

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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Akron Youth Choir Selected to Represent Ohio at National Youth Choir Festival, Carnegie Hall

AKRON, OH - Summit Choral Society's Performance Choir, comprised of 30 outstanding young singers from the greater Akron area has been selected through a competitive national audition process to represent Ohio at the National Youth Choir Festival, March 6–9, 2026, in New York City.

As part of this prestigious festival, the singers will perform on one of the world's most iconic stages, Isaac Stern Auditorium/Ronald O. Perelman Stage, at Carnegie Hall as members of a nationally assembled festival choir featuring some of the most talented youth singers from across the country.

This invitation places Summit Choral Society's Performance Choir among a small, select group of youth ensembles nationwide chosen for musical excellence, artistic maturity and technical skill. Year after year, these singers continue to exceed expectations, earning recognition far beyond NE Ohio for their musicality, discipline and expressive performance.

"Opportunities like this do not happen by chance," said Shara Cocchiola, Executive Director of Summit Choral Society. "These singers have earned their place on this stage through years of dedicated study, rigorous rehearsal and a deep commitment to music education behind the sound that results in artistic excellence."

Summit Choral Society is a nationally recognized, award-winning choral education program serving children throughout the Akron region. Its comprehensive curriculum is rooted in the renowned Kodály philosophy, emphasizing high-level musicianship, literacy, vocal development and a deep understanding of music as an expressive art form. Through this intensive approach, SCS consistently develops young performers capable of meeting and exceeding national standards. For the singers, performing at Carnegie Hall represents a pinnacle achievement and a formative life experience. The festival will include rehearsals and performances under nationally acclaimed conductor Anton Armstrong, offering students the opportunity to collaborate with peers from across the United States while representing our community on this international stage.

Summit Choral Society's Performance Choir has built a reputation for excellence through disciplined training, inspired leadership and an unwavering belief in the potential of young musicians. Their upcoming appearance at Carnegie Hall stands as a powerful testament to the caliber of arts education thriving in NE Ohio. "This is more than a performance," Heather Cooper, SCS's Principal Conductor added. "It is a moment that validates the extraordinary work these students do every week and affirms that world-class artistry is being cultivated right here in Akron."

About Summit Choral Society

Summit Choral Society is a premier youth choral organization dedicated to excellence in music education and performance. Serving children and families throughout the Akron area, SCS offers a rigorous, sequential choral curriculum grounded in Kodály-based pedagogy and is widely recognized for producing exceptional young musicians.

Information about season events, program enrollment, tickets and sponsorship opportunities visit www.summitchoralsociety.org.

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