



MICHAEL HALL • MUSIC DIRECTOR

Contact: Mary Larkin

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Children's Chorus

The **Southwest Florida Symphony Children's Chorus**, founded in 2001, is the area's premier children's chorus. Conducted by Catherine Truesdale, emphasis is placed on good vocal production, dynamic and rhythmic unity, and personal growth and confidence building. The Children's Chorus performs with the Southwest Florida Symphony Orchestra for the annual Holiday Pops Concert, the Stained Glass Concert Series and throughout the community. The Children's Chorus, by invitation, participated in the prestigious 2007 Children in Harmony Choral Festival. They recorded their first premiere performance in 2007, with a follow up feature on CD in 2008.

The Children's Chorus is an auditioned chorus and open to members 8 to 14 years old. Rehearsals are Tuesday evenings, September through May. Auditions take place in August and September. Auditions are by appointment only.

Catherine Truesdale, Children's Chorus Director

Currently in her 17th year as a music teacher at Canterbury School in Fort Myers, Truesdale is an experienced and knowledgeable director, musician and teacher. She holds a degree in music and a MS in Reading and Language Development. She serves as Alto Section Leader of the Symphony Chorus, with whom she has performed for eight seasons. Truesdale enjoys travel, most recently spending the summer exploring the music and culture of Ireland, and reading, knitting and crocheting, brushing up on her electric bass and the occasional skydive.

Charles Heard, Accompanist & Assistant Choral Director

Highly talented and multi-faceted, Charles Heard has served as the piano accompanist for the past five seasons. Heard trained the Rackham Symphony Choir (Detroit Symphony) and was the Director of the Dearborn Choral Arts Society and the Seaway Chorale and Orchestra. As a pianist and vocal coach, Heard worked many summers at the National Music Camp, Interlochen, Michigan. He also was involved with the Michigan Opera Theater program where he worked with Jesse Norman and Ashley Putnam. Heard served as a teacher and administrator in Michigan for over 40 years and as the Director of

Music and organist at St. Paul American Lutheran Church in Dearborn, Michigan for 23 years.