

ALL-AMERICAN BOYS CHORUS CELEBRATES 40 YEARS IN 2010

In 2010 The All-American Boys Chorus proudly celebrates it's 40th anniversary of serving boys through it's acclaimed program of music education and leadership training.

Based in Costa Mesa, California, the ensemble that eventually evolved into The All-American Boys Chorus began as a church choir in 1970. The initial model for the 10 boys in that first choir was that of a barbershop men's chorus. The concert uniform consisted of a red and white striped shirt, white trousers, white socks, white VANS shoes and a styrofoam "straw" hat!

The first "concert" took place at an ice cream social at the church, and the *only* song in the performance was "Sweet Adeline," because it was the *only* song the boys knew! It was a "hit" with the friendly crowd, and they clamored for an encore. Well, the encore was "Sweet Adeline," because it was the *only* song the boys knew.

Word about the Chorus spread swiftly and the number of concerts grew at a rapid pace. Holiday time was the busiest season. The Chorus toured Europe in 1971 and 1972; trips that took them to Switzerland, Austria, Germany and Italy.

The 1976 bicentennial year coupled with the name "All-American Boys Chorus" was a perfect recipe for expansion, leading to successful summer tours that in 1977 propelled the AABC into the Canadian provinces of British Columbia and Alberta. That 1977 tour was the first of 30 tours to Canada, which have continued throughout the AABC's history—right up to the summer of 2009.

The training and music education soon included professional voice coaches, an annual summer music camp, and a music reading curriculum. Soon the Chorus was recording it's own albums and touring throughout the USA, Romania and Russia, and then to Asia. Over the years, choristers have filmed and recorded national TV commercials for TWA, KFC, Mazda, Toshiba and, earlier this year, for the Cartoon Network.

As the AABC marks this milestone, they proudly reflect on their *first* 40 years:

Over **5,000 youngsters** have participated in the Audition, Training, Concert and Touring programs, receiving a superb music education amidst a philosophy of happy, motivated, self-discipline that fosters and develops leadership skills and real leaders. Some **1,171** boys gave an average of four years of their young lives to travel throughout Southern California, the Pacific Northwest, the Midwest and the South; performing more than **2,700 concerts** in 30 states, Canada and 15 nations in Europe and Asia—*on 49 tours*—attended by some **1.5 million** people. The Chorus has also appeared in the Rose Parade, with symphony orchestras, opera companies, celebrities like Josh Groban, Tony Bennett, Bob Hope and Victor Borge, and with statesmen including Ronald Reagan, Margaret Thatcher, Colin Powell, Norman Schwarzkopf and George Bush.

The 40th anniversary celebrations will culminate on July 3rd with a gala concert at the Crystal Cathedral that will find the choristers joined onstage by a 50-voice alumni Chorus, and backed by instrumentalists and the mighty Crystal Cathedral pipe organ.

The Chorus will then depart on July 21st for a concert tour of Malaysia, Singapore and, for the first time, Australia.