

## **Lakewood Area Choral Society Seeking New Members**

Did you sing in high school or college choir? Do you miss the thrill of singing with a large choir? Or maybe you always wanted to be in a choir, but time just wouldn't permit. This is definitely the year to join the Lakewood Area Choral Society (LACS). LACS, now in its 30th year of bringing quality choral music to audiences throughout Michigan, is under the direction of Dr. Robert C. Oster. The choir was formed in January of 1986 to provide adults from in and around the Lakewood School District (Lake Odessa, MI) with an opportunity to sing in a large, semi-professional chorus. Currently, the Choral Society boasts a roster of one hundred and five amateur singers representing twenty-one communities and twenty-four zip codes in western and mid-Michigan. The performers range in age from their 20's to over 80 and represent various and diverse occupations. You could become one of its newest members!

Membership is open to anyone with choral experience who loves to sing and who is willing to be dedicated and committed to the LACS family. On March 2, 2015, LACS will host a Potential New Member "Get-To-Know-Us" rehearsal from 6:30 - 9:00 p.m. in the choir room at the Lakewood High School, 7223 Velte Rd, Lake Odessa, MI 48849. Use the south entrance, someone will be posted at the door to welcome you. Come and sit in with the choir. Experience the music and camaraderie of LACS! Complete information on becoming a LACS member will be available at this rehearsal. You will receive a copy of the Member Handbook, which will, hopefully, answer all your questions before the actual voice interviews take place. But if not, current members designated as mentors will be available to answer your questions before the actual voice interviews take place on Mar. 9 and 16.

The purpose of the voice interview is for Dr. Bob to hear your range, so you can be placed in the proper section. Tenor/Bass New Member Voice Interviews will take place March 9, 2015 at 6:00 p.m., in the Lakewood High School Choir Room. Following the voice interview, potential new members will be asked to sit in on the Tenor/Bass sectional which will run from 7:00-9:00 p.m. On March 16, 2015 the Soprano/Alto New Member Voice Interviews will be held at 6:00 p.m., in the Lakewood High School Choir Room. And, again, following the voice interview, potential new members will be asked to sit in on the Soprano/Alto sectional which will run from 7:00-9:00 p.m. Once that is successfully completed, and, if you enjoyed your initial experiences with LACS, that's it, pay your annual dues and you're in! Membership dues primarily pay for your music. Your first full rehearsal as a new LACS member will be March 23, 2015, 7:00-9:00 p.m., in the Lakewood High School Choir Room.

The Choral Society's season runs from March through December each year, and rehearsals are normally held on Monday nights of those months from 7:00-9:00 p.m. in the choir room at Lakewood High School, 7223 Velte Rd, Lake Odessa, or at Sunfield United Brethren Church just west of Sunfield, MI on M43. Full

rehearsals are normally held on the 1st and 4th Mondays, with sectional rehearsals usually held on the opposite Mondays, making the commitment for singers two to three rehearsals a month. Concerts generally begin in late April and conclude with the Christmas concerts in December. Performances are usually scheduled months in advance, so potential sponsoring organizations are encouraged to plan ahead to book LACS for a performance. Since 1986, over 225 concerts have been performed.

Yearly, the Lakewood Area Choral Society presents numerous sacred and secular concerts throughout the state. They have performed at the Welsh Auditorium in Grand Rapids, Miller Auditorium in Kalamazoo, the Opera House in Grand Ledge, and the Renaissance Center in Detroit and much more! The Choral Society has appeared twice at the annual Grand Rapids Arts Festival, at Art in the Park in Lake Odessa, and has held many concerts at various fairs, schools, and churches throughout central and west Michigan.

One of the highlights of the LACS season is the annual Follies Show. These themed shows, generally held in late September, feature solos and ensembles of LACS members as well as performances by the choir. This gives those members who would like to perform solo or in small ensembles a chance to “strut their stuff,” including song, dance, and instrumental music. It’s great fun and a change of pace from the typical LACS concerts.

In the past seventeen years, the Choral Society has embarked on two European trips, in 1997 and 2000, as well as a trip to New York in June of 2004. In 2007, the choral society returned to New York and then cruised to Canada, with concerts performed in Halifax and Saint John. Photos of these trips can be viewed at [lacsmusic.org](http://lacsmusic.org). A 25th anniversary trip to Chicago was taken in June, 2010, and the choir traveled to Washington DC in June of last year, with performances at the National Basilica of the Immaculate Conception, the Lincoln Memorial, and the Walter Reed Hospital. Plans for a 30<sup>th</sup> anniversary trip to Ireland, Scotland and Wales are underway, and you could be part of that experience as well!

The mission of the choral society is to provide for its members an atmosphere that promotes learning and enjoyment of choral music and to provide for our audiences superior performances of choral music. As a member of LACS you will experience that joy of singing you once knew or always wanted to experience. Further information about becoming a member is available at <http://lacsmusic.org>. Click on “New Member Information” under “Membership.” If you are interested in becoming a new member. If you would like further information, please email Joanie Oster, Executive Assistant of LACS, at [lacsmusic@gmail.com](mailto:lacsmusic@gmail.com) or phone 269 967-7246. Hope to see you at Lakewood High School on March 2.