



**PRESS RELEASE** September 18, 2006 – For immediate publication

THE HEARTLAND CHAMBER CHORALE WELCOMES

## New Singers for Tenth Anniversary Season

*Addition of two sopranos, one alto, one tenor and two baritones  
bring Northeast Indiana's only professional chorus to 26 members.*

September 16, 2006 • FORT WAYNE, IN – The Heartland Chamber Chorale (HCC), northern Indiana's only paid professional chorus, has added six new vocalists for its Tenth Anniversary Season, which begins in October 2006. New HCC choristers are: Heather Hutchison and Katie Kinsey (sopranos); Patricia Kennedy (alto); Nick Reynolds (tenor); and Justin Heflin and Eric Miller (baritones). The addition of these six professional singers brings the total complement of singers in HCC to 26.

In announcing the new members, HCC music and executive director Robert Nance noted, "Since our inception in 1997, we have regularly auditioned singers from around the region. We have also provided in-service training for the members of the Chorale each season, which has consistently improved the skills of the ensemble and raised the bar for vocalists who wish to become a member of the HCC. Each year we find the quality of applicants to be better than previous years, and the inductees for our 10<sup>th</sup> anniversary are definitely among the finest in the region. They are wonderful additions to the HCC."

**Heather Hutchison**, who sings soprano, is a native of Ohio who earned a degree in vocal performance from Bluffton University (Ohio). She is involved in church music ministry and teaches vocal and piano students. Hutchison and husband Jon reside in Hometown with their four children.

A native of Warsaw, **Katie Kinsey** has performed with high school and college choirs. She earned a degree from Anderson University. A soprano, Kinsey maintains a teaching studio and accompanies musicals and plays for weddings and for her church. She is an English teacher at Carroll High School.

Alto **Patricia Kennedy** returns to Fort Wayne and HCC after serving as assistant professor of music at the College of Saint Rose in Albany (NY) where she taught choral conducting and choral methods and directed the school's Masterworks Chorale, Madrigal Ensemble and Women's Chorale. Kennedy has been a professional singer with the Santa Fe Desert Chorale and the Robert Shaw Festival Singers. Dr. Kennedy received her doctor of music degree in choral conducting from Michigan State University.

**Nick Reynolds**, a tenor, holds a bachelor degree in vocal performance from IPFW and a bachelor degree in communications from Manchester College. He studied voice under Dr. Debra Lynn and Dr. Allen Saunders. Reynolds sang at Carnegie Hall in 2001, and currently is the choir director for Aboite Baptist Church. He and his wife, Amber, reside in Fort Wayne.

Baritone **Justin Heflin** is new to Fort Wayne. His prior experience includes performances with the Indianapolis Opera Company. Heflin studied voice and opera at Anderson University.

**Eric Miller**, baritone, is a graduate of Ball State with a bachelor's degree in music, with emphasis in Choral Music Education. While a student at Ball State, Miller sang with the Chamber Choir and University Singers. He currently works as computer sales supervisor at Best Buy.

---

**The Heartland Chamber Chorale**

6631 Quail Ridge Lane • Fort Wayne • Indiana • 46804-2875  
260.436.8080 • 866.745.7013 • info@heartlandchorale.org • www.heartlandchorale.org

*The Heartland Chamber Chorale is a non-profit 501(c) (3) organization.*