

The Staples Area Men's Chorus wants to help young men find the joy and richness that singing brings to life. It also wants to help high school and college music programs attract and retain male singers for their choral ensembles, and to help them remain strong and vibrant organizations. To accomplish this we have started the Real Men Sing! Choral Festival.

At no charge to participating schools, the Staples Area Men's Chorus books the facility, hires a guest conductor and a voice teacher, buys the music, and provides an evening meal. Rehearsals and workshops are scheduled in the afternoon and the event is capped off with a concert in the evening.

In addition to the Festival Chorus of over 200 Singers, the concert also features a high school men's chorus, a college or university men's chorus, and the Staples Area Men's Chorus. The Festival has been a resounding success, attracting 200 high school age young men from 15 communities and an appreciative audience that has grown every year as news of the Festival has spread.

Participating high schools are not limited to bringing only their "best" students. They can bring one, four, or all of their male singers to the Festival. The Festival provides the opportunity to work under some of the very best choral directors in the state, as well as sessions centered on proper vocal technique and getting the best sound out of every singer's voice.

It is hoped that the participants come with the music well learned, but in case there are trouble spots, the members of the Staples Area Men's Chorus are seated next to the young men during the rehearsals and in the evening concert, to guarantee that the event is an enriching and rewarding experience. This mentoring and leadership is meant to advance the goals of the event, which are to convince young men that "yes, real men do sing"; to inform them that there are artistic and creative opportunities waiting for them after leaving their high school choirs; to demonstrate that men from many walks of life and many ages, can come together, build community, create enriching music together, and have a great time doing it.

For more information and pictures from previous Festivals check out our website: <http://www.staplesmen.org/realmen.htm>

## 2007 Guest Chorus Director



Christopher Aspaas, Assistant Professor of Choral/Vocal Music at St. Olaf College, received his PH.D. in Choral Music Education at Florida State University in Tallahassee, his M.M. in Choral Conducting from Michigan State University in East Lansing, his M.M. in Voice Performance from St. Olaf. Christopher has served on the faculties of Central Washington University in Ellensburg, Washington and Mount Holyoke College in South Hadley, Massachusetts. In addition to the Viking Male Chorus, Aspaas conducts the Chapel Choir, a 120 voice ensemble specializing in the performance of oratorio. He also teaches choral literature, choral conducting, applied voice, and is active as a guest conductor, clinician and adjudicator.

Aspaas is also in demand as a tenor soloist, performing Bach cantatas with Helmuth Rilling and the Oregon Bach Festival Orchestra, and the St. Petersburg Chamber Philharmonic in Russia.

## 2007 Guest Voice Clinician



Dr. Axel Theimer, a native of Austria, where he was a member of the Vienna Boys Choir, is now in his 39th year on the music faculty at St. John's University and the College of St. Benedict. He received much of

his training in Vienna, continued his studies at Saint John's University and completed graduate degrees at the University of Minnesota - MFA in Choral Conducting and DMA in Vocal Performance. At St. John's and St. Ben's he directs the CSB/SJU Chamber Choir and SJU Men's Chorus and teaches choral conducting, applied voice and vocal pedagogy.

He is an active recitalist, has presented master classes, workshops and seminars for state, regional, national and international music conventions and conferences, and has conducted All State Choirs, Choral Festivals and Honor Choirs throughout the United States, Japan and China.

## Staples Area Men's Chorus High School Male Chorus Festival **REAL MEN SING!**

October 13, 2007  
Schedule

12:30 PM	Arrival of Festival participants to the High School Gym
1:00 – 1:15	Welcome and seating
1:20 – 2:40	Rehearsal I – Gym, Christopher Aspaas, Guest Director
1:30 – 6:00	Vocal solos with Axel Theimer, Guest Voice Clinician
2:45 – 3:30	Voice Class - Centennial Auditorium, Axel Theimer
3:35 – 3:50	Break - Cafeteria
3:55 – 4:45	Sectionals
4:50 – 5:50	Rehearsal II - Christopher Aspaas
5:55 – 6:50	Supper – Cafeteria
7:15 – 7:25	Assemble for Concert
7:30 – 8:30	Concert
	1. Brainerd High School Bard's Male Chorus
	2. Bemidji State University Men's Chorus
	3. Staples Area Men's Chorus
	4. Combined Festival Chorus

## **REAL MEN SING!**

2007 Festival music  
**Music will be provided free to Festival participants**

How Can I Keep From Singing?; TTBB; /Ellingboe; Kjos 5572

Rise Up, O Men of God; TTBB; Jennings; Augsburg 11-1535

Dirait-on; TTBB; Lauridsen; Peer/Southern 0041717

Poor Man Lazarus; TTBB; /Hairston; Bourne B210393