



## FAST FACTS

### The Choir

- Has been recording albums for 100 years – longer than any other music artist in the United States (second in the world only to the Vienna Boys Choir).
- All volunteer: none of the Choir members are paid.
- Individuals must be between 25 and 55 to audition for the Choir.
- Choir members must retire after 20 years of service or age 60, whichever comes first.
- Had its first performance as a choir on August 22, 1847.
- In a typical year, nearly 300 singers try out for the Choir, which, depending on the number of recent retirees, will only have 20 to 30 openings. Less than 10 percent are accepted into the Choir's ranks.

### The Tabernacle and Organ

- The Choir's first home was a crude bowery with a sagebrush roof.
- The present dome-roofed Tabernacle was completed in October 1867.
- The Tabernacle's historic pipe organ has 11,623 pipes, some of which are from the original construction in 1867.
- Today the Choir also performs in a 21,000-seat conference center with a 7,708-pipe organ.

### Music and the Spoken Word Radio Broadcasts

- *Music and the Spoken Word* is the longest continuous network broadcast in radio history, first airing on July 15, 1929.
- The program has had only 3 announcers in its 75-year history, the first, Richard L. Evans, served for 41 years.

### Touring

- Choir members generally use their vacation time from work for touring.
- The Choir's first tour was to American Fork, Utah in 1880.
- Their first major tour was by train to the Columbian Exposition in Chicago in 1893.
- Since its first international tour in 1955 to Europe, the Choir has visited 28 countries outside the U.S and in cities as varied as Jerusalem, Moscow, Paris, London, Sydney, Mexico City, Sao Paulo, Madrid and Tokyo, among others.

Honors and Special Performances

- Earned two Platinum and five Gold Records for sales of its more than 150 recordings since 1910.
- After their performance at President Ronald Reagan's inauguration in January 1981, the President dubbed the Choir, "*America's Choir*."
- The Choir has performed for 10 presidents (including 6 inaugurals), including William Howard Taft, Dwight Eisenhower, John Kennedy, Lyndon Johnson, Richard Nixon, Ronald Reagan, George H.W. Bush and George W. Bush.
- Received a Grammy Award in 1959 for "Battle Hymn of the Republic," which continues to be a crowd-pleaser to this day.
- Awarded an Emmy in 1987 for their appearance on the TV special, *Christmas Sampler*, with Shirley Verrett.
- Inducted into the National Association of Broadcasters Hall of Fame on April 20, 2004 for its musical contribution to America through its successful *Music and the Spoken Word* broadcast.
- The Choir performed at the 2002 Olympic Winter Games, held in Salt Lake City:
  - \* 3.5 billion TV viewers saw the Choir perform at the opening ceremonies
  - \* The Choir performed 20 times throughout the 2002 Winter Games

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