

## Maryville College Concert Choir

The Maryville College Concert Choir was organized in 1917 for the purpose of singing vesper services and was appropriately named the Vesper Choir. It became a part of the music curriculum in 1936 and underwent a name change to the "Maryville College Concert Choir" in 1954. Of the numerous fine directors, the one with the longest tenure is Dr. Harry H. Harter, who led the group from 1947 until his retirement in 1981. More recently, Dr. Daniel Taddie served as director until leaving the summer of 1999. Current director is Stacey Murphy Wilner, who is the director of choral activities at Maryville College. Wilner has served as past president and as the repertoire and standards chair of the Tennessee chapter of ACDA.

Today, members of the Concert Choir serve as musical ambassadors for the college, touring both domestically and internationally. Participation is by audition only and many of the students are music or choral scholarship recipients. In the spring of 2010, the Concert Choir began its residency in the Harry H. Harter Choral Rehearsal Room of the new Clayton Center for the Arts at Maryville College. The Concert Choir specializes in performing choral literature of many different styles and genres. Activities and events of the choir are organized by group of students who are elected to serve on a Leadership Team. Students assist in hosting All East Chorus in November, participate in an annual fall retreat and host a benefit Invitational Choir Festival, to support non-profit groups such as the Blount County Boys and Girls Club, the Joy of Music School and Africa-Eli. Performances throughout the year also include Homecoming Alumni Choir, Maryville Christmas Concert, Spring Homecoming Concerts, Knoxville Opera's "Rossini Festival", and performances at area churches and other events in the community throughout the year.

The Concert Choir performed at TN-MEA in Chattanooga in the spring of 2013. As part of 2016 "Journey to the Heartland" tour to Scotland, the Concert Choir performed at St. Andrew's University with the St. Salvator's Chapel Choir. In January of 2017, the Concert Choir hosted artist-in-residence Paul Phoenix, a grammy award winning former member of the *King's Singers*. The choir participates in master classes each year, most recently with *Cantus*, Jacqui Horner-Kwiatek formerly of *Anonymous 4*, and John Wesley Wright of the *American Spiritual Ensemble*. The 2017 "The Road Home" tour includes performances in Knoxville, Pikeville, Nashville, Jackson, Chattanooga and Memphis, TN, with a special appearance at TN-MEA in April.

Affiliated with the Presbyterian Church, Maryville College is a nationally ranked institution of higher learning that successfully joins the liberal arts and professional preparation in partnership with others. The philosophy of the students in the Concert Choir closely follows that of Maryville College founder Isaac Anderson, which is "to do good on the largest possible scale."