

**MINNESOTA'S LAND OF LAKES CHOIRBOYS ADVANCE TO TWO MEDAL ROUNDS -
WORLD CHOIR GAMES**

The Land of Lakes Choirboys' Viking Choir has advanced to the World Choir Games' medal rounds in both of the two categories in which they competed - Children's Choirs and Musica Sacra. The biannual World Choir Games, held this July in Graz, Austria, is the largest choir competition in the world for lay and amateur choirs, with more than 600 performances taking place in 28 different categories.

These 34 boys enjoy the unique honor and experience of being the only boy choir representing the United States.

In the Children's Choir category, the Viking Choir is one of 18 choirs from a field of 42 to earn advancement to the medal round. They scored 22.08 points, having needed between 20.5 and 30 points to be able to compete in Saturday's final competition.

In the Sacred Music Category, they are 1 of 7 choirs who will advance to the final round. They placed 5th overall, scoring 21.75 points in the Musica Sacra qualifications, after having competed against a field of 35 other choirs for a berth in Saturday's medal contention. Among this field of competitors are both adult and children's ensembles.

In each of these categories' July 12th medal competitions, every choir will perform four pieces with a maximum pure-singing time of 15 or 20 minutes, depending on the category. They will all compete before the same elite, seven-member international jury from countries which include Hungary, Great Britain, Italy, Taipei, Malta, Austria, Greece, Germany, Ukraine, China and Vietnam.

In scoring the medal rounds, judges evaluate the competitors in the areas of intonation, sound quality of the choir, fidelity to the score, and overall artistic impression. The final result is made up of the total of all final scores of each of the adjudicators, disregarding the lowest and highest marks.

The Viking Choir, which has been touring Europe since June 12th, began their quest for a World Choir Games medal in December, when Artistic Director, Mr. Francis Stockwell, applied to the WCG artistic committee with an audition tape, photos, a proposed performance repertoire, and copies of reviews from critics around the world. They are one of only eight choirs to represent the United States and one of only two United States Choirs to advance to the medal rounds.

Since arriving in Graz July 9th, they have participated in the Opening Ceremonies, a Parade of Nations, Qualifying competitions, and now look forward to the July 12th medal competitions as well as the July 13th Award Ceremonies. They return to the Twin Cities on July 15th, after having represented the United States with the highest of integrity and achievement.

Notes to the editor: For further information, please contact:
Associate Director Aaron Carpenter
6437 Norris Lake Road
Elk River, MN 55330
763.238.8286
acarpenter@lolcb.org
www.lolcb.org