



BRAVURA (9TH–12 GRADE)



RAGAZZE (5TH–8TH GRADE)

Spirito! Singers **YEAR IN REVIEW** 2017-2018

Major Concerts

“Making Spirits Bright”

December 2 & 3, 2017

Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, Elmhurst

Audience: 1,660 (*Sold Out*)

“If Music Be The Food of Love”-

Celebrating Ten Years of Song!

May 18 & 19, 2018

Elmhurst Christian Reformed Church, Elmhurst

Audience: 1,660 (*Sold Out*)

Service - Spirito! Gives Back

Ragazze Lock-In Service Project

During this season’s Ragazze Lock-In, the singers learned about ShelterBox USA, a national organization that provides relief in times of disaster. Ragazze was asked to record a commissioned song for the upcoming ShelterBox video. The piece, *Shelter Me*, was written by Spirito! conductor Phil Riegler and debuted at the Spring Concert.

Dan Gibbon’s Turkey Trot, Elmhurst

The Men of Spirito! sang the National Anthem and a patriotic medley for the start of 34th Annual Turkey Trot on Thanksgiving Day for over 7,800 race participants.



Memorial Day Program, Elmhurst

The Men of Spirito! performed patriotic selections during a program honoring each branch of the U.S. armed services.

Ragazze: Downers Grove Music Club Rising Stars Event

In April, Ragazze sang as part of the program for the 2018 DGMC Rising Stars ceremony, where music scholarships are awarded to deserving Downers Grove musicians.

Chicago White Sox vs. San Francisco Giants

All Spirito! ensembles, along with numerous alumnae, joined voices to sing our National Anthem prior to the start of the game on September 9, 2017. Spirito! sold close to 500 tickets and was able to share their singing with thousands. In addition, Spirito father, Master Sgt. Kevin James, USAF was honored as Hero of the Game.



DuPage Cycling Classic

The Men of Spirito! performed the National Anthem at this July 2017 Pro/Am cycling event. They sang to kick off both the women’s and men’s pro races for an estimated audience of 1,000, and have been invited back to sing for the 2018 event.

Service Sundays

Every season, each of the three ensembles of Spirito! perform 4-5 Sunday services. This enables audiences who may not be able to attend a concert the chance to share in Spirito!’s beautiful music. The 2017-2018 season saw Spirito! Singers performing gratis Sunday events in Clarendon Hills, Downers Grove, Elmhurst, LaGrange, Oak Brook, and Riverside as well as for tour audiences in Indianapolis and San Francisco. This allowed Spirito! to share their stunning artistry with an estimated 4,000 new audience members.

Other Exciting News!

Spirito! Celebrates Tenth Anniversary

Spirito! began in 2008 as the brainchild of Artistic Director Molly Lindberg. Molly's vision was to create a youth chorus of the highest caliber that would develop musicianship, character and confidence in young people. Now in its tenth season, Spirito! boasts 123 outstanding alumnae, and continues to grow in its repertoire, depth of experience and communities/audiences reached. Through solid fundraising efforts, consistent board development and concentrated singer recruitment, Spirito! constantly plans for future stability.

Spirito! Hires First Executive Director

In a firm commitment to the future of Spirito!, Molly Lindberg and the Board of Directors hired an Executive Director in 2017. Mary Jean Adkins brings a strong background in both non-profit fundraising and music. As a member of the founding Spirito! Board of Directors, she also brings a knowledge of the organization's history and vision. The addition of an Executive Director will allow Molly to concentrate more fully on the creative/artistic/educational aspects of Spirito!, and will allow further growth in outreach and fundraising.

Spirito! Outreach Scholarships - Bravura

Spirito! continues to develop its outreach scholarship program, designed to tap the talents of high school singers who hail from a broad range of communities and backgrounds. Donors are now given a clear option to designate their gifts to the scholarship/financial assistance program.

Bravura Makes Radio Debut on WFMT

Bravura was accepted via audition to perform on WFMT's *Introductions* program. WFMT/98.7 fm is the preeminent broadcasting station for classical music programming in Chicago. *Introductions* is WFMT's weekly showcase of the Chicago area's finest pre-college classical musicians. Bravura's performance aired in March 2018.

Ragazze and Bravura Introduce Commissioned Pieces

Along with *Shelter Me*, which was debuted by Ragazze at the Spring concert, Bravura premiered a piece commissioned by renowned composer Paul French. Entitled *How You Might Approach a Foal*, the piece is in honor of the Spirito! 10th Anniversary. Mr. French also held a residency with both choirs. His collaboration with Spirito! was made possible by a partial grant from the Illinois Arts Council.

Spring Tours for Bravura and Ragazze

In April 2018, the Ragazze ensemble traveled to Indianapolis. The tour included numerous activities around the city, singing at the beautiful St. John the Evangelist Church, Indianapolis' oldest church, and finished with a performance of *Wicked*.

In June 2018, the Bravura tour to San Francisco was highlighted by a complete array of sightseeing activities including the Golden Gate Bridge, Fisherman's Wharf, Alcatraz, Chinatown, cable cars, Muir Woods and was topped off by singing at historic St. Ignatius Church.

Enrollment

This season's Spirito! rosters included 230 talented singers, representing 27 communities and 51 schools. Spirito! requires singers be involved in their school's choral or instrumental program and works with school music programs to complement each singer's music experience.

2017-2018 Fundraising Efforts

Diversified Funding

It is a priority and long-term goal of this organization to keep tuition affordable. Tuition covers an estimated one-third of the cost of providing a quality experience for each singer. Maintaining accessible tuition requires financial support from other sources. Spirito! raises additional funding through: annual Gala, Golf Outing and giving campaign, corporate sponsorship, gifts from community organizations and foundations, and an individual donor program. Spirito! also actively pursues grants and continues to enjoy support from the Illinois Arts Council and the DuPage Community Foundation. In 2017-2018, Spirito! received the highest financial awards in its history from both organizations and was able to hire a Summer Intern through an Illinois Arts Council Grant.

Additionally, Spirito! added several revenue generating activities this season (Giving Tuesday, Spring Donor Outreach), is poised to begin a Bequest/Legacy Giving option for donors, is expanding its Corporate Matching Program and is dedicated to developing a Major Gifts Program in the upcoming season. Furthermore, Spirito! enjoys a dynamic Board of Directors that is dedicated to actively assisting with fundraising and development.

