



Oregon Adventist
MEN'S CHORUS

5575 Fruitland Road Northeast
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Fact Sheet

For information about OAMC: www.oamc.org

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Music samples here: <http://www.gleaneronline.org/audio/OAMC/>

Video from Romania at: <http://www.oamc.org/romania.asp>

- The Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus (OAMC) is a group of Christian men who join in worship, praise, and public sharing of their faith through music.
- The group presents sacred music concerts that include music of the masters, hymns, gospel and spirituals.
- This year is the group's 17th year of ministry.
- OAMC and the Corul Barbatesc Adventist din Romania (Adventist Men's Chorus of Romania) are anchoring an **International Men's Chorus Festival** on **Saturday, June 26**, at **3 p.m.** at **Glenn Memorial Auditorium** on the campus of Emory University, 1660 N. Decatur Rd NE, Atlanta, Ga.
- The Oregon and Romanian choruses are performing in a Northwest concert tour before traveling to Atlanta, where they are singing for the quinquennial Seventh-day Adventist General Conference world church meetings in the Georgia Dome on June 25.
- **This year's concerts mark a reunion of the Americans and Romanians.** In April 2009 some 100 American singers went to Romania for two weeks where the combined chorus performed in some of Romania's most esteemed performance halls and cathedrals.
- Some 150 men are expected to sing in this year's event, including the Romanians.
- The Adventist Men's Chorus of Romania was started in 2007 by a former member of the Oregon Adventist Men's Chorus, Alin Apostol. He sang with OAMC while he was studying music and theology at Walla Walla University in eastern Washington, and secretly nurtured a dream for such a chorus in Romania.
- In 2006, world-renowned choral conductor Dr. Anton Armstrong, of St. Olaf College in Northfield, Minn., guest conducted the concerts. Known for his work with youth and children's choruses, he conducts the Oregon Bach Festival's Stangeland Family Youth Choral Academy for high school singers.
- During the 2000 International Choral Festival in Gladstone, Ore., they performed with the 150-year-old Vienna Male Chorus Society, for whom Schubert, Strauss, Brahms, and Bruckner composed.
- The chorus has performed in Oregon and Washington, and other parts of the world.

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- In 2001, 37 chorus members and seven instrumentalists traveled to East Africa to sing for evangelistic meetings in Mwanza, Tanzania, which were broadcast on worldwide television.
- In 2001, 75 singers and nine instrumentalists performed for the Adventist-laymen's Services and Industries (ASI) National Convention in Sacramento, Calif., which was broadcast on worldwide television.
- In 2000, nearly 100 members sang in Toronto's SkyDome for more than 50,000 people from around the world who were attending the world church meetings of the General Conference of Seventh-day Adventists.
- OAMC typically holds an annual chorus festival in the Portland-Vancouver area in the spring.
- Members come from more than 80 churches, mainly in Oregon and Washington.
- Two to five ensembles ranging from eight to about 20 men join the festival chorus each year; the concert includes performances by the ensembles.
- The men rehearse for about two-and-a-half months prior to the festivals in small groups and on their own, frequently with recorded rehearsal tracks on CD.
- The complete group does not assemble until the final rehearsal before a concert.
- Singers are truck drivers, physicians, contractors, teachers, pastors, students, auto mechanics, computer engineers, photographers, among many other professions.
- Expenses are met entirely from charitable contributions and sales of recordings. A widening group of supporters donates much time and energy to the organizational aspects.
- The chorus was first formed with about 20 men in 1994 to perform for Easter worship services at East Salem Seventh-day Adventist Church. It was to be a one-time event.
- Lou Wildman, a retired physician and former high school and church choir director, was asked to direct the first group, and continues to this day.
- That first Easter season was followed by a request to provide the finale for the summer camp meeting of the Oregon Conference of Seventh-day Adventists. Feeling that their voices would be lost in the campground's huge tent, they sent out a word of invitation for other men to join them in rehearsal — and were immensely surprised when 112 responded. It was to be a one-time event. The chorus has returned every year since.
- Inspiration led to a festival concert the following spring, anticipated to be a one-time event.
- Lou Wildman of Salem is the musical conductor; David Schmidt of Oregon City is the president. The administrative team is headed by Giselle Hepker, Executive Director, of Walla Walla, Wash.

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