

# TOOL

## CHOIR PARTNERSHIPS

### Between School and Independent Youth Choirs

**C**horus America's member choruses all across North America are leading the way in working with school music programs to support, revive, or expand choral music education. Are these examples similar to what you are already doing? Is there a kernel of an idea that you might develop with an independent children/youth chorus in your area? Set up a meeting to explore the possibilities!

- Working in close partnership with the San Francisco Unified School District, **San Francisco Girls Chorus** conductors provide weekly choral music classroom instruction based on the Kodály method at two elementary schools that lacked a choral program.
- In addition to a remarkable network of schools with which they partner to provide choral music education where programs have been cut, **Milwaukee Children's Choir** invites school teachers to borrow music from their library at no cost.
- Before starting the **Central Dakota Children's Choir**, founding executive director Karen Traeholt surveyed elementary school music teachers in Bismarck, ND-area schools to ask what needs they could not meet in their existing school programs, building a strong relationship from the very beginning. All CDCC singers are required to sing in their school choir.
- In addition to similar programs to those mentioned above, **Anima** has started "Bring a Teacher to Chorus Day!" Students invite their favorite teacher to attend rehearsal, where they are able to participate in the singing, talk to the students about why they became a teacher, and learn more about the chorus in an informal setting (with food!).
- The **Children's Chorus of Greater Dallas** offers a 5-day Summer Singing Camp free to students in the inner-city Dallas Independent School District. Also CCGD artistic director Cynthia Nott partners with the district music supervisor to provide free clinics and workshops to DISD music teachers.
- The **Minneapolis Youth Chorus** started as an afterschool program for students in the Minneapolis public schools. Since its inception four years ago, three elementary schools whose choral programs had been eliminated have now reinstated choir due to efforts from parents whose children sing with MYC.
- **Florida's Singing Sons Boychoir** actively seeks out performance opportunities for school administrators in addition to performing at schools. For example, FSSB sang at a partnership breakfast between the school board and local government officials attended by principals, assistant principals, area superintendents, school board members, and local commissioners.
- With funding from the Boston Public Schools (BPS) Arts Expansion Initiative, the **Boston Children's Chorus** recently launched a study group with five BPS teachers selected through an application process. The teachers meet monthly with BCC artistic leaders, addressing topics ranging from solfège to conducting among peers. Study group members receive a stipend for their work and can attend other BCC professional development events at no charge.