

# Angelica Cantanti

## The Angelica Cantanti Con Brio Choir



**Director:** Ann Schrooten      **Accompanist:** Jane Horn      **Ages:** Grades 2-4  
**Rehearsals:** Tuesday 4:30 to 5:30 p.m., Bloomington Center for the Performing Arts, Rehearsal Hall

**Philosophy:** The Con Brio Choir will sing mainly in unison; then rounds, canons, partner songs, and simple harmony will be added to the repertoire. The main purpose is to learn to sing beautifully and correctly using the best of choral literature from a variety of cultures. Performance opportunities can help the groups achieve this goal, but it is the learning that goes on in the weekly rehearsals that is most important. To sing beautifully and correctly, singers learn proper posture, correct breathing to produce a free floated tone and sensitively shaped phrases, good diction and articulation, how to release tension in the body, and how to listen and blend. Other important objectives for the singers are to learn to focus and concentrate on all aspects of music-making; to work as a caring, well-disciplined team; to start to learn to read music; to become aware of music history, musical styles, and the place of music in various cultures; and to become aware of the power of music as a form of expression.

**Director Ann Schrooten:** Ann Schrooten joined the Angelica Cantanti artistic staff in 2006 and directs the *Cantabile* ensemble; a choir of 4<sup>th</sup>, 5<sup>th</sup>, and 6<sup>th</sup> grade singers. A native of southern Minnesota, Ms. Schrooten holds the B.M. degree in Vocal Music Performance from Saint Olaf College, and the M.M. degree in Choral Conducting from the University of Minnesota. She has held sabbatical replacement positions at the University of Wisconsin in La Crosse and the University of St. Thomas in St. Paul. Since 1996, she has been on the music staff at Holy Trinity Lutheran Church in Minneapolis, founding and directing the Children's Choir, a middle school ensemble, and the Handbell Ensemble. Ms. Schrooten also sings Soprano with the VocalEssence Ensemble Singers, a professional Twin Cities Choir under the direction of Philip Brunelle.

Raised in a musical family, Ms. Schrooten learned early in life how to harmonize by ear and that when groups gather –whatever the reason – there MUST be singing! Ms. Schrooten states that she is dedicated to the philosophy that music, and singing in particular, can help us to traverse continents, cultures, and even time itself. She is completely fascinated by the human voice: its physical make-up, its potential to communicate ideas, and most of all, its power to transform our spirits.

