

## THE SAINT THOMAS CHOIR AND CHOIR SCHOOL

The Saint Thomas Choir of Men and Boys is considered by many to be the leading ensemble in the Anglican choral tradition in the United States. The choir performs regularly with the period instrument ensemble, Concert Royal, or with the Orchestra of St. Luke's as part of its own concert series. Its primary *raison d'être*, however, is to provide music for five choral services each week. Live webcasts of all choral services and further information including recordings of the choir may be found at [www.SaintThomasChurch.org](http://www.SaintThomasChurch.org)

Supplementing its choral services and concert series over the past three decades, the choir has toured throughout the U.S. and Europe with performances at Westminster Abbey and St. Paul's Cathedral in London, Kings College, Cambridge, Windsor, Edinburgh, St. Albans and the Aldeburgh Festival. In 2004, the choir toured Italy, and performed for a Papal Mass at the Vatican. During 2007, the choir performed Bach's *Saint Matthew Passion* for the opening concert of the Mexico Festival in Mexico City as well as at Saint Thomas Church. In February 2012, the Boys of the choir traveled to Dresden to give the premiere of Lera Auerbach's *Dresden Requiem* with the Dresden Staatskapelle in the Frauenkirche and Semper Oper. Later in 2012, the choir was invited to perform in the Thomaskirche at the Leipzig *BachFest*, a highlight of their June 2012 tour to Germany and Copenhagen.

In addition to the annual performances of Handel's *Messiah*, concerts at Saint Thomas have included Requiems by Fauré, Brahms, Mozart, Duruflé and Howells; Bach's *Passions* and *Mass in B Minor*; the Monteverdi *Vespers of 1610*; a Henry Purcell anniversary concert; Rachmaninoff *Vespers*; the U.S. premiere of John Tavener's *Mass*; a concert of American composers featuring works by Bernstein and Copland and a composition by Saint Thomas chorister, Daniel Castellanos; the world premiere of Scott Eyerly's *Spires* and a concert of music by Benjamin Britten.

The Men of the Saint Thomas Choir are professional singers; the Boy choristers attend Saint Thomas Choir School. Founded in 1919, it is the only church related boarding choir school in the United States, and one of only a few choir schools remaining in the world. The Choir School offers a challenging pre-preparatory curriculum, interscholastic sports, and musical training for boys in grades three through eight. The Choir School is committed to training and educating talented musicians without regard to religious, economic, or social background. Choristers are sought from all regions of the country. Details of admissions procedures and audition requirements are available at [www.choirschool.org](http://www.choirschool.org).