

## CHOIR WORKSHOP DETAILS

Westminster Presbyterian Church in Washington, Indiana is hosting a choir workshop on the campus of Vincennes University under the direction of renown composer, conductor, concert artist, and humorist Pepper Choplin on June 24-25, 2023. The Festival Choir of Praise (FCP) is open to all adults and students ages 12 and over. This two-day event will consist of a rehearsal on Saturday and a performance on Sunday in the beautiful Red Skelton Performing Arts Center. Thanks to a generous gift from the Center for Congregations, the cost of registration is only \$20 with an Early Bird discounted half price registration fee of \$10. Included with your registration you will receive music for 12 anthems, lunch on Saturday, post-concert reception, participant gift, as well as the experience of working with Maestro Pepper Choplin and performing in RSPAC. The entire package is valued at \$200 and is limited to the first 160 applicants.

## SCHEDULE OF EVENTS

### Saturday, June 24, 2023

- 9:15 a.m. – 9:50 a.m. Check in. Receive packet with music and folder, seating assignment, lunch ticket, and participant gift.
- 10:00 a.m. Rehearsal with Maestro Pepper Choplin.
- 12:00 p.m. Box lunch provided.
- 1:00 p.m. Rehearsal with Pepper.
- 3:00 p.m. Travel home or visit historical sites in Vincennes.
- 5:00 p.m. Dinner for all choir directors and accompanists with Pepper Choplin.

### Sunday, June 25, 2023

- 12:30 p.m. Doors open at RSPAC for performers.
- 1:00 p.m. Dress rehearsal on stage.
- 2:30 p.m. Doors open to the theater for the audience.
- 3:00 p.m. Festival Choir of Praise in concert with Pepper Choplin.
- 4:00 p.m. Post-concert reception at RSPAC.

## AFTER YOU REGISTER

After you register, you will receive a digital copy of the music, so you can prepare for the performance. When you arrive, you will receive the hard copy of the music in a black folder that you may use for the event. The folder must be returned at the end of the concert, but you may keep the music to sing with your home choir.

On Saturday evening, all choir directors and accompanists are invited to a complimentary dinner with Pepper Choplin on the Vincennes University campus. Please indicate on your registration if you will be attending the dinner.

All singers are expected to have the music prepared when they arrive. You are welcome to learn the music with the Southwest Indiana Cantata Choir at Westminster Presbyterian Church in Washington, IN. We will practice on the following Thursdays: May 11, May 25, June 15, and June 22 from 6:30 – 8:30 p.m. All practices are optional.

You are encouraged to dress comfortably for all rehearsals. For the performance, the choir will wear concert black: solid black dress shirt with solid black pants or skirts, or solid black dress, or black suit with black or white shirt and black tie. Shirts should be  $\frac{3}{4}$  length or long sleeved. Please wear solid black closed-toe shoes with black socks or hose, no sandals. You will want to have comfortable shoes for the weekend. We plan to have an entire row of chairs for singers who need to sit for the hour performance.

## CONDUCTOR AND PERFORMER



Pepper Choplin is a full-time composer, conductor and humorist. He has gained a reputation as one of the most creative writers in church music today. With a Bachelor of Music degree from the University of North Carolina at Greensboro, he went on to earn a Master of Music degree in composition from Southwestern Baptist Theological Seminary.

With a diverse musical background, Choplin incorporates varied styles such as folk, Gospel, classical, and jazz. His published works includes over 300 anthems for church and school choir with 24 church cantatas and four books of piano arrangements. Over 100 groups have commissioned him to write original works for them. An original hymn, "Come to the Water" appears in the hymnal, *Celebrating Grace*. His anthems consistently appear in the top seller lists of publishers and distributors. Since 1991, his choral music has sold several million copies. Each week, thousands of singers present his music in churches and schools in the United States and around the world.

He recently published his first book, *A Million Notes*, a collection of his best-loved lyrics and the stories behind them.

Choplin has conducted nine New York concerts of his music at Carnegie Hall, Lincoln Center and Julliard with over 250 voices and full orchestra. In his hometown of Raleigh, he has conducted eight mass performances of his cantatas at Meymandi Auditorium (home to the NC Symphony) with over 200 voices and orchestra. Since 2019, Choplin has conducted Handel's *Messiah* (Christmas portion) with the 165-voice Cary Community Choir with orchestra. He also visits many churches and conferences to conduct and to entertain. Beyond his choral music, Choplin has produced two humorous CDs and an inspirational recording. In his solo concerts, he moves audiences with his powerful ballads and his clever humor.

## RED SKELTON PERFORMING ARTS CENTER



The Red Skelton Performing Arts Center was officially dedicated on Friday, February 24, 2006. When Vincennes University opened the doors to the Center, it opened a world of opportunity to students, visitors and fans from around the globe.

The building includes an 850-seat theater dedicated to the extraordinary life and years of exemplary professional work by a great Hoosier and American. Red Skelton touched the lives of every generation during his more than 70 years in the entertainment business. Although Red died in 1997, he continues to influence people of all ages through his achievements as a clown, comedian, actor, writer, painter, patriot and humanitarian.

In addition to the theater, the Performing Arts Center includes classrooms, rehearsal rooms and dressing rooms. The grand foyer serves as a gallery for Red Skelton paintings, statues, and movie posters. A variety of uses are envisioned for the Performing Arts Center. The theater will host Vincennes University theatrical and musical productions along with special events, convocations and conventions.

## QUESTIONS?

You will receive more information about the festival weekend after you register. If you have any questions before you register, please contact Joyce Kim-Rohrer at [swindcantatachoir@gmail.com](mailto:swindcantatachoir@gmail.com)