

# VOCAL NOTES

*It's a Boy's Place to Sing!*

FROM ARTISTIC DIRECTOR WILLIAM R. ADAMS



## IMPOSSIBLE

The boys in our organization, besides being very talented, are extremely bright and really perceptive. In fact, even after thirty-two years, I continue to be amazed and impressed with their quick wit and understanding of complex issues and situations. I believe choral music and being in our choir allows this kind of critical thinking to blossom.

The (real) meaning of many songs is often hidden and not obvious . . . and only by exploration and a thoughtful process, does one discover the life-changing words come to life. It is our job to bring that meaning to our audiences as well.

I teach the boys that many words and phrases take on different meanings depending on how you say them. Take for instance, the following from one of our songs:

"Throw the Yule log on, Uncle John".

By making a punctuation change, it now reads:

"Throw the Yule log on Uncle John"!

### Quite a difference!

At one of our recent summer camps, a new boy who had just moved into Tour Choir was having some problems. He told his camp buddy that things were just impossible for him ... he was so homesick, the music was too hard and he had no friends.

His camp buddy wisely set him down and wrote out the following:

### Impossible = I'm possible

He further counseled his new friend, that HE held the answers to making things happen, that by taking responsibility himself, anything was possible!

The two have become good friends and a great lesson was both shared and learned by simply making a punctuation change!

I like to remember, that when we say "It's impossible", that God says, "With Him, ALL things are possible." Luke 18:27

It's exactly what happened when I had this impossible idea to start a boys choir!

Until we meet again . . . may God hold you in the palm of His hand. ♪



## Board of Directors

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Member



## KEEP CALM AND CARRY ON AT OUR GALA DINNER & AUCTION!



Our annual Gala Dinner and Auction will be **Saturday, February 8, 2014** in the Safari Lodge at Safari Texas Ranch. Starting at 6:30 p.m., attendees will enjoy our patriotic theme this year with a 1940s/WWII/USO kind of vibe. It's a wonderful date night for adults and we encourage dressing up in period attire such as bomber jackets, zoot suits, belted dresses, peplums, squared shoulders, fatigues, military dress, victory rolls and pin curls. Of course, more traditional modern business casual attire and dress is an option!

Festivities for this magical evening include a Live Auction, Silent Auction and Big Board. There will be a variety of auction packages suitable for all budgets. The Tour Choir will serve as entertainment for the evening, singing a few crowd favorites in addition to some songs in keeping with our evening's theme. A great buffet dinner with dessert will be served and a cash bar will be available. Alumni dad and actor **Bob Wilson** will serve as Master of Ceremonies with **Fort Bend County Sheriff Troy Nehls** serving as Auctioneer.

### Great Live Auction Item!

Two (2) round trip tickets on Southwest Airlines and a week's condo stay at your choice of over 1,000 US locations!

### Volunteers and Sponsors Needed

We need parent volunteers as well as corporate sponsors to ensure the success of our event. There are volunteer opportunities in procuring auction items and sponsorships, decorations as well as set-up and clean-up the day of the event, check-in and check-out the night of the Gala and also cataloguing and label auction items in the weeks leading up to the event. If you can help in any way, please contact **Tiana Mortimer**, Executive Director, at (281) 240-3800 in the choir office or email to [ptm@fbbctx.org](mailto:ptm@fbbctx.org)...



The levels of corporate sponsorship are below and include press coverage in the newspapers, possible photo opportunities and of course, recognition in our concert printed programs. We hope that perhaps you can talk to your company about supporting the Fort Bend Boys Choir!

### Platinum Sponsor—\$2,500

Table for 10 at the Gala in addition to a private performance by the Tour Choir (subject to date availability). This Tour Choir performance could be used for the sponsor's own event or donated to a favorite charity.

### Gold Sponsor—\$1,000

Table for 10 at the Gala event.

### Silver Sponsor—\$500

Four Attendees to the Gala event.

### Bronze Sponsor—\$250

Two Attendees to the Gala event.

Proceeds will support all five music programs from the 6 and 7 year old boys in Music Magic to our changed Alumni voices in Cantabilé. **Individual tickets at \$40 each will be available for purchase as well.**

Clear your calendar to attend our Gala event—and get into the spirit of

things with 1940s attire! Remember, it is a great date night or even a night out with friends! Come out and support our 32<sup>nd</sup> performance season! 🎵





## A Message from Rick Forlano, President of the Board of Directors

As we enter the new year, I want to thank you for your support in 2013 and ask for your continued efforts in 2014. The Fort Bend Boys Choir had a good year. First, we got word that we were approved for yet another \$25,000 grant from the **George Foundation** but we had to raise \$50,000 first. Only through community and parent contacts, were we able to apply for and receive several grants and donations from outside resources over and above our normal, budgeted income—and we met our \$50,000 fundraising goal in the process.

Entering this new year, we will again be faced with similar fundraising challenges and I would ask that all of us work together, backing the Choir in 2014. One significant way is by supporting our Gala Dinner and Auction on **Saturday, February 8<sup>th</sup>** at Safari Texas. It is our largest fundraising event of the year and we need you to not only attend but also invite others to attend with you. Perhaps you can ask your company to support the choirboys through a gala sponsorship. There will be some great live and silent auction items to bid on at all price levels. One great live auction package includes 2 round trip, no blackout airline tickets to anyplace in the United States as well as a week's stay at a condo resort (over 1,000 locations in the US to choose from!). Attending this adult evening is a great way to support our choirboys AND have fun too.

On another note, the Choir actively recruits boys and so far this winter, we have 20 new boys who auditioned and will be starting this January. We encourage you to spread the word about our auditions as well as Music Magic, our class for six and seven year old boys. Changes in our Choir staff also kick off the new year with a fond farewell to Town Choir accompanist **Brenda Guthrie** and a warm welcome to **Phyllis Gurbach**.

The start of 2014 is yet another opportunity to start anew. The Board and I wish everyone a prosperous new year and much success for both you and the Fort Bend Boys Choir. 🎵



# CANTABILÉ IS BACK!



## Spring Semester Starts Tuesday, March 18<sup>th</sup>!

Cantabilé, our choir of changed voices, is back after a one semester hiatus! A few things have changed but this choir is still open to all Fort Bend Boys Choir alumni. ***We are also opening up participation to any young tenors, baritones and basses from local area junior and high schools.***

**TAKE NOTE ALUMNI!** We hope that you can share this information with your school friends and get them to join you in singing with us this semester.

*Young men in junior and high school with a changed voice who wish to improve their overall tone and sight-reading skills is encouraged to contact the choir office at (281) 240-3800 or [wra@fbbctx.org](mailto:wra@fbbctx.org). The additional training through the Fort Bend Boys Choir can help provide a stronger edge for UIL competitions and other school choir events as well.*

Weekly rehearsals will be an hour long on **Tuesday evenings at 7:30 p.m. starting March 18<sup>th</sup>** and will be held at the First United Methodist Church-Missouri City, 3900 Lexington Blvd., Missouri City, TX 77459. This group will perform at our Spring Concert on **Saturday, May 17, 2014** at Grace Presbyterian Church. Tuition for Cantabilé is only \$25.00 for the semester.

Non-alumni boys new to the Fort Bend Boys Choir may be required to audition as a formality. More information is available on the Fort Bend Boys Choir website at [www.fbbctx.org](http://www.fbbctx.org). Click on "[Cantabilé Newsletter](#)" on the left-hand menu to access an information sheet about our new Cantabilé program. 🎵





## Winter Audition Results



**M**any boys got some great news to kick off their holiday season—acceptance into the Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas! The following choristers start the Spring 2014 semester this January:

Abraham Altman	Robbie Keenan	Bolaji Oyedepo	Christian Stanley
Cameron Early	Akaash Kolluri	Colt Rener	Arjun Surya
Aiden Frier	Zach Ligh	Cooper Rodden	Ethan Thomas
Marc Griffin	Luca Martinez	Julian Ruiz	Ivan Tong
Andrew John	Carlos Mejia	Eric Sieberts	David Zhang
Nevin Kalloor	Adarsh Menachery	Alexander Sieberts	

We also had three choirboys move up from the Town Choir to the Tour Choir! These boys are **Brian Do, Alex Le** and **Kenny Thomas**. Congratulations to all of these talented boys! Remember to spread the word about future auditions coming up in April! 🎵

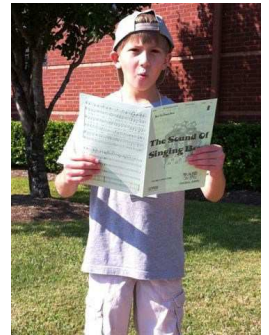
*Music is supposed to be fun. It's about heart, it's about feelings, moving people, and something beautiful, and it's not about notes on a page. I can teach you notes on a page, I can't teach you that other stuff.  
~ from the 1995 film "Mr. Holland's Opus" starring Richard Dreyfuss as Glenn Holland*

## SPREAD THE WORD!

### Upcoming Auditions for to Start the New Fall 2014 Season

**O**pen auditions for new choirboys will be held on **Saturday, April 26, 2014** at the First United Methodist Missouri City, 3900 Lexington Blvd., Missouri City, TX. Auditions are first come, first served from **9:00 a.m.—12 Noon**. No previous choir experience is necessary!

Boys must be eight (8) years old or in the third (3rd) grade for the upcoming 2014-2015 school season. Scholarships and payment plans are available. Call the choir office at (281) 240-3800 for more details or if you need to schedule an alternate audition date by special appointment. Click on the "The Process" under the Audition section of the front page of the Fort Bend Boys Choir website at [www.fbbctx.org](http://www.fbbctx.org). 🎵



## Did You Know? Music Education Statistics

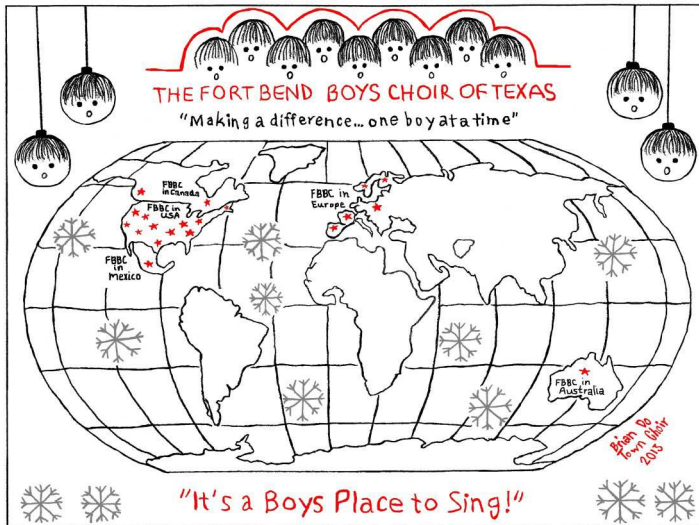
- 🎵 Did you know children who get a quality music education do 20-25% better on standardized English and Math exams?
- 🎵 Did you know that research shows music is to the brain as physical exercise is to the human body. Music tones the brain for auditory fitness and allows it to decipher between tone and pitch.
- 🎵 Elementary age children who are involved in music lessons show greater brain development and memory improvement within a year than children who receive no musical training.





## The Joyous Sounds at our Christmas Musicale!

Christmas is always a magical time here at the Fort Bend Boys Choir and what better way to get into the holiday spirit than our Christmas Musicale! Held on **Saturday, December 7, 2013** at Sugar Land Baptist Church, we had a nice crowd enjoying the sights and sounds of over 150+ choirboys on stage. Special thanks goes to Co-Chairs **Christine Boothe** and **Amanda Curnan** for coordinating the many activities and volunteers this type of concert requires to ensure a successful event. You both did great! Recognition goes to Town Choirboy **Brian Do** for his winning invitation and program artwork. He did a great job conveying the overall theme "It's a Boy's Place to Sing!"



Music Magic, under the direction of **Ms. Sara Ward** with **Ms. Brenda Guthrie** as accompanist, is our music enrichment class of 6 and 7 year olds. They started off the evening with a medley of tunes from the musical *My Town, My World*. Training Choir, under the direction of **Mr. Jason Ritchie** (a choir alumnus) with **Mrs. Pamela Connolly** as accompanist, readied the audience for the night ahead with great songs like *A Bell Carol* and a fun holiday song *Chocolate in my Stocking*. The Town Choir, directed by **Mr. Matt Robinson** with accompanist **Ms. Brenda Guthrie**, sang a few tunes including a piece called *He is Born*, *The Divine Child* with soloists **Kenny Thomas** and **Chubby Uchenna-Mgbame**. *Jingle Bells Through the Ages* with narrator **Raymond Kelly** was a snappy, fun piece.

The Tour Choir, under the direction of **William R. Adams** and accompanied by **Ms. Sara Ward**, got the audience's toes tapping with *Fa-La-La ... Ha* and *Ring the Bells* with choirboy **Kent Mohr** playing handbell. *The Twelve 'Pains' of Christmas* got the audience laughing with choirboys **Gabe Cote** and **Ben Heintz** providing comic relief. Crowd favorites *Dream a Dream* and *Al Shlosa D'Varim* were also part of the Tour Choir performance. Next, all choirs from Music Magic through Tour Choir joined together in *Christmas is a Feeling*, with choir alumni in the audience joining the boys on stage for this perennial favorite. Special acknowledgement goes to flautist **Paula Smith**, on staff in 1983 for accompanying the choirboys.

The Fort Bend Boys Choir would like to thank the co-chairs and the many parent volunteers for their excellent work in creating such a memorable, touching event. Special appreciation goes to Tour Choir mom **Leannah Thurman** for taking such spectacular pictures to ensure we always have photo memories of the concert. We would also like to thank **Mr. Tan Truong** of **Westside Recording Studio** for recording the entire concert to create an outstanding DVD recording, **Weatherford Farms** for donating the beautiful flowers that decorated the stage and **Sugar Land Baptist Church** for graciously opening their home to us. We would also like to thank all elementary area music teachers for referring talented boys to our music programs. Without your help, we wouldn't have one of the best choir programs in the world. Best wishes to everyone! 🎵



## The Impact and Life Lessons Learned at the Fort Bend Boys Choir

We put forth a challenge to our choirboys, Board of Directors and Choir Staff. Three things were posed to them and their task was to submit a quote or thought about either: 1) What impact has the Choir had on you?; 2) What is the most important lesson you have learned through the Choir?; or 3) Provide anything you want to share about the Choir. We received some great answers and except for some minor editing for spelling, the submissions are pretty much verbatim below AND even more on page 15!

<p>Singing and seeing people smile when we sing, makes me feel good. ~ <b>Gabriel Garza, Training Choir</b></p>	<p>I love being part of the Choir because it's cool being part of something that sounds so good and it's fun performing in front of a big audience. ~ <b>Ben Heintz, Tour Choir</b></p>	<p>The choir has helped me adjust to being around more kids and has helped improve my confidence in my singing abilities. ~ <b>Nathan Leech, Training Choir</b></p>
<p><i>Being in boys choir is just so awesome! I have fun singing the songs, even the hard ones that are annoying at first, but get better every week as we learn.</i> ~ <b>Raymond Kelly, Town Choir</b></p>	<p>The friendships you make in the choir stay with you forever. ~ <b>Cameron Thompson, Tour Choir</b></p>	<p><i>Fort Bend Boys Choir has made me a better singer by learning how to control my voice and put it into song.</i> ~ <b>Hayden Ducker, Training Choir</b></p>
<p><b>The choir has not only given me the chance to make new friends, it has given me the confidence to be myself and the opportunity to bring happiness to others.</b> ~ <b>Ethan Dravis, Tour Choir</b></p>	<p>It has been an honor to be a part of this world-class organization. Being able to see some of the "behind-the-scenes" has made me appreciate the choir even more. I've loved getting to know each boy from the Tour choir, seeing how their unique personalities contribute to the energy of the choir. The boys work hard and, WOW! does it show when they perform. I find myself closing my eyes to enjoy the perfection in the songs. ~ <b>Christine Boothe, Board Member</b></p>	<p>I am starting to sing a lot more and starting to like it. I enjoy learning how to sing correctly. ~ <b>Kevin Zhang, Training Choir</b></p>
<p>I feel like my voice has developed a lot more through the Fort Bend Boys Choir. I have learned how to sing with crisp consonants and tall vowels. I think the choir can help other boys sing a lot better and make people feel good, who are listening to them. ~ <b>Zachary Cook, Training Choir</b></p>	<p><b>The Fort Bend Boys Choir has taught me how to sing properly and to cooperate with others.</b> ~ <b>Zachary Carr, Town Choir</b></p>	<p>I like that I have made so many friends for the past two years. It is more than I could have ever made anywhere else. I love every single piece of music we have done. It is so fun to learn, make mistakes, and to perform. I thank Mr. A for encouraging me to join-it is one of the best things that ever happened to me. ~ <b>Reid Curnan, Tour Choir</b></p>
<p>Most important lesson--I have learned that to be really good at something you have to practice and practice many hours. Practice can be fun but you have to make it fun by your attitude. Singing is gift given from God.  My favorite quotes from Mr. A ... "To whom much is given, much is expected." "There are no bad boys." "Take off your mask." and "Pronounce your words!" ~ <b>Kent Mohr, Tour Choir</b></p>	<p><b>Being in the Fort Bend Boys Choir is awesome! It's so great to have a group of friends to sing with, and I love the discipline that Mr. A requires."</b> ~ <b>Charlie Kacal, Tour Choir</b></p>	<p>I love the Fort Bend Boys Choir very much. I look forward to going to practice every week. I learn about music, and about what it means to be a person of Character and how important this is when I grow up. I learned to be on time - never to be late. I learned to respect other people. I learned to be kind to others. ~ <b>Ashton Kao, Training Choir</b></p>
<p>Learning new songs and sharing my love of music with other people makes me happy! ~ <b>Nicholas Pappas, Town Choir</b></p>	<p><i>"Only those who dare to fail greatly . . . can ever achieve greatly."</i> I love this quote and thought of it many times as I contemplated and prayed about starting the Fort Bend Boys Choir. ~ <b>Mr. A, Founder &amp; Artistic Director</b></p>	



## Of a Particular Note

### Several Ways to Earn “Free” Money for our Choirboys

#### Corporate Matching Funds

Each year, we receive monetary donations for our Spring Concert, Gala Dinner & Auction, Walk-a-thon, Christmas Musicale, Scholarship program and general donations. Did you know that if you donate, you could easily double your contribution if you participate in your company's matching funds programs?

Of course, not every company has a matching funds program, but if your company does have one, consider a donation to the choir that your company can match. Many companies will match your donation to the Fort Bend Boys Choir up to a certain dollar amount while others will donate money if you work a certain number of volunteer hours.

We encourage you to find out if your company has any type of matching gift program. Some companies even donate when it is a spouse that donates time or money as well! We want to recognize some of the companies who have supported us through matching funds programs:

**Chevron, JP Morgan Chase, Devon Energy, Duke Energy, ExxonMobil, \*Halliburton** (as well as its subsidiaries), **IBM, PepsiCo** and **Sempra Energy**

\* **Halliburton** participates in an employee giving program called "*The Halliburton Donor Advised Fund*" where the employees can choose a certain charity to receive the funds they designate for donation from their paycheck.

We encourage everyone who donates time and/or money to the Fort Bend Boys Choir to check with your employers to see if matching funds, volunteer giving or some similar program (even grant opportunities) exists. Remember, some companies (like **ExxonMobil**) will donate even if it is the spouse who gives their time through volunteer projects. 🎵



#### Grocery Shopping

We participate in Community Share Programs with Kroger and Randall's Food Markets. Your grocery shopping could earn the choir money each time you use your Kroger or Randall's Reward cards.

For Randall's shoppers, we have a rebate number tied to our community share program. Using a permanent marker, write **rebate #4032** in large print on the front of your rewards card (and even your keychain card) so that the next time you shop, you will remember to tell the clerk to enter the rebate number. From then on, the number is automatically recorded and the Fort Bend Boys Choir receives a percentage of each grocery shopping trip!

Kroger shoppers can participate too. If you have a Kroger Plus Card, simply create an account online through [www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com](http://www.KrogerCommunityRewards.com). It is free to do and once set up, you will have to verify your account by clicking on the link emailed to you from the

Kroger website.

Once you have verified your Kroger account, sign in and then click "**EDIT**" in the Community Rewards section. Type in "**Fort Bend Boys Choir**" and save our organization to your account. This should link your Kroger Rewards card to our organization so we can earn a percentage of each grocery shopping purchase you make. Future purchases should indicate the Fort Bend Boys Choir on your grocery store receipts. 🎵



**Do you shop online regularly for personal or work-related items? We will soon be adding more ways to support the choir—at no cost to you. Keep an eye on our website and Facebook page for more details as they develop!**





## Of a Particular Note

What's Going on with the Fort Bend Boys Choir



Head over to [www.facebook.com](http://www.facebook.com) and check out our page. We want you to become a Fan of the Fort Bend Boys Choir and spread the word to your family and friends—the more the merrier! Just type in “Fort Bend Boys Choir” in Facebook’s search engine or click the direct link on our website at [www.fbbctx.org](http://www.fbbctx.org).

We have 560 fans right now ... help us break over 600! Join Facebook and “like” our Fort Bend Boys Choir page today. It’s a great way to keep in touch and find out the latest information. 🎵

### A Fond Farewell and Enthusiastic Welcome!

We recently bid a fond farewell to **Brenda Guthrie**, our Town Choir accompanist that has been with us for the past year. We are sorry to see her leave the organization.

The role of Town Choir piano accompanist will be filled by choir friend and former music teacher **Phyllis Gurbach**. She is a music educator who has served in a variety of roles from accompanist to choral director. She holds a Bachelor of Science degree in Music with a Piano concentration as well as a Master of Arts from Stephen F. Austin University. **Ms. Gurbach** retired after a 30 year career in both Louisiana and Texas, primarily at Fort Bend ISD at all choral levels from elementary through high school, where her choirs often received numerous Sweepstakes awards at UIL Choral competitions.

**Ms. Gurbach** also served as Region 17 Vocal Coordinator for six years and Choir Coordinator at Fort Bend ISD for eight years. She has served as music staff at several churches both as accompanist and choir director in addition to having her own private studio and working as adjudicator. She currently resides in Richmond with her husband Greg and is thrilled to be a part of the Fort Bend Boys Choir organization. 🎵

### Choir Office Wish List

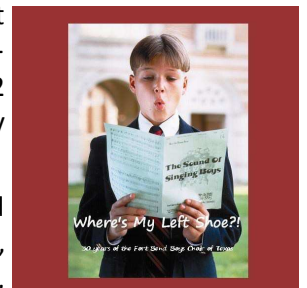
The Fort Bend Boys Choir stretches every budget dollar, particularly office expenses, to provide the best possible musical education to our choirboys. We even recycle paper and shake printer cartridges to prolong their use! However, like many other nonprofits, our budget does not always allow for many extras so we need your help! Can you help us with one or more of the items listed below? All donations are tax-deductible and subject to fair market rate. We appreciate your support of our talented boys! 🎵

- Tuition scholarship one boy for one year - \$500
- White copier paper
- Color copier paper
- HP 61 black and color printer cartridges
- Gift cards to office supply stores

### Just a Few 30th Anniversary Books Left

Our 30th anniversary may be two years in the past but the memories will last forever, especially in the form of our 40-page book “Where’s My Left Shoe?” There are 100 pictures that chronicle our first 30 years—from the first rehearsal in 1982 through our 30th anniversary tour to France in June 2012.

The books are only \$35.00 and shipping is \$5.00. **Mr. Adams**, Founder and Artistic Director, can personalize your book with a special message. To order simply email to [fbbc@fbbctx.org](mailto:fbbc@fbbctx.org). You can pay by Paypal using a credit card or mail a check. Order today before they are gone forever! It is a great memento for a past choirboy. 🎵





## Of a Particular Note

More Fort Bend Boys Choir Noteworthy News

### World's Finest Chocolate Fundraiser Starts in March! YUM!

*What is your favorite candy bar flavor?*

Our most popular fundraiser with the choirboys starts in March—our World's Finest Chocolates! At \$1.00 per candy bar or \$2.00 per box of almonds, they are an affordable, tasty treat!



Keep an eye out for memos and other information about this easy fundraiser. We will set up some grocery store sales so boys have selling opportunities. 🎵

### Check our Website Often!

Visit our website ([www.fbbctx.org](http://www.fbbctx.org)) for the all latest information about the organization. You can also enjoy some great music while you browse through the website, thanks to our music player.

Our *Concert Schedules* page offers the most up-to-date concert information for the entire organization. In addition, choir families do not have to worry about lost weekly *Noteworthy News* memos or monthly calendars because this paperwork is easily accessible online too! Just look under *Parents Corner* on the left hand menu.

Our website has everything you need from videos to sound clips. Be sure to keep it bookmarked! 🎵

## Thanks, Gracias, Danke, Merci, Xièxiè, Asante, Grazie, Arigatō,

No matter how we say “thanks,” the Fort Bend Boys Choir would not be the success it is today if not for the efforts of our many supporters in the community. Your generosity – in time, talent and in-kind donations – is greatly appreciated. 🎵

**First United Methodist Church Missouri City**  
*Rehearsal space and use of their facilities for 5 choirs*

**Weatherford Farms**  
*Donation of Flowers to our Christmas Musicale*

**Christine Boothe and Amanda Curnan**  
*Christmas Musicale Co-Chairs*

**Westside Recording Studios**  
*DVD Recording of our Christmas Musicale*

**Janis Pulliam**  
*Volunteering her time each week in the office*

**Leannah Thurman**  
*Serving as choir photographer for our performances*

## Fort Bend Boys Choir CDs Make Awesome Gifts

The Fort Bend Boys Choir has 9 CD releases to choose from should you want to take our choirboys “home” for your listening pleasure. They are only \$15 each or \$10 each if you buy 10 or more. Visit our website at [www.fbbctx.org](http://www.fbbctx.org) for a complete listing of our CDs and also listen to some sound bytes from each one!

Great opportunities to give CDs include: birthdays, Christmas, Hanukkah, housewarming or hostess gifts, teacher appreciation gifts, recognizing grandparents or even for those “just because” moments in life! 🎵



## We Rose to the Challenge! Our \$50k Fundraising Goal has been met ...

In May 2013, we were approved for a \$25,000 grant from **The George Foundation**. This was a 2:1 matching challenge grant which means that the Fort Bend Boys Choir had to raise \$50,000 from unbudgeted sources in order to receive the \$25,000 grant. As of December 31, 2013, we met our fundraising goal!

This goal would not have been met without the support of several resources. We owe BIG thanks to:

- **William L. Adams Memorial Endowment** - funds went to our five music programs.
- **Sprint Waste Services** - funds went towards upgrading our computers and software and the purchase of an iPad.
- **WJ Interests, LLC.** - funds went towards upgrading our computers and software and the purchase of an iPad.
- **Sugar Land Rotary Club** - funds went to our five music programs.
- **The Madison Charitable Foundation** - funds went to our five music programs.
- **The Immanuel & Helen B. Olshan Foundation** - funds went to our five music programs.
- **The Jabez Foundation** - funds went to our five music programs as well as upgrading our technology.

Funds received by the groups above were unbudgeted and served several purposes. Supporting our five music programs and upgrading technology was one purpose. The secondary and primary purpose though served to meet our 2:1 matching challenge goal. **The George Foundation** grant is earmarked for tuition scholarships and uniforms for deserving young boys who require some financial assistance. This challenge grant also will help with scholarships for Tour choirboys traveling this summer to Illinois.

We are truly appreciative of this support. Just like the old saying "it takes a village to raise a child," it takes the support of the entire community for our five music programs to thrive. Thanks so much to these foundations and companies for "making a difference ... one boy at a time" through funding. 🎵

## Spring Concert Details



Marking the start of summer and the end of the school year just wouldn't be the same without a concert by the Fort Bend Boys Choir! It's the perfect time for family and friends to come together to celebrate another beautiful Texas spring season. Here are the concert details:

**Saturday, May 17, 2014 at 7:00 p.m.**  
**Fort Bend Boys Choir Spring Concert**  
**Grace Presbyterian Church**  
**10221 Ella Lee Lane, Houston**

You can expect our three treble choirs to perform—Training, Town and Tour Choirs—as well as our choir of changed voices called Cantabilé. Music Magic, our music enrichment class for 6 and 7 year olds, will also make a special appearance. The *Outstanding Choirboy of the Year* award will be presented to a deserving Tour Choirboy.

Seating for the concert will begin at 6:00 p.m. Tickets are \$15.00 for Adults and \$5.00 for children 12 and under. Contact the choir office at (281) 240-3800 or [wra@fbctx.org](mailto:wra@fbctx.org) for more information. The Spring Concert is also the perfect time to stock up on our music CDs (we have 9 of them!). Beautiful flowers will be for sale (great teacher gifts) as well as our 30<sup>th</sup> Anniversary books. We look forward to seeing you at the concert! 🎵



## Symphony of a Thousand Tour Choir to perform Mahler's Symphony No. 8

**M**ay 2014 will be a busy month for our Tour Choir! They will be performing with the Houston Symphony, the Houston Symphony Chorus and many other performing artists at Jones Hall for Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* on **Friday, May 9<sup>th</sup>** and **Saturday, May 10<sup>th</sup>**. The last time the Tour Choir performed this remarkable work was in 1994 under the direction of **Maestro Christoph Eschenbach**. While no longer the music director of the Houston Symphony, Maestro is returning for this special two-night performance and specifically requested the Fort Bend Boys Choir!



An old snapshot from The Fort Bend Boys Choir photo archives of the 1994 performance of Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* with the Houston Symphony and Chorus and other artists. Our choirboys are in the back ... you can't really see them but you can see the magnitude of this classical work!

Gustav Mahler composed *Symphony No. 8* and it is one of the largest scale choral works in the classical repertoire. Also called the *Symphony of a Thousand*, this symphony has been performed throughout the world with almost 1,000 artists—both instrumental and vocal. However, for this May engagement, approximately 250 artists will join together on a specially extended stage in Jones Hall. It will truly be a once in a lifetime experience for our Tour Choir!

Visit the Houston Symphony website for more information about ticket pricing and availability. You truly do not want to miss this exciting performance! 🎵

## Music Magic for Six and Seven Year Old Boys Starts Late February *Semester concludes with a special performance at the Spring Concert!*

**I**f you give boys a chance to sing and participate in music, they will not only take advantage of the chance to do so but they will also amaze you with their quick progress! So why not provide them the opportunity and sign up your six or seven year old boy for Music Magic? It is an enrichment program that brings music alive through the use of movement, singing, musical games, instruments and other child-centered activities. **Director Sara Ward**, a staff member for over twenty-five years, leads this musical adventure.

Our Spring 2014 class starts **Tuesday, February 25<sup>th</sup>**. In addition to all the classroom learning, our Music Magic boys will get to put all they have learned into action by performing at our Spring Concert at the end of the semester (See page 10 for concert details.) The Music Magic classes run every Tuesday evening from **6:30 p.m. – 7:15 p.m.** at the First United Methodist Church Missouri City, 3900 Lexington Blvd. in Missouri City.

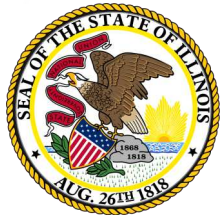
Tuition is only \$80 for the 8-10 week program and boys will receive a free Music Magic t-shirt when they attend the first class. But you better hurry; class size is limited, so call today at (281) 240-3800 to pre-register. Also spread the word to anyone you know with six or seven year old boys. No experience or auditions are necessary—just a love of music and singing! 🎵



Our Fall 2013 Music Magic class performing at the Christmas Musicales on December 7, 2013 at Sugar Land Baptist Church.







## Tour Choir to Visit the Land of Lincoln Summer Performance Tour to Illinois

**T**hree U.S. Presidents hail from the State of Illinois, our Tour Choir's destination for their summer performance tour in early June 2014. This 11 day, 10 night tour will be packed with plenty of sightseeing and activities in addition to concert performances virtually every day. It will be a working tour!

The Tour Choir and their chaperones will fly into Chicago and make their way to Ottawa where they will not only visit two state parks—Buffalo Rock and Starved Rock— but also perform their first of several concerts. They will also get to travel down the famous Route 66 for some time in Springfield, the state capital. The boys will tour the State Capitol building and sing either the National Anthem or “God Bless America.” Some educational tours about President Lincoln’s life are on the itinerary for sure along with another concert performance.



The next stop is New Salem where the choirboys and chaperones will learn about Lincoln’s young life and even get to see a real blacksmith in action. In Peoria, a visit is planned for Wildlife Prairie State Park as well as other highlights such as the Caterpillar Visitor Center to learn more about their machinery and how it is all made. In addition to another concert performance in the area, every-

one will get to take a cruise along the Illinois River aboard



the “Spirit of Peoria,” a paddleboat !

Several days will be devoted to Chicago, the largest city in the state. A leisurely drive along Lake Michigan will be in order along with several more concert performances at various venues which could include some historic churches, one of the universities or even a local cultural center. Details are still being worked out for some possible joint performances with a local choir.

Chicago, often nicknamed the windy city, offers a wealth of sightseeing and other activities. There is the Skydeck Chicago in the Willis Building (formerly Sears Tower) which has an all-glass viewing platform. The Navy Pier offers plenty of kid-centered activities including a giant Ferris Wheel and the Shedd Aquarium is one of the best in the world. The Lincoln Zoo may be part of the itinerary as well as a guided bike trip along the lakefront and beach time for swimming!



Of course, a summer performance tour just wouldn't be the same without the Fort Bend Boys Choir's traditional last day at a theme park, specifically Six Flags, followed by the time-honored Chinese buffet dinner. Skit night wraps up this Illinois tour where awards are handed out and both boys and chaperones alike get a little crazy!



Our Tour Choir will serve as young ambassadors of Texas, not only at the concert performances but everywhere they go. For many, it is a once in a lifetime experience. 🎵





## Our Walk in Concert Walk-a-thon a Fun Time!

We had a lovely, cool day at Oyster Creek Park in Sugar Land for our annual walk-a-thon on Saturday, November 2<sup>nd</sup>. Many choirboys, parents and choir supporters came together for a 3-mile walk to raise money for the Fort Bend Boys Choir's five music programs. Through individual registrations, sponsorships and pledges, we raised over \$4,500! Wow! Great job boys! 🎵

**These boys raised the most money and received prizes:** Training Choirboy Ashton Kao—\$235, Tour Choirboy William Longridge—\$215 and Tour Choirboy John Hoelscher—\$200.

**Many Thanks to our Corporate Sponsors:** Elegant Jewelers, Garza+McLain Structural Engineers, Liliana Janer DDS, Little Kid CEO, Mercer Advisors and US Imaging—\$250 sponsors; and Fort Bend County Clerk Dianne Wilson, Hoelscher Clan, Lojo Brothers Kwik Kopy, MeiMei Jamesou of Remax Heritage, Rose-Rich Realty and Sugar Land City Councilwoman Bridget Yeung—\$100 sponsors.





## Fourteen Fun Years

Tiana Mortimer, Executive Director

It is hard to believe that I have been working for the Fort Bend Boys Choir longer than my youngest son has been alive! Sometimes, I feel like I have just started with a lot to learn. Well, that statement is half right! I still have a lot to learn, even after almost a decade and half. Each year is a fresh start with new choirboys, new choir parents to work with and new music to hear.

One thing is consistent from year to year though—the sounds of singing boys! I feel a sense of awe on those times when I watch the boys on stage performing like angels, particularly when I see them behind the scenes being normal, rambunctious boys! It can be hard to reconcile the fact that the giggly, bodily noise-making boys can be the same ones on stage singing in another language.

Watching our choirboys in action, knowing that I played some part in the whole process, is quite gratifying. I get to see these boys grow up in the most formative years of their lives. From a wet behind the ears, very young Music Magic boy into an alumnus heading into high school and college, and all the stages in between, it can be quite exciting. And what makes it all worthwhile is receiving emails, letters and Facebook posts from alumni telling us how much the Fort Bend Boys Choir has made a difference in their lives.

Parents—you may not realize right away what your boys reap during their tenure here with us. The process of building greater self-esteem and discipline, poise, time management and many other life skills is gradual. You will be going about your business one day and realize that your little boy is not so little. How did they get such self-confidence? Where did they learn those skills in teamwork and leadership? Here at the Fort Bend Boys Choir, we are so proud to be a part of your son's life, playing a part in his most impressionable years.

So, having been here for fourteen years, it seems like forever and yesterday. The sounds of singing boys will never get old and thanks to our choirboys, there will always be a special song in my heart that only they can provide. Here's to year 15! 🎵



*Choral singers have a particularly unique way of expressing themselves because they become one big team and express themselves in a splendid, unified effort. In fact, there are very few teams in all society in which so many people join in such a superb, unified effort. There are very few teams that deal with such intricacies as do singers of choral music. Think of all the nuances and possibilities of the choral sound. The harmony, rhythm, melody, vocal color, dynamics, tempo, and text — all come together in one remarkable happening. Beautiful, musically correct, and polished choral singing is surely as close as we will ever come, before death, to perceiving the truly ethereal.*

~ Don L. Collins, Ph.D.

*Founder, The Cambiata Institute of America for Early Adolescent Vocal Music*





## The Impact and Life Lessons Learned at the Fort Bend Boys Choir

### More Quotes to Share ~ Continued from Page 6

Time-consuming hard work is what you put into the Fort Bend Boys Choir but, what you get out of the choir and the impact it makes on you is worth it. The choir has given me something to look forward to, compassion, and most importantly, a bond of friendship between my fellow choir friends, all of which I did not know less than 3 years ago.

The impact the choir has made on me will always be a gift that I can never repay. This gift, the gift of learning to accept myself, has helped me to open up to other people that I would have never thought I would be friends with. This has an impact in me because it helps me to live a happier life. The choir will always have a special place in my heart and one day I hope that my own children will be in the choir too.

~ **Javier Janer, Tour Choir**

FBBC has taught me to be a well behaved young man; be disciplined; be with other good young boys since I have all girls in my house; it has taught me to express myself in the format of singing and last but not the least have good friendships.

~ **Vineeth Nadella, Town Choir**

The most important thing I have learned from the Fort Bend Boys Choir is respect—respect for my fellow choir buddies and respect for my choir directors, but most importantly, respect for my parents.

~ **William Longridge, Tour Choir**

I've become a better singer and organizer of my time due to the discipline required. Plus, I'm learning in a fun, positive environment! ~ **RJ Williams II, Town Choir**

My favorite part of singing with the boys choir is singing in groups and doing sectionals.

~ **Christopher Connolly, Town Choir**

I have learned that when a boy sings to someone who has a lot on their mind, like if they are sad, or just got divorced, or someone they love has died, he can be a blessing and help that person have peace.

~ **Brent Campbell, Tour Choir**

The Fort Bend Boys Choir helped me learn how to sing and taught me how to be polite.

~ **Warren Thomas, Training Choir**

I HAVE LEARNED THAT THE FORT BEND BOYS CHOIR IS NOT JUST ABOUT SINGING BUT ALSO ABOUT MAKING FRIENDS, HAVING FUN, AND IMPACTING OTHERS.

~ **NICK RAGER, TOUR CHOIR**

*Being in the Fort Bend Boys Choir has brought my singing potential right out of me! Now I can share my talent with everybody! I have learned to sing with joy and happiness and from my heart.* ~

**Zaahir Sharma, Training Choir**

**Our choirboys are all boy ... they are rambunctious, effervescent and a bit mischievous. It is hard to reconcile these qualities with the angelic performers on stage. And that is why I love the Fort Bend Boys Choir. It is a special gift that I get to unwrap each time I see the boys!**

~ **Tiana Mortimer, Executive Director**

I like performing on stage so I can watch the audience enjoy the singing. I love performing for the retirement homes and visiting with the residents.

~ **Raymond Pappas, Town Choir**

The Choir has boosted my confidence and let me make more friends.

~ **Gabriel Cote, Tour Choir**

The Fort Bend Boys Choir really is "a place where I can be myself."

~ **Leo Wall, Tour Choir**

*The Fort Bend Boys Choir has really helped me to become a better singer and it's tons of fun!*

~ **Kjell Aspelin, Training Choir**

The Choir has given me a good voice and a way that I can let others hear it. It has taught me to use my gifts to touch people, like the way we go up to a person and sing "Dream a Dream" to them. I joined Choir because I found out I have a gift and I needed to use it.

~ **Greyson Abraham, Tour Choir**

The quote below is not from a choirboy but rather an enthusiastic little sister to brothers Raymond and Nicholas Pappas of Town Choir. She just had to share too.

*I love watching my brothers sing in the same choir. Plus I love Mr. Richie, Mr. Robinson and especially Mr. Adams!!!*

~ **Noel Pappas, a BIG fan of the Fort Bend Boys Choir**



## Upcoming Events Calendar

The calendar below reflects events as of **Friday, January 3, 2014**. Times reflect actual start times. Please refer to your monthly calendar and directions memos for report and pick-up times in addition to any added events or changes.

Thursday, January 9, 2014	<b>ALL CHOIRS</b> —First Rehearsal of the Spring Season	Starts 6:30 p.m.
Friday, January 17-20, 2014	<b>TOUR CHOIR</b> —Winter Vocal Camp at Gordon Ranch	TBA
Saturday, February 8, 2014	<b>TOUR CHOIR</b> —Performance at Gala Dinner and Auction at Safari Texas Lodge ... ticketed event—all choir parents invited to attend	6:30 p.m.
Saturday, February 8, 2014	<b>TOWN CHOIR</b> —Workshop at First United Methodist Church of Missouri City	9:00 a.m.—12 Noon
Saturday, February 22, 2014	<b>TOUR CHOIR</b> —Workshop at First United Methodist Church of Missouri City	9:00 a.m.—2:00 p.m.
Tuesday, February 25, 2014 to Tuesday, May 13, 2014	<b>MUSIC MAGIC</b> —Class for 6 and 7 year old begins (meets every Tuesday evening)	6:30—7:15 p.m.
Tuesday, March 18, 2014 to Tuesday, May 13, 2014	<b>CANTABILÉ</b> —Choir of changed voices including alumni (meets every Tuesday evening)	7:30—8:30 p.m.
Saturday, March 22, 2014	<b>TRAINING CHOIR</b> —Workshop at First United Methodist Church of Missouri City	9:00 a.m.—12 Noon
Saturday, April 26, 2014	<b>TOUR CHOIR</b> —Private Wedding at Notre Dame Catholic Church	1:30 p.m.
Saturday, April 26, 2014	<b>TOWN CHOIR</b> —Soundwaves Choral Festival at Schlitterbahn New Braunfels	TBA
Friday, May 9, 2014 and Saturday, May 10, 2014	<b>TOUR CHOIR</b> —Mahler's Symphony No. 8 performances at Jones Hall (parents—ticketed event)	TBA
Thursday, May 15, 2014	<b>ALL CHOIRS</b> —Spring Concert Tech Rehearsal at Grace Presbyterian Church	6:00 p.m.
Saturday, May 17, 2014	<b>ALL CHOIRS</b> —Spring Concert at Grace Presbyterian Church (ticketed event)	7:00 p.m.
Monday, June 9, 2014 to Thursday, June 19, 2014	<b>TOUR CHOIR</b> —Summer Performance Tour to Illinois	TBA
Tuesday, August 5, 2014 to Sunday, August 10, 2014	<b>TOUR CHOIR</b> —Summer Vocal Camp	TBA

*“Singing brings out in me what I can't normally bring out in everyday life. It's an incredible feeling to be able to bare your soul to people you've never met in a way that can make them understand so clearly what you mean.*

*That's what I love most about singing ... it becomes my truest form of communication.”*

*- Josh Groban, American singer/songwriter*





In honor of our Tour Choir's upcoming performance of Mahler's *Symphony No. 8* in May 2014 with the Houston Symphony, at Jones Hall ...



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*"You will only be as happy as YOU choose to be. No one can decide how your life is going to go that day. That is the only thing that no one will ever be able to take away from you; your ability to choose your attitude." ~ Author Unknown*

## Choir Staff

**William R. Adams**  
 Founder &  
 Artistic Director

**Matthew Robinson**  
 Town Choir Director

**Jason Ritchie**  
 Training Choir Director

**Sara Ward**  
 Music Magic Director  
 Tour Choir Accompanist

**Phyllis Gurbach**  
 Town Choir Accompanist

**Pamela Connolly**  
 Training Choir Accompanist

**Tiana Mortimer**  
 Executive Director

**Janis Pulliam**  
 Administrator

*"It is the mission of the Fort Bend Boys Choir of Texas to provide the skills and training essential for lifelong learning through the finest music education in the ancient boychoir tradition"*