

CHICAGO



CHAMBER  
CHOIR

*Hymns & Spirituals*  
*Strength for the Journey*

## Hymns & Spirituals: Strength for the Journey

### Deuteronomy 2:7

*The LORD your God has blessed you in all the work of your hands. He has watched over your journey through this vast desert. These forty years the LORD your God has been with you, and you have not lacked anything.*

What richer and more evocative American music can there be than a collection of uplifting hymns and soul-stirring spirituals? As the Chicago Chamber Choir anticipated its next recording project, I knew that I wanted to present this music that is so near to my heart. My first musical memories were the hymns and gospel music heard in the small Baptist church in Kansas where I was raised...and I was introduced to the spiritual in my high school choir. The connection that I experienced to all of these songs sparked a lifelong love of choral singing.

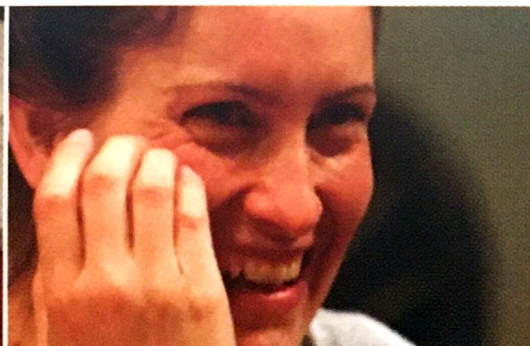
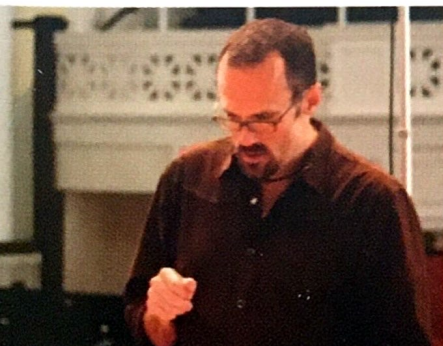
To celebrate my 10 years with the Chicago Chamber Choir, I am very pleased to present this

slice of American spiritual life through songs that encourage, challenge, and lighten a heavy load.

The songs included here represent a wide variety of American sacred music: Early American hymn tunes ("Webster" and "His Voice"); European hymns that found their way into this country's Protestant churches ("My God, How Wonderful Thou Art" and "Like a River"); and a rich array of spirituals, including the most traditional settings ("Ain't Got Time to Die" and "Ride the Chariot"); sophisticated, newer arrangements ("Wade in de Water" and "Plenty Good Room"); and a uniquely contemporary offering ("Do You Believe?"). The rich, tragic history of the slave is embodied so beautifully and powerfully in the Negro spiritual. This is folk music in its truest form and music that many believe to be America's greatest indigenous art form.

Regardless of your faith tradition, I trust you'll experience the strength to which these songs testify. And whatever your journey, I hope you'll find solace and joy in this beautiful music.

*Jerwin Adams*



## Timm Adams, Artistic Director

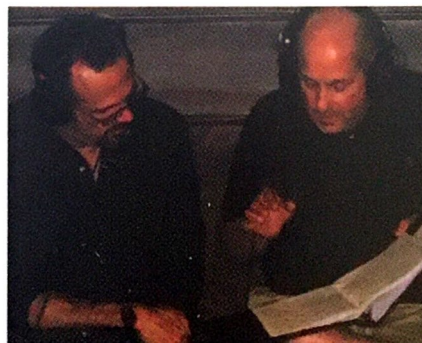
Timm Adams has had the honor of conducting this ensemble since January 2000. He is currently Associate Professor of Music at Rockford College in Rockford, IL, where he teaches private voice and music theory, conducts three choirs, and musical directs the Performing Arts Department's mainstage musicals. A conducting student of K. Lawrence Renas, he holds degrees from Liberty University and Baylor University and has studied under the tutelage of Dr. John Van Cura, Dr. Eph Ely, Dr. René Clausen, Dr. Robert Young, and the renowned Dr. Robert Shaw. Mr. Adams has also enjoyed an extensive career in theatre, both as an actor and musical director, and has performed throughout the U.S. in summer stock, regional theatre, and in numerous revues.

## About Us

The Chicago Chamber Choir's mission is to promote the joy of choral music by offering seasonal concerts and charitable performances that educate and entertain children and adults in the Chicagoland area. As part of that mission, the Chicago Chamber Choir actively seeks performance venues that bring music to individuals who might be overlooked by the performing arts community. Founded in 1996, the choir has performed in Chicago's inner-city schools, retirement homes, homeless shelters, and rehabilitation centers.

## Special Thanks

The Chicago Chamber Choir gratefully acknowledges Music Institute of Chicago for a glorious and affordable recording space; Unity Lutheran Church for providing rehearsal space; Airan Wright and From Concept to Completion for the beautiful design work; Elliott Nott for his tireless work on this and many other CCC projects; Andrea Nott, Uvon Tucker, Cliff McReynolds, and others who accomplished numerous project details; Bob Black and the Board of Directors for their support and encouragement; Associate Conductor Jim Collins for his sensitive musical assistance and constant love for this ensemble and its director; Joel Fox for his passion and brilliance in recording, editing, mixing, and mastering; Artistic Director Timm Adams for his vision for this CD and skilled guidance of this ensemble; and certainly the singers of the Chicago Chamber Choir for their exceptional talent and dedication to this project. A huge thank you to our generous donors who make such a project possible!





### **Soprano**

Marion Amling  
 Erica Beall\*  
 Melissa Curtis  
 Meghan Guse  
 Viktoria Johnson  
 Amy Keipert  
 Alana Pennington  
 Kaela Rampton

### **Alto**

Amy Bearden  
 Monica Blacconeri  
 Sammi Block  
 Dena Borman\*  
 Amy Butterer  
 Mary Fry  
 Kate Goier  
 Laura Vivier  
 Tracy Weisman

### **Tenor**

Jim Collins\*,  
 Associate Conductor  
 Bill McDougall  
 Clifton McReynolds  
 Scott Perdue  
 Paul Reineck  
 David Rubin  
 Jonathan Russom  
 Michael Thompson

### **Bass**

Robert Collins  
 Bill Fortune  
 Allan Haggar\*  
 Al Irwin  
 Erich Kurschat  
 Elliott Nott  
 Hans Royal-Hedinger  
 John Scott  
 Kyle Shiver  
 Uvon Tucker

\* denotes section leader

*Recorded at Music Institute of Chicago,  
Evanston, IL  
June 13 and 14, 2009*

*Recording Engineer: Joel Fox*

*Editing, mixing, and mastering by  
Joel Fox, Fox Music Recording, Inc.*

*Produced by Joel Fox, Timm Adams,  
Jim Collins, and Allan Haggar*

*Graphic design and photography:  
Airan Wright, From Concept to Completion LLC*

*Interior group photo provided by Scott Cooper  
of Archetype Images*

*Interior candid photos: Elliott Nott,  
Jim Collins, and Erich Kurschat*

*Production team: Elliott Nott, Uvon Tucker,  
Cliff McReynolds, and Andrea Nott*

***Chicago Chamber Choir  
Timm Adams, Artistic Director***

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1. *My Soul's Been Anchored in the Lord* (3:11)  
Arranged by Moses Hogan  
Elliott Nott, baritone  
Marion Amling, soprano
2. *Webster ("Come, We Who Love the Lord")* (1:37)  
Arranged by Carol Barnett
3. *His Voice* (4:21)  
Arranged by Larry L. Fleming
4. *Witness* (2:51)  
Arranged by Jack Halloran
5. *I Want Jesus to Walk with Me* (4:12)  
Arranged by Alice Parker
6. *Give Me Jesus* (4:28)  
Arranged by Larry L. Fleming
7. *We Shall Walk Through the Valley in Peace* (4:34)  
Arranged by Moses Hogan
8. *Ain't Got Time to Die* (2:49)  
By Hall Johnson  
Jonathan Russom, tenor
9. *Wade in de Water* (2:58)  
Arranged by Allen Koepke
10. *Abide With Me* (3:54)  
Words by Henry F. Lyte  
Music by William H. Monk  
Arranged by Moses Hogan
11. *Like a River* (4:43)  
Words by Frances Havergal  
Music by James Mountain  
Arranged by Larry Nickel
12. *There Is a Balm in Gilead* (6:18)  
Arranged by René Clausen  
Alana Pennington, soprano  
Michael Thompson, tenor
13. *My God, How Wonderful Thou Art* (3:37)  
Words by Fredrick W. Faber  
Arranged by René Clausen
14. *Do You Believe?* (2:35)  
Music by Robert S. Cohen  
Libretto by Maria V.S. Seigenthaler
15. *Plenty Good Room* (3:03)  
Arranged by René Clausen
16. *Ride the Chariot* (2:14)  
Arranged by William Henry Smith  
Kaela Rampton, soprano