



# Nebraska Choral Arts Society

14225 Dayton Circle, Suite 15 · Omaha, NE 68137 · 402.342.6753 · [www.choirmusic.org](http://www.choirmusic.org)

## PRESS RELEASE

**MEDIA Contact:** Marjorie Maas, public relations consultant, 402.991.1560 [palette@cox.net](mailto:palette@cox.net)

**NCAS Contact:** Renée Spicka, executive director, 402.342.6753, option 3 [renee@choirmusic.org](mailto:renee@choirmusic.org)

### Singers from Des Moines joins with Ragazzi Youth Choir

**For Immediate Release**

**April 10, 2008**

**WHAT:** “A Few of our Favorite Things,”  
Ragazzi Youth choir of Sarpy County hosts collaborative concert with  
Heartland Youth Chorus from Des Moines, Ia.

**WHEN:** Saturday, April 19, 2008 – 7:00 p.m.

**WHERE:** Grace Lutheran Church, 1320 South 26<sup>th</sup> Street (26<sup>th</sup> and Woolworth)

**TICKETS:** Free and open to the public. Freewill donation accepted.

**MEDIA RSVP:** Cameras encouraged. Please contact Marjorie Maas at 402.991.1560 to  
confirm attendance and/or to arrange interviews with Talarico

*Omaha, Neb.* – Ragazzi Youth choir of the Nebraska Choral Arts Society, based out of Sarpy County is currently planning a special collaboration, “A Few of Our Favorite Things” with the Cantilena Choir, one of the training children’s choirs of the Heartland Youth Chorus located in Des Moines, Iowa. Scheduled for Saturday, April 19, Ragazzi Youth will host the Cantilena Choir with a joint rehearsal, get-to-know-you dinner, and special collaborative concert. Curtain is 7:00 p.m. at Grace Lutheran Church, 1320 South 26<sup>th</sup> Street (26<sup>th</sup> and Woolworth) in Omaha. This concert is free and open to the public; a free-will offering will be taken.

“It’s always nice to work with other choirs. It gives the children of our organization a chance to meet other singers from the region and see that there are lots of people out there who love to sing,” stated Cody Talarico, conductor of the Ragazzi Youth and Ragazzi Children’s Choirs. “This concert is great timing for us,” continued Talarico, “Ragazzi Youth will have just returned from their tour to Ames and Des Moines, working with both the Ames Children’s Chorus and Iowa Youth Chorus. Collaborations like these are always great for the kids. They are relaxed and really let the kids get to know each other. Also, we’ll be performing in an area of town where we don’t do very many concerts.”

Talarico also serves as the organist for Grace Lutheran Church in addition to his teaching responsibilities with Bellevue Public Schools and his work with NCAS.

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The Heartland Youth Chorus is a civic organization that serves over 150 central Iowa singers. The choir is divided into five leveled choirs with students ages 6-18. The program focuses on music literacy, healthy vocal development, and character building. Under the leadership of Sandy Miller, associate conductor of Heartland Youth Chorus, Cantilena Choir involves singers in grades four through six. Miller currently teaches music at Wallace Elementary in Johnston, Ia. She holds a Bachelor of Music Education degree from the University of Northern Iowa and is certified for Level I in both Orff-Schulwerk and Kodaly (both approaches to music education). Miller also directs the children's choir at Immanuel United Methodist Church in Des Moines.

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The Nebraska Choral Arts Society, a non-profit organization founded in 1978, is the umbrella of the Masterworks Chorus, CAST (Choral Arts Society Teens) and the Nebraska Children's Chorus. Its mission is to share the gift of great choral music, to inspire new generations with the love of singing and broaden its reach to all ages and cultures. Led by a fully-professional staff, eight choirs make up the Nebraska Choral Arts Society and perform throughout the year in various venues in Omaha and across the country. The most advanced choirs of NCAS have performed internationally in choral music festivals and concerts in Europe, Asia and Africa. For more information, visit [www.choirmusic.org](http://www.choirmusic.org).

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