



## PRESS RELEASE

*For immediate publication*

Heartland Chamber Chorale (HCC) organizes area choirs to perform a special concert entitled, "We are the Dream" in commemoration of Martin Luther King, Jr. This free community concert was hosted by Pilgrim Baptist Church, and featured the Hazemir Choir of Temple Achduth Vesholm directed by Dr. John Planer, the Pilgrim Baptist Church Choirs directed by Debra Faye Williams-Robbins, and the HCC.

HCC guest artist, Carver Cossey, Bass-baritone from Los Angeles, performed with the massed choirs, and sang a particularly moving rendition of "Precious Lord" that was one of Dr. King's favorite hymns. Instrumentalists from Pilgrim Baptist Church provided accompaniment, joined by HCC accompanist Mr. Alexander Klepach.

The collaboration of the choirs and guest artists provided an outstanding afternoon of song and the freewill offering represented a commitment to the legacy of Dr. King. The funds collected were donated to the Associated Churches Food Bank. The Associated Churches announced that the donation will be doubled through the dollar for dollar matching funds campaign. Ellen Graham, ACFB program director, said, "Your support and donation means so much to the community." This community endeavor sought to demonstrate that Dr. King's vision, as expressed in his famous 'I had a dream' speech, is realized only when we come together in mutual endeavor and support.

Heartland Chamber Chorale is regularly involved with community outreach each season. The next community outreach program is a commemoration concert on Sunday, April 15 at 4 p.m., Yom Hashoah (the Day of Remembrance of the Holocaust). The Chorale will perform **A Holocaust Cantata** by Don McCullough, which features music and letters from concentrations camps. This stirring work will be performed at First Wayne Street United Methodist Church and is open to the public for free. A free will offering will be accepted to benefit the Jewish Federation's educational outreach programs.

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Now presenting outstanding vocal music performances in its tenth season, the 26-member Heartland Chamber Chorale is Northern Indiana's only professional chorus. Founded by music and executive director Robert Nance, the Heartland Chamber Chorale performs in and around Fort Wayne throughout the year. The HCC also engages promising young vocalists through educational outreach programs like our *Side-by-Side in Song* and *Project Sing!* initiatives. The purpose of the Heartland Chamber Chorale is to perform high quality choral chamber music to enrich audiences in the Fort Wayne community, Northeast Indiana, and beyond, with a goal to serve as a professional resource to the community for matters pertaining to the art of chamber vocal music.

The Heartland Chamber Chorale is a non-profit 501(c)(3) organization and is funded in part through gifts from Arts United (a local agency), the Indiana Arts Commission (a state agency), and the National Endowment for the Arts (a federal agency). Additional funding is provided by HCC Member-Supporters, the English Bonter Mitchell Foundation, Target Foundation, the Wilson Foundation, and the Lincoln Financial Group Foundation. For additional information and a current schedule of concerts, please visit [www.heartlandchorale.org](http://www.heartlandchorale.org) or call the HCC office at 260-436-8080.

Heartland Chamber Chorale, Inc.

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