

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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## UMS Choral Union Announces SUMMER SINGS 2014

### Three Summer Sings Events in 2014:

**Monday, June 16 from 7–9:30 pm in Hill Auditorium**  
**Monday, July 21 from 7–9:30 pm in Stamps Auditorium**  
**Monday, July 28 from 7–9:30 pm in Stamps Auditorium**

ANN ARBOR, MI (April 25, 2014) —The **UMS Choral Union** invites all interested singers to take part in its 21st season of SUMMER SINGS. All singers are invited to these popular choral reading sessions which feature no-audition, no-performance evenings of memorable music-making. As many as 300 singers from southeast Michigan, northern Ohio, and Canada have joined each session in singing great choral repertoire with some of the nation's most respected choral conductors and outstanding soloists.

The first Summer Sings event will take place on June 16 in Hill Auditorium (825 North University Avenue) with a reading of Joseph Haydn's *Missa in tempore belli* ("Paukenmesse"). The remaining events will unfold in Stamps Auditorium on the University of Michigan's North Campus (1226 Murfin Avenue, Ann Arbor) on July 21, featuring a reading of Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass*, and July 28, featuring John Rutter's *Requiem*.

Admission to each session costs \$5, and Summer Sings will provide refreshments and will have scores available to borrow. Registration for each session begins at 6:30 pm and singing begins at 7:00 pm.

### **Schedule**

- Monday, June 16**      **Joseph Haydn's *Missa in tempore belli* ("Paukenmesse")**  
**Jerry Blackstone, conductor**  
**Director of Choral Activities, Professor and Chair of Conducting,**  
**University of Michigan**  
**Venue: Hill Auditorium**  
(825 North University Avenue , Ann Arbor, MI 48109)
- Monday, July 21**      **Robert Ray's *Gospel Mass***  
**Eugene Rogers, conductor**  
**Associate Director of Choirs and Assistant Professor of**  
**Conducting, University of Michigan Conductor, University of**  
**Michigan Men's Glee Club**  
**Venue: Stamps Auditorium, Walgreen Drama Center**  
(1226 Murfin Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI, 48109)
- Monday, July 28**      **John Rutter's Requiem**  
**Sigrid Johnson, conductor**  
**Conductor and Artist in Residence at St. Olaf College**  
**Venue: Stamps Auditorium, Walgreen Drama Center**  
(1226 Murfin Avenue, Ann Arbor, MI, 48109)

### **About the Conductors**

**Jerry Blackstone** conducts the Chamber Choir, teaches conducting at the graduate level, and administers a choral program of eleven choirs at the University of Michigan School of Music, Theatre & Dance.

In 2004, Dr. Blackstone was named conductor and music director of the University Musical Society Choral Union. In February 2006, Dr. Blackstone was named a double Grammy Award-winner as chorus master for the critically acclaimed Naxos recording of William Bolcom's *Songs of Innocence and of Experience*. He has prepared choirs for performances under conductors Neeme Järvi, Nicholas McGegan, and Itzhak Perlman, Valery Gergiev, James Conlon, John Adams, Helmuth Rilling, Hans Graf, Leonard Slatkin, Rafael Frübeck de Burgos, and Michael Tilson Thomas.

Dr. Blackstone received his Bachelor of Music degree from Wheaton College, his Master of Music degree from Indiana University, and his DMA in Conducting from the University of Southern California. Santa Barbara Music Publishing distributes Dr. Blackstone's acclaimed educational video, *Working with Male Voices*, and publishes the *Jerry Blackstone Choral Series*, a set of choral publications that presents works by several composers in a variety of musical styles.

**Eugene Rogers** is the associate director of choirs at the University of Michigan, where he teaches undergraduate conducting, conducts the Men's Glee Club, the University Choir, and is the faculty director of the MPulse Vocal Arts Institute (a national high school summer program). His past appointments include Macalester College in St. Paul, Minnesota, the Boys Choir of Harlem, Waubonsie Valley High School in Aurora, Illinois, and Anima Young Singers of Greater Chicago (formerly the Glen Ellyn Children's Choir). At Macalester College, where he served as director of choral activities, Rogers commissioned and premiered numerous new works and began the *Songs of the Earth* (World Music) Concert Series.

**Sigrid Johnson** maintains an active schedule as a guest conductor and clinician at choral festivals and all-state music festivals across the country and has conducted choral workshops in Australia. She is a member of the American Choral Director's Association (ACDA), Music Educator's National Conference (MENC), the International Federation for Choral Music and Chorus America. Before her current appointment as Artist in Residence at St. Olaf College, Ms. Johnson was on the music faculties of Gustavus Adolphus College in St. Peter and at the University of Minnesota in Minneapolis. Ms. Johnson is also the Associate Conductor of the Ensemble Singers and Chorus for Philip Brunelle's VocalEssence, formerly known as the Plymouth Music Series of Minnesota. Johnson received a B.M. in vocal performance from St. Cloud State University and an M.M. in voice performance from the University of Michigan.

### **Parking Information**

Please see [www.ums.org](http://www.ums.org) for complete parking options for the Summer Sings. Maps will be available to download from that site.

**June 16:** Parking at the Thayer Street parking structure (N4), across the street from Hill Auditorium will be available that evening for the Hill "Sing," from 6:00 pm on, for \$5.00.

**July 21 and July 28:** The parking lot immediately adjacent to the Walgreen Drama Center (NC 27) will be available to Summer Sings participants, for \$5.00. There are also several other parking options available in the vicinity of the Walgreen. Parking along Bonisteel Boulevard is blue-permit *only until 5:00 pm*, after which parking is free, in addition to a visitor lot on Hayward Street (NC48), which is accessible to Stamps Auditorium via two sets of steps through the Computer Science & Engineering Building.

The parking lot adjacent to the School of Music (NC10) is also free after 5:00 pm., and there is also visitor parking in the lot just south of the Art and Architecture Building (NC43).

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