

Dear Central College Choir Alumni,

Greetings from the Music Department and more specifically from the A Cappella Choir! This is an important year for us. It is the A Cappella Choir's 80th birthday and we are traveling to Brazil on tour.

Brazil Itinerary

- Pre-tour Concert: Monday 13 May, 7p, St. Mark Lutheran Church, West Des Moines
 - **Alumni reception following – Please join us!**
- Sao Paulo – several concerts including the Cathedral in Sao Paulo; service project with Rotary International involving collecting shoes and donations for shoes
- Sorocaba – Concert at the Cathedral
- Iguacu Falls – Touring the famous falls!
- Rio di Janeiro – several concerts including Christ Church and the historic National Theater; a cultural exchange in a Favilla (slum area)

The choir has seen significant growth during the past several years because of strategic recruitment, greater retention of upper class students and more competition among freshmen. Alumni support of our recruiting efforts and concerts has been tremendous. We have increased our visibility especially in Iowa and in the Midwest with an annual Fall Mini-tour in addition to our larger spring tour. We also perform once a month at schools and churches in Central Iowa. As evidence of our growing artistic vision and reputation, the Cathedral Church of St. Paul in Des Moines has included us on their prestigious series for the past six years. All of this is to say that the A Cappella Choir is thriving today and carrying proudly the torch for the choral art you once carried. They need and deserve your support. Please consider a donation. No amount is too small and broad support will help us succeed! Feel free to mail your contribution or donate at one of the event below.

Selected Spring Performance Schedule and Fundraising Opportunities

- 11 February 7p – Concert with Pella Christian High School
- 14 February 7p – Concert with High School Singfest – 200 students coming this year!
- 22 March 7p – Concert at All Saint's Parish, Stuart, IA
- 21 April 4p – Choral Evensong Cathedral of St. Paul, Des Moines
- 26 April 7p – Rock-A-Pella (our annual variety show)
- 2 – 4 May – Tulip Time Poffertjes Stand at the corner of Liberty and Main
- 13 May 7p – Pre-tour Concert at St. Mark Lutheran, West Des Moines

Quotes from current choir officers

"Choir is my family. It's provided an opportunity for me to make friends in disciplines outside my own. A Cappella choir enables us to work together to create something bigger than ourselves to share with our community." Chloe Gearhart, junior

"Choir does more for me than just continue vocal music from high school. It provides an incredible community, cultural experiences and a sense of belonging. The opportunities we are given as a choir could never be replicated. We have the ability to connect emotionally through music with our audiences in ways that move them to their feet, to tears and sometimes a quiet amen at the end of a song. Choir for me is an experience I will remember for a lifetime." Tim Gibson, sophomore

"The A Cappella Choir provides great opportunities to work together to participate in something larger than ourselves, something that transcends our own personal existence. It provides connections across the world: food, music, art, and architecture – common human threads. We all seek mutual understanding and choir tours challenge assumptions providing us with a front in which to encounter the world." Ian Michel, senior

"In my time at Central, I've been given the opportunity to travel the country and see the world. My A Cappella Choir experience, though, has allowed me to see the world *and* touch lives. There is nothing as spectacular as the moment you see an audience member with tears in their eyes because of something you have worked so hard to give them." Cameron Van Kooten, senior

Chorus America has research that demonstrates the profound character development that flourishes in the choral setting. Choir members are better citizens, give more to charity, volunteer more time and the list goes on. As you reflect on your choral experiences, I hope you find this to be true and will support this new generation of Central College singers.

Warmest regards,

Mark A. Babcock, '91

M. Joan Farver Endowed Chair in Music and Director of Choral Activities