



St. Olaf Choir: From the Critics

"The choir, under Armstrong's vibrant direction, performed with excellent ensemble discipline, with assured command of many choral idioms and with a beautiful tone that made last notes of many selections uniquely memorable." ~ *The News-Gazette*

"The St. Olaf Choir...is ... a much more select and precious group of choristers that can sing a gorgeous and absolutely focused unison that is alive and that has substance, shape and energy ... It was a tour de force, carried out with a poise and power that brought the audience to its feet." ~ *The Washington Post*

"When they opened their mouths to sing, an even wall of sound emerged: words clear, notes true. But more than that, the notes were felt (The St. Olaf Choir is) good because of its remarkable balance and mellow tone It's good because of its dynamic shadings: its ability to sustain, then build from, nearly inaudible pianos, or to distinguish between a forte and a fortissimo ... Dr. Anton Armstrong, the group's leader since 1990, is clearly a gifted choral director – and a teacher to the core." ~ *The New York Times*

"St. Olaf is simply the Gold Standard. It just doesn't get much better. (The St. Olaf Choir) boasts nearly a century of the finest choral traditions in the country. Its genius is rooted in the Norwegian Lutheran heritage ... and the Northfield, Minnesota, choir has become world famous and set the standard for a style of singing emphasizing a fine choral blend and the European a cappella tradition." ~ *The Chattanooga*

"There seems to be no limit to the musicianship and the ardent expressiveness of the 75-voice St. Olaf Choir, nor to the canniness and the committed expertise of director Anton Armstrong." ~ *The Des Moines Register*

"The St. Olaf Choir ... amply demonstrated why it is among the nation's best." ~ *Denver Post*

"... to hear the St. Olaf Choir is to experience choral singing of the highest order, a vocal sound that is near perfect in every technical detail. Brisbane Concert Hall stage rarely hears such musical mastery."
~ *Brisbane Courier Mail (Australia)*

"Under Armstrong's sensitive direction, the St. Olaf Choir was the epitome of fine ensemble musicianship, as every nuance of dynamics and phrasing was perfectly realized and executed."
~ *Worcester (Mass.) Telegram & Gazette*

"Yes, there are music majors in St. Olaf's Choir, but part of what makes it such a special chorus is that its devotion to artistic excellence cuts across all scholastic disciplines and entire generations of families have had members take part in the college's extraordinary century-long tradition." ~ *Chicago Classical Review*

"The St. Olaf Choir displayed the tonal quality and precision of pitch that have always been the hallmarks of its sound ... There were many moments of sublime beauty." ~ *The Sacramento Gazette*

"No matter the time period of the music, the choir sang with purity and enthusiasm, qualities brought out in the carefully calibrated conducting of Anton Armstrong ... The audience at the cathedral clearly longed to hear more of the St. Olaf Choir — and soon." ~ *The Columbus Dispatch*