



July 14, 2020

Bel Canto Youth Chorus Contact: Silagh White

silagh@bach.org

(610) 866-4382, ext. 116

Choir School of Delaware Contact: Alex de Aguiar Reuter

areuter@choirschoolofdelaware.org

(317) 445-8955

“Stand Up” Virtual Choir Camp

NEW CHORAL COLLABORATION CELEBRATES THE LEGACY OF HARRIET TUBMAN AND UNDERGROUND RAILROAD IN THE BRANDYWINE AND LEHIGH VALLEYS

The Bel Canto Youth Chorus of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem and The Choir School of Delaware Present One-Week Choral Intensive Featuring Music from the Movie “Harriet”

[The Bel Canto Youth Chorus of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem](#) and [The Choir School of Delaware](#) are excited to co-present “Stand Up” Virtual Choir Camp August 17-21. Inspired by the Harriet Tubman story and the geographic ties to the Underground Railroad of the two organizations, the camp will provide opportunities to develop cultural competency through music, art, and storytelling. Students will explore rhythm, harmony, improvisation, and vocal technique, as well as the artwork of Jacob Lawrence's book, *Harriet Tubman and the Promised Land*. The week will culminate with sharing of creative projects and singing the Cynthia Erivo song "Stand Up," from the movie, *Harriet*.

Through artistic expression, the virtual camp will create a safe environment to build empathy and understanding of people from differing backgrounds. Students will engage in meaningful discussion about the historical context of Harriet Tubman, the Underground Railroad, abolitionism, and representation of Black culture in American society.

This program is a collaborative effort between the directors of the two organizations. Dr. Joy Hirokawa, Founder and Artistic Director of the Bel Canto Youth Chorus, will lead music rehearsals and infuse meaning into the lyrics. Arreon A. Harley Emerson, Director of Music and Operations at the Choir School of Delaware, will delve into the themes of Lawrence's book as they pertain to the music, using historical context and art to examine tropes and representations of the Black experience in American culture. Brittney Lynn Stanton, Choir School of Delaware's Director of Education and Assistant Conductor, will provide instruction in musicianship inspired by Dr. Hirokawa and Mr. Harley's lessons.

STAND UP Virtual Choir Camp Details

DATES & TIMES: Mon, Aug 17 - Fri, Aug 21, 3:00pm - 5:00pm

REGISTRATION. Pennsylvania residents sign up at <https://bach.org/belcanto/>. Delaware residents sign up at <https://choirschoolofdelaware.org>

###

About Bel Canto Youth Chorus of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem

Bel Canto Youth Chorus of The Bach Choir of Bethlehem Founded in 1993, The Bel Canto Youth Chorus is comprised of auditioned treble singers from five counties in southeastern Pennsylvania. The choir has developed an international reputation for performing diversified choral repertoire at the highest standard of musical excellence and style. Noted for the innovative, artistic programs it presents, the choir has been invited to perform for numerous music conferences, including the Eastern Division ACDA, Eastern Division MENC, PMEA, AGO and Pennsylvania ACDA conferences.

In 2018, the choir merged with The Bach Choir of Bethlehem. Bel Canto provides the choral music education program for the Bach Choir, and performs regularly on Bach Choir programs. Bel Canto collaborates with other artists as well, including the Allentown Symphony Orchestra, Allentown Band, Bucks County Choral Society, Cordus Mundi Men's Chorus and Lehigh University Choral Union. The choir has been honored for its excellence as a winner of The American Prize in the Children's Chorus category. Tours have taken the choir to Central Europe, Italy, Ireland, Canada, England, Colorado, Oregon, Brooklyn, Disneyworld, Ohio, and Hawaii. The choir has been under the direction of Founder Joy Hirokawa from its inception. Learn more at bach.org/belcanto/.

About The Choir School of Delaware

The Choir School of Delaware has lived its mission of "Lifting Voices" and "Lifting Lives" for 137 years with the belief that a rich offering of academic support, mentoring, and wrap-around services is amplified by the power of music. "This organization has a strong legacy of serving and engaging Wilmington's youth and families through music, averaging 30 performances each year throughout northern Delaware and Philadelphia," said Arreon A. Harley-Emerson, Director of Music and Operations.

The Choir School provides a life-changing experience for at-risk children ages 7-17 in the greater Wilmington, Delaware area. "Since becoming an after-school program nearly three decades ago, Choir School students have earned a 100% high school graduation rate, with all going on to higher education or the services," said Peter D. Gordon, President, Board of Directors. www.choirschoolofdelaware.org

Link to video highlighting virtual programming:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=Dc7UeLJydZo&t=127s>

Link to artistic sample - "Lift Every Voice And Sing" arr. Roland Carter:

<https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=acIThEqKja8>