis Cathedral
New Orleans*

Chorale Tour & YOU

Each year, typically in January, the Davidson College Chorale embarks on a United States or an international tour. Past US tours have taken the singers to Key West, Orlando, Savannah, Charleston, New York, Washington D.C., Atlanta, Nashville, and New Orleans. Past international tours have taken them to Vienna, Prague, and Ireland. We are surprised yearly by the number of alumni who are unaware of the thriving choral program at Davidson College. They always express regret that more of their fellow alumni didn't have the opportunity to attend the Chorale's performance in their area. We continue to work with the Alumni Office to help spread the word about our tours as we seek to connect with alumni throughout the country. If you are interested in hosting the Davidson College Chorale for a performance during one of their domestic tours, please contact the director, Dr. Christopher Gilliam, at the email address listed below. As the premier touring choir that represents Davidson's quality Music Department, the Chorale students would enjoy the opportunity to connect with you and to share their artistry with as many alumni and Friends of Davidson as they are able.

[chgilliam@davidson.edu](mailto:chgilliam@ davidson.edu)



Choirs @ Davidson – The Arts in Liberal Arts

Choral activities at Davidson College offer students a foundational education in the historic works from the choral repertoire of the past and introduce them to well-crafted contemporary works that are shaping the ever-evolving choral landscape of the future. Throughout four years of participation in the choral program, students perform challenging repertoire that is artistically meritorious, scholarly, and historically significant. At the same time, they indulge in exciting new repertoire that bridges the gap between classical and popular genres through the performance and study of various multicultural, folk, and jazz-based compositions.

Through participation in Chorale, Collegium Musicum, After Hours, and Davidson Singers, Davidson students find exceptional outlets for artistic refinement and expression and learn the value of the study and discipline of music as a bridge to the past and a path to the future.



Davidson College Choirs

Sloan Music Center

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Davidson, NC 28036-7131

Friends and Supporters of the Davidson College Choirs

Watch us on



Davidson College Choirs



Contact Us

If you are interested in keeping up with Music Department choral events, contact Amanda Preston to be added to the Departmental mailing lists.

[ampreston@davidson.edu](mailto:ampreston@ davidson.edu)