

CHORAL GROUP PROFILE

HARMONIA CHAMBER SINGERS

Description

Harmoniia is a professional vocal ensemble founded in 2006 by Robert Pacillo, Executive Director. Harmonia's mission is to present quality choral literature, primarily a cappella, in a way that is accessible to all audiences. Another component of their mission is education outreach and collaboration with young singers through workshops and concerts. Noted for innovative programming and captivating performances, Harmonia's literature spans centuries of choral music, from plainchant to the present. Since 2021, Harmonia has launched two dynamic new groups—the Harmonia Vocal Jazz Ensemble and the Harmonia Schola. Performances are presented throughout Western New York in some of the area's most beautiful spaces.

Directors

Robert Duerr, Music Director

Robert Pacillo, Founder and Executive Director

Robert Duerr, Music Director since 2019, holds degrees from the University of Southern California where he studied organ with Cherry Rhodes and Ladd Thomas, and conducting with Daniel Lewis. A prize-winning organist—including the 1976 America Guild of Organists National—he has been director of music at All Saints' Church, Pasadena, CA, Great St. Mary's—The University Church, Cambridge, UK, and St. Paul's Episcopal Cathedral, Buffalo. He studied theology at Ridley Hall at the University of Cambridge and is ordained priest in the Church of England.

As a conductor, Mr. Duerr has received awards for his advocacy of contemporary music, premiering many works with the Pasadena Chamber Orchestra, which he founded. He has conducted the Metropolitan Opera, New York City Opera, at The Juilliard School, among other national and international orchestra and opera companies, including the Greater Buffalo Opera, Buffalo Opera Unlimited, Buffalo Philharmonic Orchestra, the Buffalo Philharmonia Chorus, Amherst Symphony, and the Chautauqua Symphony.

Robert Pacillo, Executive Director and Founder, is an active singer, conductor, clinician, teacher, and accompanist in the Western New York region. He directs the new Harmonia Vocal Jazz Ensemble and Harmonia Schola. During his tenure as Artistic Director (2006-2018), Harmonia saw incredible success, from performances in New York City, including Carnegie Hall, to a Canadian tour in Québec City and Montréal. Robert is also the choral director at Lockport High School, where he conducts the Mixed Chorus, Concert Choir, Vocal Jazz Ensemble, and Women's Chorus. He holds a Master of Music degree in Music Education, and a Bachelor of Music degree in Music Education and Piano Performance, all from the University at Buffalo. Robert is a cantor at St. Peter's Church, Lewiston, and has sung with St. Joseph Cathedral Choir, Buffalo Choral Arts, and Vocális. He is past music director for the Lancaster Youth Bureau Summer Theater Workshop. Robert resides in Lewiston with his wife, Catherine, and their three children.

Rehearsal Time and Location:

Monday evenings, locations across WNY

Annual Events

Concerts typically in October, December (Christmas), March (Concert by Candlelight), and July (Vocal Jazz Ensemble with guest artists), as well as outreach concerts and collaborations. Additionally, the Harmonia Schola is active at various Latin Masses (Novus Ordo) throughout the year.

Audition Information

Harmonia Chamber Singers seeks talented singers with extensive vocal experience, solo and choral. Desirable attributes include healthy tone, sound vocal technique, facility in common choral languages (Latin, German, Italian, French), passion, and positive energy. Audition by appointment.