

PIPFest Gala with Stephen Hatfield

May 16-18, 2014

St. Paul, MN

Dear Bel Canto Singer:

As you know, the Partners in Praise Girl Choir has invited us to join them in May as they celebrate their 20th season. We met the PIP choir last year at Bella Voce's *Sing Out Loud* festival in Rochester. Your outstanding musical performance led to this invitation! There will be eleven choirs at the festival (including Bella Voce), so you will have the opportunity to meet lots of singers in programs just like ours from around the region.

As you probably know, **Stephen Hatfield is an internationally-recognized composer, teacher, and clinician**. He is known for his dynamic work with choirs and his creative arrangements of world music. Our beloved *Las Amarillas* is one of his arrangements. We have done MANY others! Mr. Hatfield will be running the clinics and rehearsals all day on Saturday. This is a unique opportunity – we would normally have to travel much farther and pay a lot more for this type of experience!

I need you to participate so that Bel Canto can have its strongest possible performance! As you can see below, we have worked hard to keep the costs low. The only thing I'm still unclear of is the situation regarding meals, but I believe that our meals on Saturday will be covered.

We will **leave on Friday, May 16th, at 4:00 pm** from Lawrence (behind the conservatory). Please bring a sack supper so we can get to St. Paul as soon as possible. We will **stay at the Homewood Suites Hilton** (in quads) on Friday night and Saturday night (breakfast is included at the hotel). We will spend the day on **Saturday at Bethel University** for PIPFest, working **with Mr. Hatfield** during the day and performing a concert that evening. Each choir performs its own set of music plus three Hatfield pieces as part of the festival choir. We will be on the road by 9:00 Sunday morning with an **estimated arrival time in Appleton of 3:00 pm on Sunday, May 18th**.

The **cost of the tour, not including meals, is only \$150 per singer**. This covers festival costs, bus costs, and hotel with breakfast Friday night and Saturday night. **Rehearsals** for this experience will be on **April 27, May 4, and May 11** (all on Sundays at our regular time).

Please indicate your commitment to this tour by **returning a non-refundable deposit of \$75** no later than **Sunday, February 2nd**. If you have money in a touring account, you will receive an account balance form tonight. Please sign and return it to the Academy office if you wish to use touring account money to cover any portion of the cost.

If you wish to pay the entire sum of \$150 right away, you are welcome to do so. If you choose to pay only the deposit, you will be billed the remaining \$75, which will be due no later than April 1st, 2014. Note that there is no financial assistance available for this tour. (Those who wished to fund-raise for tours were given the opportunity to sell advertising in the fall.) Please fill out the attached form and return it with your deposit at rehearsal or by mailing it directly to the Academy of Music. Please feel free to contact me with any questions you may have prior to February 2nd.

Sincerely,

Ms. Bruno

Minnesota Trip Reply Form

Please return this form no later than Sunday, February 2nd, 2014.

Name: _____

Voice Part: _____

- YES!!! I can't wait to travel to Minnesota. My non-refundable deposit of \$75 is attached. I understand that I will be billed for the remaining \$75 which will be due no later than April 1st, 2014. (Please make checks payable to Lawrence Academy of Music.)
- YES!!! I can't wait to travel to Minnesota. I have enclosed \$150 to cover all tour costs except meals. (Please make checks payable to Lawrence Academy of Music.)
- BUMMER!!! I have an unavoidable conflict and am unable to travel with Bel Canto this year.

Parent Signature: _____

You may return this form by mail to:

Lawrence Academy of Music – Bel Canto Tour

711 E Boldt Way

Appleton, WI 54911