The St. Olaf Choir and conductor Anton Armstrong announce 18-concert national winter tour, including concerts at Carnegie Hall in New York City, Severance Hall in Cleveland, Heinz Hall in Pittsburgh & Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis

Tickets for tour concerts are now on sale for the 2015 Winter Tour, Jan. 24 - Feb. 15, 2015

St. Olaf Choir presents an eclectic program of classical, sacred and world music

(Dec. 12, 2014) - The world-renowned St. Olaf Choir and conductor Anton Armstrong are pleased to announce their annual national winter tour of 18 concerts in 13 states – Jan. 24 to Feb. 15, 2015 – including performances at some of the nation’s finest concert halls: Emory University’s Schwartz Concert Hall in Atlanta, Carnegie Hall in New York City, Severance Hall in Cleveland and Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis.

Tickets are now on sale, and links to each tour venue’s online sales site and box office are listed at stolafchoir.com. Hailed as one of America’s premiere collegiate ensembles, the St. Olaf Choir presents an eclectic program of sacred and secular choral works, both past and present.

Founded 103 years ago by F. Melius Christiansen at St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., the St. Olaf Choir is internationally recognized as a creative force behind America’s a cappella choral tradition, and is hailed for setting a high standard for choral performance, particularly through its artistry and beauty of sound.

Only the fourth conductor in the ensemble’s history, Armstrong is now in his 25th year as the St. Olaf Choir’s conductor. "Hearing the St. Olaf Choir is more than just a musical experience," says Anton Armstrong. "What makes this ensemble distinctive is the way our singers perform at the highest artistic level and touch the hearts and souls of our listeners. Through body, mind, spirit and voice our audiences are transformed."

ST. OLAF: A TRANSFORMATIONAL CHOIR

“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
After F. Melius Christiansen founded the St. Olaf Choir in 1912, he was credited with contributing to the transformation of American choral music. He and the St. Olaf Choir transcended America's limited early 20th century choral tradition with the introduction of a cappella singing of the highest level, creating a model for the widespread choral growth that followed.

"F. Melius opened a whole new paradigm that never existed before," Anton Armstrong says. "Prior to the St. Olaf Choir, glee clubs and oratorio societies were the choirs of the day. A cappella singing in America was new for its time. The St. Olaf Choir helped establish what we know today as the parish choirs that are now a regular part of many worship services across the nation."

The St. Olaf Choir has a long history of innovation. It became one of the first to tour the nation regularly starting in 1920. The St. Olaf Choir also began recording in the 1920s and performed on air when radio was in its infancy. The annual "St. Olaf Christmas Festival" has aired on national and international radio and television for more than 30 years, and continues to serve as a prototype for these types of holiday broadcasts. On Dec. 23, 2013 PBS premiered Christmas in Norway with the St. Olaf Choir filmed at the Nidaros Cathedral in Trondheim, Norway in June 2013. The special won two regional Emmy Awards this year.

In 2007 the St. Olaf choral ensembles achieved another major milestone when Christmas at St. Olaf: Where Peace and Love and Hope Abide was simulcast to more than 180 movie theaters across the United States on Dec. 2, 2007. The PBS premiere of the one-hour highlights program produced by Twin Cities Public Television aired on Wednesday, Dec. 19, 2007, and reached 2.5 million people. Four years later the 100th St. Olaf Christmas Festival was simulcast to 372 movie theaters across America.

The singers commit to balancing full course loads with rehearsals five days a week; choir members perform concerts entirely from memory. Anton Armstrong has conducted the St. Olaf Choir since 1990. There have been only three conductors of the St. Olaf Choir before Armstrong: Kenneth Jennings, Olaf Christiansen and the founder and first conductor F. Melius Christiansen.

The St. Olaf Choir has also been featured in a number of symphonic collaborations including, most recently, performances of Maurice Duruflé’s Requiem for Voices, Orchestra and Organ, Opus 9, with the Minnesota Orchestra under the baton of Osmo Vänskä in April 2010 at Orchestra Hall in Minneapolis. The St. Olaf Choir has also performed with the Saint Paul Chamber Orchestra, and under the direction of Sir Neville Marriner, Neemi Jarvi, Sir David Willcocks, Stanisław Skrowaczewski, Andreas Delfs, Helmuth Rilling and the late Robert Shaw.

Touring, recording and broadcasts are all major components in the artistic life of the St. Olaf Choir. The St. Olaf Choir has performed for capacity audiences in major concert halls across the nation and overseas since 1920. Annual tours attract audiences totaling 25,000. Recent tours have included a 2013 tour to Norway, a 2009 tour to England, Wales and Ireland, a 2005 tour of Norway, a 2001 European tour including Paris, Prague, Vienna and Berlin, and a 1997 tour to Australia and New Zealand.

For more info visit: stolafchoir.com.

(Tour itinerary on next page.)
St. Olaf Choir 2015 East Coast U.S. Tour Itinerary

Saturday, January 24, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Greenville, South Carolina
First Presbyterian Church

Sunday, January 25, 2015, 3 p.m.
Atlanta, Georgia
Schwartz Center for Performing Arts
Emerson Concert Hall

Friday, January 30, 2015, 8 p.m.
Madison, Wisconsin
Luther Memorial Church

Saturday, January 31, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Chicago, Illinois
Fourth Presbyterian Church

Sunday, February 1, 2015, 4 p.m.
Kalamazoo, Michigan
Chenery Auditorium

Monday, February 2, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Cleveland, Ohio
Severance Hall

Tuesday, February 3, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Rochester, New York
Roberts Wesleyan College

Wednesday, February 4, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Worcester, Massachusetts
Mechanics Hall

Thursday, February 5, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
New Haven, Connecticut
Battell Chapel, Yale University

Friday, February 6, 2015, 8 p.m.
New York, New York
Carnegie Hall

Sunday, February 8, 2015, 4 p.m.
Lansdale, Pennsylvania
Trinity Lutheran Church

Monday, February 9, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Princeton, New Jersey
Princeton University Chapel

Tuesday, February 10, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Pittsburgh, Pennsylvania
Heinz Hall

Wednesday, February 11, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Cincinnati, Ohio
St. Peter in Chains Cathedral

Thursday, February 12, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Fort Wayne, Indiana
First Presbyterian Church

Friday, February 13, 2015, 8 p.m.
Grand Rapids, Michigan
Calvin College

Saturday, February 14, 2015, 7:30 p.m.
Evanston, Illinois
Pick-Staiger Hall, Northwestern University

Sunday, February 15, 2015, 3 p.m.
Minneapolis, Minnesota
Orchestra Hall

Tickets are now available for all tour concerts online at stolaftickets.com or by calling 800-363-5487.

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