



— ANGELICA —  
**CANTANTI**  
YOUTH CHOIRS

**Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs — Concert Choir, Minneapolis, MN**

Elizabeth Egger, Conductor & Jeffrey Patry, Collaborative Pianist

**2026 Midwestern ACDA Conference, Milwaukee, WI**

Pabst Theater

Friday, February 27, 2026 at 9:30am

## Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs

The Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs (ACYC), founded in 1980, is an award winning children's community choral program and among one of the oldest in the Minneapolis and St. Paul area. The Artistic Staff includes Directors Ann Williams, Michelle Gehrz, Elizabeth Egger, Dr. Joseph Kemper and Nancy Grundahl. The ACYC organization offers ten ensembles, serving youth from grades K-12, with an adaptive class for singers with special needs and an alumni adult chorus. Singers in ACYC performed at the 2018 Super Bowl at US Bank Stadium in Minneapolis, the 2019 and 2025 National ACDA Conference and the organization was voted "Best Community Choir in Minnesota" by WCCO-TV. www.angelicacantanti.org.



**Elizabeth Egger** is a conductor and singer whose career is grounded in her mission to educate, create, and explore to help young singers develop their authentic voice. Beth is the conductor of the ACYC Concert Choir and teaches choir and general music at Scott Highlands Middle School in Apple Valley, MN. With 20 years of experience, Beth has held teaching and conducting roles in various schools and churches across Minnesota and Wisconsin. Under Beth's artistic leadership, her ensembles achieved notable recognition performing at MMEA and ACDA of MN events. Notably, Beth conducted ACYC singers during the 2018 Super Bowl LII

performance with Leslie Odom, Jr. She also prepared the children's chorus for Minnesota Orchestra's performances of Mahler's Symphony of a Thousand, A New Year's Concert with Thomas Søndergård, and Puccini's Turandot.

Beth is a singer at heart, and has sung with several professional ensembles throughout the midwest. She earned her MA in Music Education at the University of St. Thomas and BM summa cum laude in Vocal Performance and Music Education at the University of Minnesota. Follow her vibrant journey on Instagram: @choirsips.

Beth is proud to be returning to her hometown of Milwaukee at this Midwestern ACDA Regional Conference. She spent many years performing in the area including with Wauwatosa Children's Theater, First Stage Milwaukee, Florentine Opera, Skylight Music Theater, Milwaukee Symphony Chorus, Milwaukee Choral Artists and directing Milwaukee Children's Choir and St. Dominic Catholic Church Adult Choir (Brookfield). She would like to thank all of the fantastic music educators in the Milwaukee area who shaped who she is today. She would also like to thank her first students in Franklin, WI who taught her so much in her first years as a music teacher.

**Jeffrey Patry**, collaborative accompanist, is the Director of Music Ministry and Organist at First Lutheran Church in Columbia Heights, MN. In addition, he is on the music staff of Normandale Community College, the collaborate pianist for the Cantabile Choir of Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs, the Edina Chorale and the Bella Lumina Women's Ensemble. Jeffrey graduated from St. Olaf College with a B.M. in Organ Performance studying under Dr. John Ferguson and Mr. Douglas Cleveland.

**Reflections of Us** is about seeing ourselves mirrored in music. Each piece on this program offers a different reflection of who we are. Together, these songs become reflections of us; our joy, our hope, our unity, and our power to connect through music.

Middle schoolers truly are the best. This is my 20th year teaching, and every one of those years has included working with middle-level singers. There is something uniquely magical about this age. When you break down the layers of complexity; physical, emotional, and vocal, what emerges is a beautiful balance of innocence, growing awareness, and deep empathy. When that complexity is applied to choral music, something even more powerful happens. Through intentionally chosen repertoire, these young singers find their voices and begin to communicate something truly special; something our world needs now more than ever. ~Beth

**Intro (It's You)** .....Krishan Oberoi

*Please hold applause*

This opening song makes a bold statement with its combination of expressive lyrics and thoughtfully-crafted harmonies. It invites both singers and listeners to connect with the music right away, and we hope it resonates with you as strongly as it does with us.

**Your Voices Tune (from Alexander's Feast HWV 75)** ..... G.F. Handel, Arr. Matthew Michaels

We dramatically shift our vocal style from contemporary to classical with this Handel chorus, inviting singers to step into the clarity and precision of the Baroque tradition. In studying this work, our singers explored elements of Baroque-style singing such as crisp articulation and an increased awareness of line and text. This joyful ode to St. Cecilia, the patron saint of music, offers both a stylistic contrast within the program and a rich opportunity for musical growth.

**Cha Cha Elemental** ..... Cristian Grases

Commissioned by the 2025 ACDA Soprano-Alto Developing Choirs Commission Consortium of the American Choral Directors Association.

Dancers: Cara Schneider, Ella Harrington, Grace Meier, Nora Rudlang

Cha Cha Elemental blends cha cha rhythms with playful Spanish lyrics about the four elements; Earth, Air, Fire, and Water. Each element is vividly imagined as a dancer with a distinct personality. As these elemental characters meet on the dance floor, their interactions create both musical interest and joyful cohesion.

**Heart of Earth** ..... Shruthi Rajasekar

Minnesota poet Laura Purdie Salas creates a text with vivid imagery in this song. It reflects our responsibility to care for the world we share. Rajasekar's beautiful melody, layered harmonies, and body percussion bring this child-like wonder to life. These qualities may seem, as Laura writes, like "natural talents," but they are lessons we as adults would do well to relearn; from the earth itself and from the children who remind us how to listen.

**Found/Tonight**..... Arr. Jacob Narverud

Arrangement commissioned by the Angelica Cantanti Youth Choirs.

This blending of Broadway favorites captures the courage it takes to discover our voice and step forward into new possibilities. It combines powerful messages from the musicals Hamilton and Dear Evan Hansen to remind us of unity, hope, and being seen.

**La Vocabulario di Musica** ..... Arr. Nancy Grundahl

Our final song brings us back to our Angelica roots with an ACYC classic: La Vocabulario di Musica is arranged by former Concert Choir director Nancy Grundahl who led this group for over 25 years. La Vocab is a delightful operatic spoof that celebrates both great music and great laughter. With an apology to fluent Italian speakers, Grundahl creates a hilarious medley of famous opera arias using Italian musical terms and whimsical “Italian-ish” phrases. Each familiar melody brings a musical concept to life. Quando m’en vo sparkles with con grazia and con molto eleganza, the Love Duet from The Magic Flute highlights pizzicato, and Habanera from Carmen demonstrates espressivo, appassionata, misterioso, and ostinato, to name just a few.

---

## Lyrics

### Intro (It’s You)

Hey  
Open the windows and say  
‘The start of another bright day’  
Ev’ry thing still looks the same  
All of your problems remain

The sound of the opening bell  
Jars you awake where you fell  
Grappling sleep’s empty hand

Finding the courage to stand  
When you stand  
Take a hesitant step toward the door  
And forgetting what you came here for  
Decades you lost in a trance

The fractional luck of a chance  
One more chance  
In the daylight that breaks you apart  
And floods your irreper’able heart

The steward of your secret dream is you  
And it always has been.

### Your Voices Tune

Your voices tune, and raise them high,  
Till they echo from the vaulted sky,  
The blest Cecilia’s name;  
Music to heav’n and her we owe,  
The greatest blessing that’s below:  
Sound loudly then her fame!

Let’s imitate her notes above!  
And may this ev’ning ever prove sacred to  
Harmony and Love,  
Sacred to Love,  
Sacred to Harmony,  
Sacred to Harmony and Love.

### Cha Cha Elemental *Translation:*

Cha cha cha  
so delicious cha cha cha  
tasty cha cha cha  
I dance the cha cha cha  
dance my cha cha cha  
enjoy the cha cha cha  
hey, come and enjoy the cha cha cha  
come and dance the cha cha cha  
with me the cha cha cha  
my cha cha cha

The Water, very elegantly,  
will dress in blues.  
The Air, who is already waiting for her  
anxiously to dance  
and enjoy the cha cha cha

The Earth, who is so flirtatious  
will soon show off her flowers  
and The Fire, very proudly,  
will take her by the arm  
to enjoy the cha cha cha

The four elements, who were good friends,  
went out dancing frequently,  
and they met in one of their houses  
to have a great lunch or dinner

And so it was that all four energies  
were naturally balanced;  
but most of all, when it was a good day,  
it was because the danced this cha cha cha,  
my cha cha cha.

Cha cha cha, it is very tasty,  
I am dancing my cha cha cha  
dance the cha cha cha  
my cha cha cha sounds so delicious  
dance this cha cha cha that I bring  
I am dancing my cha cha cha

### Heart of Earth

Snap peas, salmon sunny days,  
Farmers Market keep the change,  
abundance of the heart of Earth heavy harvest.

Ooh. Summer wedding thousand veils,  
Leafy vows and toasts of dew,  
Sunshine uncurls, unfurls each bloom  
Oak marries June.

Fling your leaves into the sky  
Give your apples to the deer,  
Look up so you will find your way, promise filled,

Oh. Sky has a knack for pounding out  
Heavy rain, pounding rain,  
The nat’ral talent of the ground is receiving,

Spring has a knack for bursting out  
Heavy blooms, bursting blooms,  
The nat’ral talent of the seed is believing

Ah. Nat’ral talent, Nat’ral talent  
Nat’ral talent of the earth

### Found /Tonight

We may not yet have reached our glory.  
But I will gladly join the fight.  
And when our children tell their story,  
They’ll tell the story of tonight.

Have you ever felt like nobody was there?  
Have you ever felt forgotten in the  
middle of nowhere?  
Have you ever felt like you could disappear?  
Like you could fall and no one would hear?  
Well, let that lonely feeling wash away,

All we see is light for forever.

‘Cause maybe there’s a reason to  
believe you’ll be okay,  
‘Cause when you don’t feel strong enough  
to stand, you can reach,  
Reach out your hand.

Raise a glass to freedom,  
Something they can never take away,  
No matter what they tell you.

And oh, someone will come runnin'  
to take you home.

Raise a glass to all of us.  
Tomorrow there'll be more of us  
Telling the story of tonight.

Out of the shadows the morning is breaking,  
And all is new.

It's only a matter of time.

Even when the dark comes crashin' through,  
When you need a friend to carry you,  
When you're broken on the ground,  
You will be found.

So let the sun come streamin' in  
'Cause you'll reach up and you'll rise again.  
If you only look around,  
You will be found.

And when our children tell their story,  
They'll tell the story of tonight.

No matter what they tell you,  
Tomorrow there'll be more of us  
Telling the story of tonight,  
The story of tonight.

### La Vocabulario di Musica

"A Je veux vivre" from Romeo et Juliette by  
Charles Gounoud

"Quando m'en vo" from La Boheme by Giacomo  
Puccini

"Love Duet" from The Magic Flute by Wolfgang  
Amadeus Mozart

"La Donne e mobile" from La Traviata by  
Giuseppe Verdi

"Habanera" from Carmen by George Bizet

"Duet" from Semiramide by Giacomo Rossini

La Vocabulario di musica esprime molto bene.  
Per la bellissima melodia di l'aria di opera

Con grazia quasi ritardando a tempo  
Ritardando a tempo  
Con molto eleganza appasionata  
"Bravissima, Diva!"

Pizzicato  
Arco, ma non legato  
Non legato e parlando  
And I forgot-o mi non comprendo!  
Pizzicato  
A fine duetto fit for two-o  
Pizzicato, Staccato!

Sempre marcato, non sostenuto  
E maestoso, spiritoso

La donna e mobile woman must have her way,  
impetuoso, flirtatioso  
Subito sforzando, molto animando  
E con vibrato, ma non troppo,

Crescendo, con forza!  
Ostinato...

Allegretto quasi andantino e danza bossanova,  
espressivo, appasionata, misterioso, portando,  
triplice, due, uno, e l'ornamento, portando,  
melodia, chromatico, e mucho fun to sing-o

Ostinato, monotonous, new notes o yea! O  
boring part, o differento once again o  
Major key now, boring still o, rigatoni, fettuccine,  
mocha lette, cappuccino, Taco Bello Pizza Hut

Sing oh, sing a, sing oo...  
La, la, la, Angelica Cantanti, Ole!

Agitato spiritoso e con brio rapido  
La canto finire, finally finale.  
Brava! Bravo!  
Vocabulario di musica!

**Concert Choir** elevates treble singing to the highest level through once a week rehearsals of vocal technique, ensemble skills, and expressive performance. Singers in grades 6 – 8 explore a diverse repertoire from a variety of cultures, languages, and genres while deepening their musicianship and having fun making music together.

Harriet Ayres	Sophia Ernst-Herrera	Jean Koenen	Madeleine Schroeder
Oliver Badali-Winters	Fiona Ferrari	Elinor Kornis	Gweneth Skinner
Chloe Barim	Rosie Fischer	Julia Kozisek	Anna Soles
Evelyn Blessing	Morgan Folk	Amelia Lahr	Anya Solodin
Katherine Bowman	Tilda French	Annaliese Lahr	Josephine Spott
Nicolina Busanich	Franki Gile	Nadia Levine	Eryn Stave
Nico Caffari	Ella Harrington	Julianna Lucic	Zinnia Swanson
Emma Carpenter	Jadyn Harrison	Liam McNally	Anne Temple-Hanson
Kaitlyn Catalano	Julia Huss	Grace Meier	Kayla Vogland
William Catalano	Madeline Jensen	Adeline Menning	Ryan Warmka
Catherine Cook	Evelyn Jurrens	Hope Peterson	Marlowe Watts
Shiprah Dutta	Naomi Jurrens	Nora Rudlang	Adalyn Western
Madeline Dybsky	Beatrice Karlsson	Finley Schmidt	Gloribel Zamora
Mae Eisenschen	Clara Keyes	Julianna Schmitt	
Nichole Ellis	Asha Khariwala	Cara Schneider	

### Acknowledgements

Ann Williams, Michelle Gehrz, Dr. Joseph Kemper, Nancy Grundahl, Dr. Angela Kasper, Joy Collman, Sophie Bowman, Krishan Oberoi, Shruthi Rajasekar, parent chaperones, Buy a Mile donors and ACYC families that supported this trip.



1800 W. Old Shakopee Road, Minneapolis, MN 55431  
952-563-8572  
angelicayouthchoirs@gmail.com  
www.angelicacantanti.org

**Executive Director** – Audrey Riddle  
**Choir Manager** – Andrea Dittmer  
**Operations Assistant** – Elliana Meier  
**Rehearsal Assistant** – Mackenzie Donais  
**Choir Coordinator** – Jennifer Koenen