

MUSICAL ARTS INDIANA: A CHRONOLOGY

Good Friday, 1993: Premier concert at Trinity Evangelical Free Church. (There were 24 singers, and an audience of about 250, many of whom were members of Kern Road Mennonite Church.)

May 1996: First inter-church choir festival, forming Vesper Festival Choir, with singers from six congregations; this event grew into annual *Fall Sing!* production

May 1997: Performed at Chicago Temple United Methodist Church

April 1998: First performance with South Bend Symphony: with Notre Dame Glee Club and St. Mary's College Women's Chorale.

November 1998: First "Basically Baroque Concert": premier of Vesper Baroque Orchestra in Vivaldi's *Gloria* and *Concerto for Violin and Organ*.

January 1999: *Bach Sing!* — work shop formed to study the choral music of J.S. Bach. This series continued until 2003.

September 2000: Guest conductor Brazeal Dennard led *Fall Sing!* in a tribute to William Dawson

September 2000: First CD released: *The Light of the World*, selections of repertoire for Lent

June 2001: First Strategic Planning process led by LeRoy Troyer, resulting in reorganization and move to a more artistic self definition.

November 2001: Released second CD: *Lo How a Rose - Christmas Hymns and Carols*

December 2003: Premier performance of Handel's *Messiah* at the new Howard Performing Arts Center at Andrews University

Fall 2004: Vesper Chorale becomes Vesper Chorale, Inc. – its own 501 (c)(3) not-for-profit organization

November 2004: Premier of the Children's Choir of Michiana, Susan Naus Dengler, Director

April 2008: Celebrated 15th Anniversary season with a concert of Mozart's *Requiem* and Haydn's *Mass in Time of War*, joined by singers from area churches

November 2008: Launched Diverse Journeys Concert Series with performance of *Holocaust Cantata Song: from the Camps* at Temple Beth-El, in commemoration of the 70th anniversary of Kristallnacht, leading to continued relationship with Jewish Community

February 2009: Presented first annual Vesper Valentine Vocals Gala

May 2009: Celebrated the 5th Anniversary season of the Children's Choir of Michiana with a combined concert of mass settings, including John Rutter's *Mass of the Children*

November 2009: WNIT recorded Vesper Chorale performance of *Holocaust Cantata* at Temple Beth-El for broadcast in Spring 2010

November 2010: Celebrated 50th Anniversary of Kern Road Mennonite Church free concert, featuring Alice Parker's *Melodious Accord*

December 2010: Vesper Chorale Inc. reorganized as Musical Arts Indiana Inc.

May 2011: Diverse Journeys concert series collaboration with Mount Carmel Missionary Baptist Church – leading to relationship with that congregation

March 2012: Presented world premiere of Jorge Muñiz's *Stabat Mater* at St. Matthew Cathedral

June 2012: Children's Choir of Michiana went on tour to Washington D. C., giving three concerts.

November 2014: Diverse Journeys Concert Series, *Discover the Americas* with music from Peru.

June 2014: Children's Choir of Michiana performed in Carnegie Hall

June 2016: Childrne's Choir of Michiana toured Costa Rica

May 2018: 25th Anniversary Concert. Upon the retirement of Wishart Bell, Jeshua Franklin appointed Artistic Director

