

LeagueAires

SHARING THE JOY OF MUSIC



Serving the community and sponsored by the JLM for 50 years... and counting

If you need something to keep you feeling warm and bright on Mondays during these chilly winter months, then remember that Mondays are Trouping Day for the LeagueAires of Minneapolis.

Trouping performances take place at assisted living facilities, nursing homes, and schools throughout the Twin Cities for older adults, children, and those with special needs on Mondays from January to April. Each performance is identical and features songs, choreography, and audience sing-alongs. The audience is always treated free of charge.

This season, roughly 45 – 75 residents will attend each of the 30 scheduled Monday performances; in 2016 this equated to over 3,500 guests being reached by these events. In addition to the Monday trouping venues, the LeagueAires will also perform at the Veteran's Home on May 1st, at an upcoming Junior League of Minneapolis General Meeting, and hold a Community Performance for friends and family at Colonial Church in Edina on April 25th. This phenomenal group of volunteers will in total contribute over 10,500 hours to bringing their cheerful songs to our community.

3,500

Number of guests reached in 2015 at over 35 venues throughout the Twin Cities

60

Number of women voices. In total, members contribute over 10,500 volunteer hours to the group.

19

Number of songs in the 2017 Trouping Season. An additional 3-4 songs are added as sing-alongs with the residents.



Walter Tambor named as first male director

For the first time in 50 years, the LeagueAires has a male director! Walter Tambor joined in 2016 and they could not be more thrilled to have him lead.

Walter began teaching voice with the MacPhail Music for Life program in 2016. He also serves as Director of Contemporary and World Music at The Basilica of Saint Mary where he directs the adult world music ensemble, Mundus and the high school ensemble, Juventus. In addition he regularly works with at-risk children through mentoring and music programs.

Welcome Walter!

A Brief History of the LeagueAires

The LeagueAires were founded by four women who had a dream of turning their love of music into a community mission. Junior League of Minneapolis (JLM) members Ruthy Frenzel, Mandy Johnston, Mary Kunz and Patty Strong brainstormed about how to use their talents and experience in singing, dancing, acting, costuming, and public relations after participating in a JLM talent show.

The idea was presented to the board and following a thorough assessment of volunteer support and community interest; the JLM approved the group's formation in 1966.

Early performances were strictly musical, but choreography soon followed. Although the founding women were all JLM members, the LeagueAires have welcomed non-JLM affiliated women from the community for decades. Today the group has around 60 members and is one of the most beloved traveling music therapy groups in the Twin Cities. The JLM continues to provide support to this ongoing service project.



LeagueAires Volunteer Training: Dr. Deirdre Michael

In keeping with the mission of the Junior League to provide training for volunteers, each year the LeagueAires provides an in-service training for the JLM membership. This year featured Dr. Deirdre Michael, Assistant Professor in the department of Otolaryngology in the University of MN Medical School and Co-Director of the Lions Voice Clinic.

Her topic was caring for the mature and aging voice. She explained how the voice is produced by the body, provided a handout of tips for care, and a resource document about care of the voice has been downloaded to our website for reference. Her address was happily received and greatly appreciated, very entertaining, and will be well applied.



Giving with Song and Beyond

LeagueAires members support community outreach, active troops, and veterans

In addition to their performances, the LeagueAires support community outreach through public education events on the joy and healing power of music. In loving memory of Sue Hodder, an active singing member of LeagueAires for 27 years until her passing in July 2011, the Hodder family generously provided an annual gift in perpetuity to expand the mission of LeagueAires.

A major component of the gift enables LeagueAires to produce community educational events exploring the transformative power of music. The Suzanne Holmes Hodder Symposium for 2017 is scheduled for April 6th, 2017 at 7:00pm at MacPhail Center for Music, with a reception to follow.

The LeagueAires' joyful giving does not stop with music. For the past 8 years members have sent boxes of holiday cheer to soldiers deployed around the world in what they affectionately call "Operation Yankee Doodle". This year, they were able to pack and send 20 boxes to 5 different units who are currently in Afghanistan, Kuwait and Korea as well as a unit that is sailing the oceans of the world on an aircraft carrier.

Locally, the LeagueAires have reached out to homeless veterans in the Minneapolis area through St. Stephen's Human Services. In December, they delivered 40 bags containing gift cards, fruit, homemade goodies and items St. Stephen's indicated are needed for these Veterans, to help bring some holiday cheer to them.

A Sample of Songs in the 2017 Trouping Season

The age and interests of their varied audiences inspire the year's song selection. Perennial favorites include:

"There's No Business Like Show Business"
"All That Jazz"
"Puttin' on the Ritz"
"Rock Around the Clock"
"My Boyfriend's Back"
"Rockin' Robin"

New this year is a medley of Stevie Wonder's greatest hits, including:

"Superstition"
"For Once in My Life"
"You are the Sunshine of My Life"
"Higher Ground"
"Sir Duke"



Want to join this amazing group of women? Visit their website for the most up-to-date information (leagueaires.org) and consider joining them on:

Recruitment Day, February 6, 2017.

This annual event is designed to give new recruits a thorough overview of what happens on Mondays from rehearsal to watching their mission in action.

Beginning at 11:00am, potential LeagueAires will sit in at a brush-up rehearsal, have lunch at the Colonial Church, and enjoy an afternoon performance at The Waters (a senior residence next door).

For additional questions you may contact the organization at leagueaires@gmail.com.

Reasons to Sing

Nancy Feller, LeagueAires chair of Marketing, describes one of her favorite performances: "I had a very touching moment a couple of years ago, when during one of our singalongs, one of the female residents I was singing to

started singing along with me, even though her husband and one of her caregivers said that she hadn't even spoken in a very long time! After that experience, **I was even more convinced of the healing power of music.**"